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MUSIC POLL BALLOT P.50



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Vol. 27 No. 18 ★ January 4, 2008

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Night Falls Over Kortedala

(Secretly Canadian)

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NEW THIS WEEK!

EARACHE!: Death Valley Nights follows his **LAKOTA DREAM**. Schadenfreude sniffs around the vanilla of 2007, and more

PICTURE IN PICTURE: SXSW rolls the dice on its opening-night film, and Josh Rosenblatt sees the **FUTURE**, and it isn't pretty

CHRONIQUE: SNOT FLAPS, FURRY FESTS, and other questionable displays to ring in the new style year

Chronic is now your one-stop blog shop for buzz on politics, sports, music, film, television, gaming, technology, design, gay stuff, and – do we even need to say it? – opinion. Our blogs as you knew them still exist, but now all posts will also feed into one crazy mash-up – newest on top, just like you like it.

THE GAY PLACE: 2007: THE YEAR IN QUEER. Plus the Kates and pals send holiday hopes and wishes to you and yours for a grrr8 '08.

NEWSDESK: RG4N nurses their new year hangover, and the **CITY MANAGER SEARCH** is cold comfort

THE SCORE: Timothy Braun analyzes the **NFL**, and more sports blatherings and whatnot from here and afar

 web extra

For this week's Web extras and more Web exclusives, go to:

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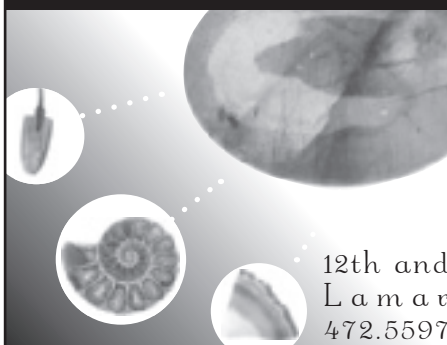


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Die Another Day

On the joys of creating, despite the hostile storms and vicious seas

BY LOUIS BLACK

“A phrase is born into the world good and bad at the same time. The secret rests in the barely perceptible turn. The lever must lie in one’s hand and get warm. It must be turned once, and no more.” – Isaac Babel, “Guy de Maupassant,” translated by David McDuff

It is ironic, perhaps, that two of my all-time favorite short story writers were two of the most careful wordsmiths in all literature. But perhaps not. I am given to gushing torrents of words, tumbling one upon another, rushing forward. Any attempt at nuance usually involves stacking adjectives rather than any kind of paring down. There is no implied or insisted-upon connection between artists one admires and one’s own work. Still, the minimalist abundance found in the writing of Russian short story writer Isaac Babel and American hard-boiled-detective innovator Dashiell Hammett, in which more is achieved through less, is completely absent in my work.

Outside of literary circles, Hammett is undoubtedly the better known of the two, both because his novels *The Thin Man* and *The Maltese Falcon* are still so widely read and because his works have been adapted into other forms of popular culture. The many screen adaptations of *The Thin Man* and *The Maltese Falcon*, not to mention radio and TV variants, are well known. Still, it is fair to say that Hammett’s first novel, *Red Harvest*, is the literary patriarch of the *Yojimbo* – *A Fistful of Dollars* – *Last Man Standing* cinematic bloodline. *The Glass Key* is not only one of the best American political novels but was filmed twice, as well as being the unacknowledged blueprint for the Coen brothers’ *Miller’s Crossing*. All of this does not even begin to discuss his literary influence on both detective and mainstream fiction.

“Then I began to speak of style, of the army of words, an army in which all kinds of weapons are on the move. No iron can enter the human heart as chillingly as a full stop placed at the right time.” – Isaac Babel, “Guy de Maupassant,” translated by David McDuff

In some ways, Isaac Babel is perhaps one of the very small handful of the greatest masters of the short story. Best known for *Red Cavalry*, a collection of stories about riding with the Red Cavalry during the bloody Russian Civil War. A bookish, literary Odessa Jew riding with the notoriously violent and ruthless Cossacks would have resulted in interesting prose in any case; Babel’s poetic yet oddly objective sensitivity and his

determination to offer evocative reports rather than moralistic essays result in the collection being one of the great works of world literature. Babel also wrote short stories about his life, about Jews in Odessa, and about the Jewish underworld, as well as plays and screenplays.

Stalin came to power in about 1924, although what we think of as Stalinist oppression didn’t kick into high gear until the end of that decade. As his art form in an oppressive and repressive era, with Stalin very much controlling Soviet culture by the Thirties, Babel chose silence. This was a quite conscious choice, as he made clear at the first congress of the Union of Soviet Writers (1934), stating that he was becoming “the master of a new literary genre, the genre of silence.”

Incredibly, he managed to survive almost through the 1930s. In the first part of the decade, his close relationship with writer and editor Maxim Gorky protected him. According to many sources, after Gorky died under very questionable circumstances in 1936, this protection continued because of his affair with the wife of the brutal and infamous NKVD boss, Nikolai Yezhov. Eventually, Yezhov was thrown out. In 1939, Babel was arrested, tried, and found guilty; he was executed in 1940. There are official Soviet sources that state he was alive until mid-1941, but those are questionable.

“There is no particular daring in this vow, but I have not broken it and shall not do so.” – Isaac Babel, “Guy de Maupassant,” translated by David McDuff

So where is this all going? Why, in this first issue of 2008, am I writing about these two great writers? The whole relationship between publication and reader is at best quite complicated and almost impossible to figure out. Some of the interactions are obvious, some intentionally planned, and others absolutely predictable, but many are unspoken and often unconscious. Hostile and condescending responses are often preordained, regardless of what we publish. Readers’ reactions to the words printed and ideas expressed are not only to what is really there, as well as what is implied, but also often simply use them as a catalyst to react with long-formed opinions/ideas. There is not a straight line between readers and printed words, nor is there even one between a single reader and unique groups of words. The relationship is always complex, always multi-leveled, always as much subjective as objective, as much if not more about the disconnection between one’s perception and the other’s intention.

The truth, or maybe it should be *a* truth, or even only my perception, is that there are secrets to this relationship. Easily the greatest ones have to do with the pleasures and joys of creating, despite the hostile storms and vicious seas. In this web, where motion and growth continue, hidden by the density of assumed strands by those who consume these works, there is no guide greater than Isaac Babel. Being who I am, how I think, and how I move when the motion is with words, I couldn’t write about Babel without bringing up Hammett, but here the unspoken riddles of the oracle are best answered by the Russian.

There is little question that the *Red Cavalry* collection is Babel’s enduring masterpiece, but many of his other collected stories are no lower in stature. There is none that comes without recommendation, but a few stand out. I really doubt that a full week has gone by since we first started publishing *The Austin Chronicle* that I have not thought of Babel’s story “Guy de Maupassant.” I first read it quite feverishly during rides while hitchhiking from Putney, Vt., to Boston, Mass. Drivers who picked me up must have found it more than a bit rude that I barely said hello before plunging back into the trade paperback I was reading, trying to get through as much of the story as I could during each ride.

The story was a blessing and a hymn; it welcomed me into a certain plane of maturity, while clearly indicating how ill-formed so many of my aesthetic conceits were. During these rides, on a cool spring day, I was gifted with those experiences that come from great art, especially when the moment of the encounter finds it in near-perfect tone, resonating with one’s life.

“In November I was offered the post of clerk at the Obukhov steelworks, not a bad job, which carried with it exemption from military service.

“I declined to become a clerk.

“Even at that time – twenty years old – I said to myself: better to go hungry, to go to prison, to be a tramp, than to sit at an office desk ten hours a day. There is no particular daring in this vow, but I have not broken it and shall not do so. The wisdom of my grandfathers sat in my head: we are born for the pleasure of work, fighting, love, we are born for that and for nothing else.” – Isaac Babel, “Guy de Maupassant,” translated by David McDuff

The secret is joy! The truth is creative productivity and reasonable optimism. The lie is hopeless despair and cheap, petty existentialism – the kind that comes candy-bar-wrapped at less than a dollar each. The darkness is laziness; the anguish is lack of imagination; those darkest feelings are the silliest of dreams and not the reality all too many pretend they are. It is not all sunshine and light; progressivism doesn’t spring up from the soil like Technicolor flowers. In the best of times there is great difficulty, and in the worst of times nothing is more difficult than belief. But who ever promised it would be different? What

continued on p.8



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Legalize LA

adolescent, self-serving view of the historical past is so magnificently, willfully naive as to argue not only that it was different once but that it was better then? Oh foolishness, oh wanton fantasy, oh lazy, lazy disengaged despair – you are welcome to these, though expressed they are used to cripple all and not just their owners.

In the face of the end-of-days soothsayers; the 9/11 truth-tellers; the one-world-order conspiracy enthusiasts; the end-of-democracy declarers; the Democratic and Republican loyalists; the partisan champions of the Constitution, who seem unaware that, as a document, its greatest enemy is the partisan; the my-religion-is-the-only-truth, my deity-the-only-one believers; the ones without culture who wail at the death of our culture because of illegal immigrants; the UFO believers; the from-magnificent-to-decadent popular culture proclaimers; the nuns of preserved and praised despair; the monks of hopelessness who treasure the dark – let us all instead welcome the new day, the next dawn!

Too often, all of us are taken in by the illusion. False humility is the perfect context for magic, as is real humility. What is created, by being created, stands in opposition to despair. Welcome to 2008 – may it be a great and challenging year for us all. ■

Oops! Due to an editing error, a passage concerning public input into plans for Downtown was garbled in the Dec. 28 article, "Seaholm and Green District: Changes Afoot." The passage in question should have read, "Much as occurred with Block 21, said Huffman and McCracken, Austinites will have ample opportunity to review the proposing teams' alternate proposals, drawings, and 3-D models."

Also due to an editing error, in the article, "Canyon Creek Rebels Target MUD Lawsuit," a sentence concerning the MUD board was inaccurate. It should have read: "Although the MUD's board – led by Republican activist Don Zimmerman, who is currently promoting the local Ron Paul presidential campaign – admits that complying with the law has not been burdensome, board members consider the preclearance requirement unfair."

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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More to the Story

Dear Editor,

My neighbor Corinne Irwin, officed formerly in Austin Community College Room 221, left there in 2002 after a settlement that's subject to a silence agreement ["Return to ACC's Room 221," News, Dec. 21]. News pieces about her triggered a deadline for W.T. Bryant, the subsequent Room 221 occupant, to bring or not bring legal action. He and others did, in 2003. It fizzled, with little learned.

Recently, ACC planned to reopen Room 221. It was unclear whether that meant plain renovation or also remediation. Previous work on overlying third-floor areas had released mercury vapor when flooring was ripped up, according to a 2005 Internet summary. It was abated but without details on what was found in or done to Room 221 below – that summary portion being minimalist, a seeming public relations effort, absent data. Recall that in 2001 when health officials were scheduled to test Room 221 for mercury vapor, ACC compromised test protocols beforehand by spraying sealant in cavities between the two floors. Explanations, including a spurious claim of belated concern for Bryant, contained ACC story holes that *American-Statesman* reporter Kevin Carmody rebutted (Jan. 2, 2002).

I met Corinne after she relocated to UT. She becomes enlisted – helping friends, being consulted, despite personal disadvantage – when ACC mercury issues recur. Recent enlistment produced ideas – which others, including myself, likewise helping a friend, assisted in framing – of what an open records request might clarify. The eventual request contents and responses, however, are unknown except to the requester, the *Chronicle*, and ACC. Lee Nichols, whom I know and respect (we're both track fans), has written a very competent article, but much is going on, there's another lawsuit, and Corinne by no means is choreographing events. She prefers others to choreograph, contaminants to be eliminated, everybody to be better informed, and she and her doctors left to focus on her own toxicological situation.

Chris Kuykendall

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2007
AN INCOMPLETE,
SUBJECTIVE, AND
ALTOGETHER
INADEQUATE
YEAR IN
REVIEW
PART THE SECOND

AUGUST 10: GEORGE BUSH REAFFIRMS HIS STATUS AS IDIOT-IN-CHIEF.
"WE HAVE GOT A BIGGER ENEMY THAN NAME CALLERS. THAT IS AL QAEDA OR PEOPLE LOSIN' THEIR JOBS." *
YES, ACTUAL QUOTE.

SEPT. 7: WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS LEARN OF PRIVATE INTELLIGENCE FIRM'S SECRET ENTRÉE INTO AL QAEDA COMPUTERS, IMMEDIATELY LEAK INFO FOR PARTISAN ADVANTAGE.
GOTTA HAVE PRIORITIES!

SEPT. 10: THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED ANYWHERE OCCURS WHEN MOVEON.ORG RUNS A NEWSPAPER AD CRITICIZING GENERAL PETRAEUS.
NATION REELS IN SHOCK.

SEPT. 13: BUSH SAYS IRAQIS HAVE REQUESTED AN "ENDURING RELATIONSHIP" WITH U.S.
WHICH IS REALLY CONVENIENT, 'CAUSE WE'VE BEEN BUILDING THESE PERMANENT BASES THERE ANYWAY!
FUNNY HOW THAT WORKED OUT!

SEPT. 26: HILLARY CLINTON VOTES FOR KYLLIEBERMAN AMENDMENT; BEGINS COMPOSING FUTURE EXCUSES.
NO ONE HAD ANY REASON TO DISTRUST THE ADMINISTRATION BACK IN 2007!
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?

OCT. 3: DEPRAVED RIGHT-WING BLOGGERS DECLARE WAR ON 12-YEAR-OLD ACCIDENT VICTIM.
AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH THE KID, I KNOW WHERE THERE'S A HELPLESS PUPPY WE CAN TORMENT!

OCT. 13: AL GORE WINS NOBEL PRIZE; GLENN BECK'S HEAD EXPLODES.
I'M OKAY! NO BIG DEAL!
I WASN'T USING THOSE BRAINS ANYWAY!

NOV. 9: MICHAEL MUKASEY CONFIRMED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, DESPITE UNWILLINGNESS TO CALL WATERBOARDING TORTURE.
SURE, IT'S UNPLEASANT-- BUT SO IS SITTING IN RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC!
EVER-COURAGEOUS DEMS DECLINE TO FILIBUSTER.

NOV. 28: GIULIANI REVEALED TO HAVE CHARGED TRYST EXPENSES TO NEW YORK CITY TAXPAYERS.
HEY--IT WAS AN INNOCENT MISTAKE--
--THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY ANY ARROGANT, ADULTEROUS MAYOR WITH AN AUTHORITARIAN STREAK!
9.11

DEC. 3: N.I.E. STATES THAT IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM SHUT DOWN IN 2003; PRESIDENT PLEADS IGNORANCE.
NOBODY TELLS ME ANYTHING AROUND HERE!
HE IS SURPRISINGLY UNCONVINCING.

DECEMBER, VARIOUS DATES: KARL ROVE EMERGES WITH A NEW TALKING POINT: DEMOCRATS LED THE RUSH TO WAR IN 2003.
IT'S ALL TOM DASCHLE'S FAULT!
HE EVEN MANAGES NOT TO BURST OUT LAUGHING.
...SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Blight on Already Failing 'Chronicle'

Dear Editor,

Historically I have found the movie reviews in *The Austin Chronicle* to be a bit off-base and amateurish, but after reading the review for *I Am Legend* by Josh Rosenblatt [Film Listings, Dec. 14], I felt the need to write this letter. Is it the policy of *The Austin Chronicle* to hire movie reviewers who have no idea what movies are about? In his review of the aforementioned movie, he refers to it as "a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters that look like refugees from a video game and that will scare absolutely no one." Could it be possible that he missed the point of the movie? Sure, there were CGI monsters (changed from the vampires in the novel), but maybe they were just an element of the plot and not the main aspect of horror this movie presents. Granted, most people will miss the point of this movie, as the horror of utter and complete isolation requires a higher level of intelligence than most people have and historically has not worked in American cinema, but anyone who knows anything about movies can see as plain as day that

that was the point of the movie, and it was done brilliantly, with superb execution.

The ineptitude of Josh Rosenblatt is further realized in his review of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* [Film Listings, Dec. 21]. Even though I have yet to see this movie, I was curious to see how badly Rosenblatt had botched this review. Very little is said about this movie in the way of praise or criticism except for his incessant complaining of how badly he thought Johnny Depp sang. (By the way, Johnny Depp got a Golden Globe nomination for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture-Musical or Comedy for his role in this movie, but who knows? Maybe the 86 journalists who vote on these awards know less about movies than your esteemed Josh Rosenblatt.) Anyway, just my 2 cents' worth there. I don't really put any stock in the movie reviews printed in the *Chronicle*, and until the day comes when you decide to hire people who know anything about movies to do your reviews, I will fail to look at the movie reviews as anything less than a blight upon a publication already failing the city of Austin.

Matthew Langston

continued on p.10

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Now Help Us Preserve

Dear Editor,

Some of us are fortunate for the ability to continue rediscovering Austin during this tumultuous time. Although tradition has now become profitable tourist attractions, there is no affordable housing for nonelitists, developers have hijacked our vintage neighborhoods, and big business rolls forth with apparent infiltration in city politics, there is still something very special about Austin. Austin is still a refuge for nonconformists and progressive thinkers. We are painfully aware that consumerism and capitalism are destroying our beloved Austin culture. Ugly urban sprawl has no boundaries. Oppose the megalopolis by being a conscience consumer. Small (everyday) consumer decisions made now can have a big impact on our future. We need to vote out those self-promoting officials who haven't a care about preserving Austin's culture. Since most politicians have ties to big business, it's clear citizens do not have adequate representation. It's the citizens who should have more authority over their sustenance than politicians. If you've recently moved to Austin – welcome. Now help us protect and preserve the allure that brought you here.

Warmest regards,
Colette Michalec

Sullyng the Laid-Back Style

Dear Editor,

Growth is not the reason for Austin's problems; it's people like Marshall Escamilla ["Postmarks" online, Dec. 22] whose giant asshole of a mouth has sullied the laid-back lifestyle that used to be the hook that drew many people here. Now, it's opportunists like him who have crowded in to take over. It'll be my pleasure to leave this place, so you and all the other amenity lovers can writhe over what's left.

David Dennis

There Are Many Right Answers

Dear Louis Black,

I very much admire and agree with your columns ["Page Two"] on the healthy functioning of our constitutional government.

Here's a possible explanation for some of the rancor in letters that dismays you.

I've noticed that people these days take disagreement as an assertion of moral blame.



That is, they see correct/incorrect or right/wrong as meaning the same thing as good/bad. They translate "you're wrong" as "you're lying" or "you're immoral."

Political discourse in the U.S. will not improve until we get over this and accept that there are many right answers.

Your devoted reader,
Davida Charney

Liked 'Page Two'

Louis,

I enjoyed your "Page Two" of Dec. 21.

Gail B. Armstrong

Once a Commercial-Free Station ...

Dear Editor,

Come now, fellow citizens, and sing praises unto KUT. Our commercial-free radio station ("be sure to go online and make your donation now"), which relies solely on listener support ("at this holiday season, if you donate your car now, the religious – or nonreligious – leader of your choice will shower blessings, boons, or good thoughts upon you").

Remembering years past when ("call now"), due to lack of support, this station went dark for long periods of time, we needed to fully endow it ("there is still time") during its spring and fall fundraising seasons. But now, praise be, fundraising is 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And neither religious holidays nor New Year's Day are exempt! ("Just a few hours left to get your tax deduction.")

Dig down deep, Austin and surrounding communities – and, yes, even you out in San Angelo – and donate every 15 minutes around the clock ("Santa couldn't reach 13 percent of homes due to junk cars you could have given to us"), so we can have ("now that the turkey is all eaten, isn't it time to get rid of that junker sitting ...") commercial ("donate now and take that tax deduction") free ("listener-supported, commercial-free ...") radio.

Because, if you don't, some actual Texans may overtake this station and make it what it once was – a commercial-free station. ("Call now, operators are standing by.")

Bryce Welch

Drinking = Bad; Torturing Migratory Birds?

Dear Editor,

Well, here it is ... 10am on Jan. 1, 2008. I could/should be sleeping. This is the last day of reprieve before five months of no holidays. But instead, I sit here writing my first letter to the *Chronicle*, trying to chase off the demons from the nightmare that woke me up. I don't generally have pursuit nightmares (or any nightmares, for that sake), but I know the origin of this one.

At 11:30pm last night, my boyfriend and I are hanging out with friends who are about to light fireworks. Thinking it would be better to go Downtown and watch the legal/bigger ones, we start walking. We arrive at the south shoreline of Lady Bird Lake, just west of the South First Street Bridge, at about 11:45pm. A police boat is chasing a kayak off of the lake. We think it's

probably a good idea for him to get off the lake, since he has no light, and there are police boats running up and down the lake (i.e., he could be fodder). Next, we notice there is no one there ... only a few people on the bridge and a handful of folks near us, just yards away from the floating fireworks. We surmise it's the no-drinking policy that keeps people away. As our eyes adjust, we notice the fireworks appear to be located on or near the sandbar on which 100 great egrets and snowy egrets hang out every night. We don't see any and are glad ... until midnight.

The countdown reaches zero, and the fireworks start. The first ones explode at lake level, creating a 50-foot or so sphere of sparks. The egrets are there ... behind the flotilla. We watch in horror as they try to escape the noise and shrapnel. They are twisting and flying and diving as if they've been hit. They might be hit. They might be injured and dying today. I don't know. All I know is that it would have been really nice if someone had gone to the simple effort of chasing off the birds before the fireworks started, instead of letting them get tortured or "first night."

The fireworks "progress" into mortarlike explosions. I think of Iraq veterans peeing their pants, as their families smile, glad to have Dad (or Mom or Grandpa or ...) back and doing "normal" things. Geez, it's time to go home.

So, the lesson for the new year ... drinking = bad. Torturing migratory birds = good.

Happy new year you blind, selfish bastards,
Debbie Potter

Supports State Rep. Dukes

Dear Editor,

State Rep. Dawna Dukes always stands up for state employees, always fights for public schools and services, always supports unions, always votes her conscience, always votes her district.

Do any of us regret her vote for Tom Craddick? Yes. Will she take orders from us? No. Does she take orders from Craddick? Hell no. One vote only.

Keep in mind that her other option was to vote for Jim Pitts (a Craddick clone), who lied to her and hung her out to dry on the Homestead Exemption Bill.

How many other public officials in town made volcanic anti-Iraq-war speeches back in the day when the mess was called a "good" war?

We all know about the critical shortage of white guy attorneys at the state House. But we ask you to set aside that concern, consider Dawna's broad and deep public record (not just cherry picks), then get involved.

As Texas State (and State University) Employees Union members, we will be block-walking the hell out of District 46 and will keep you posted on the *Chronicle* events calendar. Join us. Cool weather walking – you can't beat it.

Vicki Bradley



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All That Austin Needs ...

Dear Editor,

Austin needs an oldies station again. That is all.

Floyd Aragon

Bryce's Response Was an Overreaction

Dear Editor,

Robert Bryce, in his reply to my letter ["Postmarks," Dec. 21] about his article ["If More CO2 Is Bad ... Then What," News, Dec. 7], took it as an attack on his character for me to point out that he went from being an agnostic about global warming at the beginning of his article to being a believer in global warming at the end of it.

Now, when people come along and pretend to be skeptical about the science when, in fact, what they really believe is that global warming is going on right now and that it would be wrong to try to stop it, we are not necessarily dealing with a flaw in the writer's character. It could just be fuzzy thinking.

I am inclined toward the fuzzy-thinking theory, because Bryce additionally muddies the water by pretending that global warming is unstoppable, which, if true, means he is wasting his time writing articles opposing our doing anything about it.

But as far as I can tell from his article and his reply to me, his real point is that it would be an injustice to the Chinese to deprive them of American levels of SUV ownership. This seems to me to be quite a misguided equity argument, and it unwisely assumes that there

is any real prospect of the Third World achieving the same percentage of two-car garages as we have, much less that it would improve their well-being and happiness.

I'd like to suggest that there are far more compelling moral issues. There is good evidence that global warming may be a multifaceted disaster for the world and possibly even more of a catastrophe for the Third World than for the first. For but one of many looming difficulties, if the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's regional models are at all correct, we are looking at many areas of the planet becoming far less favorable for agriculture than at present, without the prospect of new areas of virgin farmland turning into replacement breadbaskets. This means that widespread famine can become an issue by the end of this century, on a scale previously unknown in human history.

He invites us to look at the facts. I certainly agree. We could begin by becoming familiar with the IPCC reports, which I must say do not support his Panglossian view of what we are looking at down the road.

Jim McCulloch

[Robert Bryce responds: Jim McCulloch has, once again, missed the point. There is nothing Panglossian about my view on global warming. My view is simple: If it's happening (and it appears that it is), we are going to have to adapt. Period. As for the scientific arguments about carbon dioxide and global warming, I no longer care to hear them. I've read both sides of this argument and understand both sides.]

McCulloch adheres to the gospel according to the IPCC. I don't. He says that global warming "may be a multifaceted disaster." True. It may

continued on p.12

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also be another example of a group of scientists believing that correlation equals causation. To my mind, there is no question, none, that the world is plagued by energy poverty. If I'm going to pick a disaster, I prefer the one that I can see (and prove) right now.

Finally, he spuriously claims that I believe it would be "an injustice to the Chinese to deprive them of American levels of SUV ownership." If McCulloch bothered to look at any statistics on energy consumption growth rates in the developing world, he would see the soaring energy demand in the developing world goes far beyond oil and oil products. For instance, in 2006, in Pakistan (the world's sixth most populous country, and one of its poorest), electricity generation increased by a whopping 18.4% over 2005 levels. In India, it jumped by 7%, in Brazil by 4%, in Indonesia by 2.4%, and in China by 14.5%. (In the U.S., electric generation declined slightly. All statistics are from the BP Statistical Review, 2007.)

Is McCulloch really so callous as to believe that the 3 billion people who live in those five developing countries would be happier without electricity? Or that their "well-being" is better suited by living in the dark?
I'm not.]

What Is the City Thinking?

Dear Editor,
What is the city thinking?
How can someone take a 1,900-square-foot historic mission-styled home [on Washington Square], add a story, bump out the north wall for a large family room, tack on an additional 3,400 to 4,000 square feet, and still say that the house retains its original character and is *historic*?

What is to stop other developers from doing the same thing? Surely, it is easier to sell million-dollar homes if the tax rate is a joke.
The city is screwing itself out of a lot of tax money and doing very little for preservation. I doubt that Monticello would be quite the same place with a game room addition.

Lindsey Crow

Seismic Yuppie of Carpetbaggers

Dear Editor,
I was born and raised in Austin. Excepting a couple of years on the West and East coasts, I've spent almost all my 30 years here. To those of you who mourn the "old Austin" and sneer at our West Coast brethren ... where the hell were you irritable peasants-cum-armchair activists when our city was being so coldly snatched from your clutches? A great deal of what kept Austin "weird" (ahem), had to do with stagnation and reticence, which is what keeps it beige now. This is not to say I'm enjoying the modern-a-go-go cultural topography of my hometown. On the contrary, I look at the concrete homogeneity of the Domain, and the only measure of gratitude I feel is that I can continue to identify all the bourgeois hausfraus by their hilarious handbags (does it get anymore gauche than Louis Vuitton, or what? It's cattle brands for the Oprahtt!). But this is happening everywhere, and the reasons far outreach the boundaries of our little city. Collectively, American humans want more places to spend their money that look and smell like prison compounds (I'd rather watch flies fuck, myself). In this day and age, no one demands personality, and no one gives a damn about being civic-minded, unless something offends their delicate ideologies. Because that's what we're really talking about, here: your superficial per-

ceptions about "the way things ought to be," even though you want nothing to do with putting in the hard time to re-create this false utopia. The problem is, it never was all that great, and it's just a different, more claustrophobic brand of lame now. Whatever bohemian/punk spirit that might have existed here decades ago, has about as much potency now as a broccoli fart in a jar. Whine away, my fellow natives! Austinites accepted the ban on noise pollution (way to go, live music capital!) and voted for the unconstitutional ban on smoking in privately owned businesses (need we even get into toll roads and light rail?). You proved how loyal you are to the uniqueness of our "scene" by kicking it squarely in the nuts or just sitting on your own. Those who didn't vote will bitch and moan about it, regardless. And that's *most* of you! You people are really pissed off, right? So let's get real. You miss the way things used to be? You're grossed out by the seismic yuppie caravan of carpetbaggers? Exactly what are you gonna do about it, Austin? Show me the money ... or at least your balls. See you at City Hall. Or not.

Teighlor Darr

Jingle Bell Rides! Not Walk!

Dear Editor,
Me – red tights, Santa hat, black miniskirt (complete with meticulously sewn-on jingle bells). My bicycle – decked out in red-and-white bows, complete with Dr. Seuss' Grinch strapped to its handlebars ... ready for the annual Jingle Bell Ride! This is the *only time* (one hour) when bicyclers are allowed to *ride* rather than walk their bikes through the Trail of Lights. Upon my arrival to the entrance of the trail, however, I was informed by an Austin Police Department officer that the trail was closed to bicyclists. I approached an Austin Parks and Recreation Department representative

and explained that I had taken part in the Jingle Bell Ride for years and that this quick "cutoff time" was unusual. She suggested that if I was in a hurry, I should simply leave, as the trail was not reopening for another 40 minutes, but at that time I could walk my bike through. Ha! Stand around in 47-degree weather in tights?! Dodging hundreds of small children bundled in blankets, coats, and hats? That sounds like an accident waiting to happen. She assured me the closure information was posted on their website. Nope: www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/events.htm only mentions the Ridge Riders bike club riding through at 5:30pm. Doesn't get dark until at least 6pm ... aren't we viewing Christmas lights here? www.austinnridgeriders.com reads, "Austin PARD has set aside Sunday, December 16th from 6pm-7pm for a bikes-only cruise through this spectacular display of Christmas cheer." Bah humbug – no bikes past 6:15! And no cut-throughs via the Hike and Bike Trail. The trail is strategically fenced off up until the last display. But alas, biking APD officers will be there to greet you.

Lang Smith

p.s. In darkness we discovered the Hike and Bike Trail repairs under MoPac and Lake Austin had finally begun. Signage at the trail head, please!

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austinchronicle.com/postmarks



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Set your tree at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on your yard trimmings collection day. Remove all ornaments, lights, decorations and the stand; only the tree itself can be recycled. **Trees six feet or taller must be cut in half.**

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Polo Picnic Area, West of Barton Springs Pool
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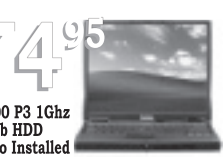
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“A Doctor’s Confession to the City of Austin...”

And why, despite all, I still help people live pain free...

Dear friend,

Confessions are tough, real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession, though, let me say a few other things first. Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. I’ll start with me, the guy on the left.

Something happened to my mother that changed my life forever. My mom told my dad, *“If God has plans to take me tomorrow, I wish he’d just take me today.”* At the time I was studying to become a physical therapist. My mom was experiencing neck and shoulder pain. She tried medication, physical therapy and acupuncture without results. I was worried that she would have to live with this pain for the rest of her life.

My mom realized that traditional medicine had nothing more to offer when her medical doctor said the pain was all in her head. She finally made an appointment with a chiropractor. Within a short course of treatment, she was pain-free. I was so inspired and excited about the miracle that occurred, I decided to become a chiropractor.

Can chiropractic help your children? The baby in the photo is Delia, my niece. At two weeks old, she spent most of her days with clenched fists and her knees to her chest. She spent her nights in discomfort—she wouldn’t sleep and would vomit often. My frightened sister and brother-in-law brought Delia to her pediatrician. He said she had heartburn and prescribed baby Zantac. She was then brought to a homeopathic doctor who confirmed she had colic. The natural remedies gave her some relief but Delia still couldn’t have a bowel movement without pain. At eight weeks old, she received her first chiropractic adjustment. Instantly she had a bowel movement. After six more adjustments, her colic and constipation disappeared.

The boy in the photo is Nick, my nephew. He started experiencing seizures a year ago. An EEG showed spiking brain waves. My brother and his wife

for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that 99% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That’s just incredible!



were scared that he would have to be on medication the rest of his life. I treated Nick for two months before his next EEG. The results were remarkable—no more spiking brain waves, which meant no more medicine!

Here’s what some of my patients had to say:

“I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia in 1995...I couldn’t do things most people take for granted... I recently returned to the work force.” (S.W.)

“I’ve been like a new person! No more pills. No more nausea, headaches, or abdominal pain.” (P.H.)

“I had headaches every day...I haven’t had a headache in two weeks.” (K.H.)

Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can’t really take the credit. **My confession is that I’ve never healed anyone of anything.** What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure, and the body responds by **healing itself.** We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there’s a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak

Forty-five million Americans **no longer have health insurance**, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That’s where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save...studies show that chiropractic can double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, flues, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are **self-employed.** And, an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for **one visit** elsewhere.

Great care at a great fee...

Please, I hope that there’s no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You’ll get great care at a great fee. Because we have been so successful at helping people get out of pain, we have **four offices** in Texas & Illinois. Our main location has been helping people for the past 14 years, and we treat over 3000 people in the community. **I just have that low fee to help more people who need care.**

Our offices are both friendly and warm and we try our best to

make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our offices are called **Triple “C” Chiropractic** and were located at:

11130 Jollyville Rd. Ste #201 in Austin.

(1/4 mile west of 183 at the intersection of Jollyville Rd. & Balcones)

You Benefit from an Amazing Offer-

Look, it shouldn’t cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, *you may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic.* When you call or bring in this article (by March 2, 2008) you will receive our entire new patient exam for **\$27**, that’s with x-rays.

This exam could cost you \$335 elsewhere. And, further care is very affordable and you’ll be happy to know that **I have affordable family plans.**

You see I’m not trying to entice you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. **High costs can add up very quickly.**

Our phone number in Austin is:

(512) 343-8333

Call now for an appointment. Thank you.

-Dr. Daniel Grunert

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination **at no charge.**

P.S.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

THE NEW YEAR FLYER

Every Saturday during January and February, the Hill Country Flyer will depart from the Cedar Park Depot at 10:00 AM. Enjoy a 2½ hour layover in Burnet before returning at 4:30 PM.

In February, love will be in the air. The Sweetheart Special will depart from the Cedar Park Depot February 9th at 8:00 PM for a two-hour round trip. Dinner, drinks and entertainment included.



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DOUG POTTER

- 1) "We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. Raise hell. ... Make our troops know we're for them and trying to get them out of there. Hit the streets to protest Bush's proposed surge. ... We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans and demanding, 'Stop it, now!'"
– Syndicated political columnist **Molly Ivins** of Austin, who passed away from breast cancer on Jan. 31 at the age of 62 (Feb. 2 issue)
- 2) "You know, when I was raised, I didn't have insurance, and my family did just fine."
– Rep. **Robert Talton**, R-Heartless, on why he prevented a vote to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program (March 23 issue)
- 3) "The bill says those that are married live longer. It's not really true. It just seems longer."
– Rep. **Pat Haggerty**, R-El Paso, during a debate on Rep. Warren Chisum's bill that would require couples applying for a marriage license to take a marriage class (April 20 issue)
- 4) "The president can veto our attempt to secure a safe, orderly phased redeployment of our troops, but he cannot veto reality. Our troops will return; it is only a matter of how much blood and money will be lost before they do."
– Austin Rep. **Lloyd Doggett**, on President Bush's veto of a war-appropriations bill that included a timetable for the troops to exit Iraq (May 4 issue)
- 5) "I detest the word 'illegal aliens.' ... My friends, look at me. I am a brown man. Where do you think this came from? This came from my Indian heritage. ... My family has been all over North and South America for centuries and centuries. Yes, we have been here a long, long time, and we should not be called illegal aliens."
– El Paso Rep. **Paul Moreno**, responding to Tyler Republican Leo Berman's complaint about "illegal aliens" spreading disease and problems in East Texas (May 11 issue)
- 6) "I knew we had a speaker. I didn't know we had a dictator."
– State Rep. **Charlie Geren**, R-Fort Worth, when Speaker Tom Craddick refused to recognize a motion to declare the speaker chair vacated (June 1 issue)
- 7) "Our culture typically acknowledges people for qualities such as intelligence, physical strength, and personal bravery. This may be the first award the city ever gave for stubbornness to acknowledge an activist that wouldn't go away."
– **Paul Robbins**, a constant critic of Austin Energy, quoted in *In Fact Daily* after a Downtown chiller plant was named after him (June 29 issue)
- 8) "We close at 5."
– Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge **Sharon Keller**, rejecting any extension of court hours for a pending death penalty appeal, for which colleagues were waiting (Oct. 19 issue)
- 9) "If you were confronted with someone who wished to do you harm, you could put on your best Clint Eastwood persona and say, 'OK, creep, am I complying with national parks rule 36.1 or am I not? Make my day.'"
– Texas Land Commissioner **Jerry Patterson** on why he thinks the National Park Service should allow loaded guns in national parks (Nov. 9 issue)
- 10) "Although individuals from all faiths are welcome to worship with us at Hyde Park Baptist Church, the church cannot provide space for the practice of these non-Christian religions on church property."
– **Hyde Park Baptist Church** statement explaining its last-minute cancellation of a Thanksgiving prayer service at its Quarries location, four months after Austin Area Interreligious Ministries had reserved the facility for the annual event (Nov. 23 issue)

NAKED CITY

- ▶ Two Democrats have filed to run for judge for the **newly established County Court at Law No. 8**, a criminal court handling class A and B misdemeanor cases. **Carlos H. Barrera** was a prosecuting attorney for six years in Laredo, before returning to Austin in 1990 to become a criminal-defense attorney. **John Lipscombe**, assistant county attorney for Travis County criminal misdemeanor courts and a former Amalgamated Transit Union organizer, stresses rehabilitation over punishment for non-violent offenders. He proposes using an evening docket to meet with young and repeat alcohol-/substance-abuse offenders on probation to ensure they keep up with their rehab programs.
– Richard Whittaker
- ▶ Expect to hear a lot less of the MetroRail cars when testing resumes on the **commuter-rail line** this month. Capital Metro is attempting to rework some of the railroad crossings in order to keep the overnight test runs a bit quieter for neighbors. Until the crossing arms are reinforced – and the so-called "quiet zones" are created – the cars must still blow their horns at crossings. Otherwise, the test runs went well, said spokesman Adam Shaivitz. The agency put about 200 miles on each of the first two MetroRail cars. The second two will be tested sometime next month. The 32-

mile commuter-rail line – which Capital Metro has dubbed the Red Line – will begin service next fall.
– Kimberly Reeves

- ▶ There are just a few days left to say what features you want on the **official city of Austin website**. Partly in response to last year's defeated Open Government Online amendment, in 2008 the city plans on redesigning the Austin City Connection website (www.cityofaustin.org) in a more open and useful fashion. (Hopefully.) To that end, the city

has created the Austin GO initiative to ask members of the public what info or services they want to access online. Want a heads-up on neighborhood development? Big Public Works projects? City Council initiatives? Visit www.austingo.org by Jan. 4 to take the survey in English or Spanish. It's your website – give your opinion!
– Wells Dunbar

▶ Around the *Chronicle* newsroom, where no run is "fun" and exercise is a four-letter word, I arched my eyebrows (requiring no small amount of effort) at a press release trumpeting the **Mayor's Fitness Council** event for Thursday, Jan. 3 – the same day City Council is scheduled to pore over the master list of applicants

angling to become Austin's next city manager. While we appreciate the allure of rock-hard abs and calves the size of old-growth-forest trees as much as anybody (well, probably not as much as Will Wynn and his Fitness Council chair-cum-campaign point man Paul Carrozza), surely some things – like deciding who keeps the
continued on p.17

HEADLINES

- ▶ As the *Chronicle* went to press, the 6pm Jan. 2 **filing deadline** arrived for the **March 4 party primaries**. Among a smattering of local intra-party races are four candidates for the job of retiring District Attorney Ronnie Earle and three for Travis Co. Constable Precinct 1 – including former Austin City Council Member Danny Thomas.
- ▶ The search for a **new Austin city manager** reaches full speed this week, as City Council will review outside candidates Jan. 3 and 4 and interview leading candidates Jan. 8 and 9, with the selection to be formalized and announced at council's Jan. 17 meeting.
- ▶ Legendary political bulldog, Gov. Perry crony, and state road warrior **Ric Williamson**, 55, died Dec. 30 of a heart attack. Williamson had been chair of the Transportation Commission since 2004 and a lightning rod for criticism as the frontman on toll roads and the Trans-Texas Corridor.
- ▶ **Iowa voters** readied for the Thursday night caucuses this week, where they will finally pick small-town preferences among a brace of Democratic candidates and a herd of Republicans. Or maybe not.

Northcross Wal-Mart Fight Update

In between poker tournaments in Las Vegas last week, your morally dissolute correspondent attempted to contact the major players in the **Responsible Growth for Northcross** lawsuit. I was only successful in reaching **Jason Meeker**, communications chair for RG4N. In its suit, RG4N asserted the city of Austin did not follow its own rules in approving **Lincoln Property's** site plan to build a **Wal-Mart** on the former Northcross Mall property; in her Dec. 21 decision, District Court Judge **Orlinda Naranjo** ruled in favor of the city. A notable feature of her decision was that, despite the fact the suit relied on four major claims, Naranjo only addressed the charge that the proposed Wal-Mart's garden center did not meet the proper zoning regulations. Asked what went wrong with the case, Meeker replied, "The main thing that was wrong was that we had to go to court in the first place."

But he said the court loss does not signal the end of the anti-Wal-Mart fight. "We are exactly where we were a year ago," he said. "There is a development with a city-approved site plan. We lost in court, and that hurts. We have not lost in the court of public opinion, and it's up to our group and citizens to get together and organize and continue to protest what we see as irresponsible development. It could be argued by others that we

have not pushed a very high-profile battle in the court of public opinion, but we were concentrating on funding our court battle. We still have many options available. In particular, there is [a City Council] election five months away. We are looking very closely at the options available to us regarding the election and how we can leverage popular support to either stopping or getting more meaningful concessions."



JOHN ANDERSON

@CHRONIC

TAKING THE CAPITOL OUT OF CAPITAL METRO

If 9/11 established anything, it's that airplanes are al Qaeda's preferred method of travel – not the city bus. But that won't prevent **Rick Perry** from surging against those sleeper cells on the No. 7.

Perry issued an otherwise unremarkable press release last week, "Security Upgrades to Begin on Capitol Grounds," a boilerplate act of security theatre opening with the phrase "Since the 9/11 attacks." The changes direct all vehicles to enter the Capitol from 15th Street – a moot point for the public at best, since only legislators are allowed to motor onto the grounds. But buried toward the bottom is the announcement, "the state is working with **Capital Metro** to address relocation of their bus stop on 11th Street adjacent to the Capitol Grounds," for those nebulous security worries. It's never good to imply your constituency is "with the terrorists" – so it's probably a good thing no Republicans ride the bus.

Cap Metro's **Capitol hub** is one of the agency's most-trafficked and highest-profile bus stops, serving thousands of passengers across a multitude of bus lines. Moving the stop in less than a year – per the governor's demand – will be yet another headache for the embattled agency. Yet, as the stop sits on state land, the agency and the city may have to take their lumps. Apparently the Perrys' remodeling of the Governor's Mansion is more extensive than first thought. In her letter of protest to the gov, American Civil Liberties Union Central Texas Chapter President **Debbie Russell** puts it succinctly:

"Instead of spending gobs of money and time fighting to move Austin's oldest public transportation center, confusing and inconveniencing 1,500 people a day, negatively affecting our public transportation system, so you can avoid being bothered by working-class Austinites' comings and going ... in the name of 'security' ... here's an option for you:

Use the west gate to walk home.
Posted Friday, Dec. 28.

– Wells Dunbar



JOHN ANDERSON

HOLLYWOOD VS. OCEAN: BE THERE!

"**Hollywood**" **Henderson** is pissed – and he's putting the City Council on notice for what he promises will be a historic smackdown.

In response to a proposed ordinance change to be considered by the council on Jan. 17, Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson, the former Dallas Cowboy and Texas Lottery tycoon, is circulating an angry petition in **Central East Austin** to fight the proposal, which on Dec. 11 was recommended 7-0 by the Planning Commission. If adopted by the council, the change would tighten restrictions on new house sizes for any Central East Austin lots smaller than 5,750 square feet. The current ordinance – aka **McMansion** – restricts new houses to 2,300 square feet or 40% of the overall lot size; the proposed change would allow only the 40% calculation on smaller lots, within a rough boundary of I-35 and Chicon, from MLK to Seventh Street. (That is: On a 5,000-square-foot lot, barring a specific variance, only a 2,000-square-foot home could be built.)

The proposal formally originated with the **Organization of Central East Austin Neighborhoods**, with the argument that the 2,300-square-foot home size is simply "out of proportion" for the historically smaller neighborhood lots and that the 40% limit is more realistic. But Henderson, who lives in and owns several lots in East Austin, describes the proposal in his letter to residents as an attempt by OCEAN and the city to "take away property rights" and is asking his neighbors to join him "in the fight for our current property rights."

Henderson's typo-spattered letter denounces "gentrification" and concedes the usefulness of the existing McMansion ordinance in limiting oversized houses and simultaneously advocates

verdict was the only concentration I wanted to have, and I didn't want to muddy that with a council run."

RG4N will be holding a town-hall meeting in Wozniak Hall at **St. Louis King of France Catholic Church**, 7601 Burnet Rd., on Friday, Jan. 11, at 7pm. "I wish I knew exactly what we'll be doing at the meeting, but we'll be calling it 'Fight Club,'" Meeker said. "And in this case, you can talk about Fight Club." – *Lee Nichols*

"more density" while describing historical East Austin as "a community of small lots and modest homes." Presumably, the proposed limitations would reinforce the latter characteristic – but Henderson reiterates at length that the proposal is nothing more than an unnecessary attack on property rights, "Big government trying to control our Historically Black Community," an attempt to "run us all off." He closes by asking residents to join him at City Hall on Jan. 17. (See Henderson's letter linked to this story at austinchronicle.com.)

Asked via e-mail for his response to Henderson's letter, OCEAN President **Rudy Williams** noted a related letter Henderson wrote to Mayor Will Wynn, adding curtly, "Please note there are more than 20 'I's and 'me's' in his email. I believe this indicates his real concern about the neighborhood." In a subsequent e-mail to Williams, Henderson says he is considering a class-action lawsuit against the neighborhood group.

In an e-mail thread involving other residents, several acknowledged Henderson's history of philanthropic projects in East Austin. But **Harold McMillan** noted, "I think the issues at hand have little to do with Mr. Henderson's good deeds of the past. The issues he raises are about his want to engage in commercial real estate development in the neighborhood. It seems to me, his issues are the same ones that would be raised by a developer (of any stripe) whose intent was to maximize personal profit for their development activities, regardless of and perhaps to the detriment of broader neighborhood preservation concerns."

"The real issue is not about profit, but about the level of profit." – *Michael King*

lights on at City Hall for the next half-decade or so – take precedence. But then I slowly exhaled: The Fitness Council event is scheduled for 9am, while council doesn't convene the city manager search until 1pm that day – providing even the mayor enough time to hit the showers. After all, you gotta be in shape to run, run away from those out-of-town city manager applicants! – W.D.

▶ The **Salvation Army** is thankful for a \$730,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but that money won't go toward the gap in funding created by the Capital Area United Way's new community investment strategy. Maj. Stephen Ellis said the grant, announced this week by Rep. Lloyd Doggett, is restricted to the stand-alone Passages program, a six-agency collaborative intended to get families in shelters back on their feet. The \$270,000 lost in United Way funding, on the other hand, was unrestricted funding the organization used to provide counseling and job-search services to those who use the Salvation Army's Downtown shelter. Ellis said his agency's staff and board will begin meeting this week to talk about how to address the anticipated cuts in funding. – K.R.

lic **Texas High School Project**, funded by the state, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, and the Communities Foundation of Texas. The project funds new models of high schools in order to increase graduation rates and promote a college-going culture. The new high schools will be in the Cedar Hill, Edgewood, Frenship, Houston, and Mercedes school districts, and the math and science academies will be in the Fruitvale, Galveston, and Houston school districts. The project has funded a total of 91 high schools. – Michael May

▶ The state's electricity grid operator, the **Electric Reliability Council of Texas**, reported recently that supplies of **reserve power**, which ward off blackouts during extreme weather or major outages, will be sufficient until 2011 – adding two years to a May 2007 estimate. ERCOT credits a 255-megawatt natural-gas power plant and two large coal plants being built by Energy Future Holdings (formerly TXU), set to come online in 2009 and 2010, adding 2,291 megawatts of power. ERCOT's previous estimate, that power reserves would fall short by 2009, was used as a major justification for the controversial CO₂-belching coal plants. Modest state energy-conservation

mandates were implemented in 2007, but energy experts say much more energy savings are possible statewide. Texas has been the top wind-energy producer in the nation for two years and in 2007 became the first state to add 1,000 megawatts of wind power in a single year. Newly approved power lines could deliver up to 25,000 megawatts of new electricity by 2012. ERCOT says power reserve estimates could become increasingly tight after 2011 but that it is tracking projects capable of adding tens of thousands of megawatts to the grid by 2013.

– Daniel Mottola

▶ Austin is renowned for trying to emulate Portland, Ore., in many aspects of urban design, but after Responsible Growth for Northcross' recent court loss, we

might now be ahead of our Northwestern mentors in one respect. Of his new hometown, Portland Trail Blazers rookie superstar Greg Oden complained to *The Indianapolis Star*: "The only thing is, they don't have any Wal-Marts near my house. I go to Best Buy or Target, but those places are pretty expensive." – Lee Nichols

▶ Newspapers continue to retrench as they attempt to adjust to the Digital Age. The latest move comes from the **San Antonio Express-News**, which at the end of the year stopped home delivery and single-copy sales to Austin, as well as to several parts of South Texas, including McAllen, Brownsville, and Corpus Christi. "It's purely and simply a cost-cutting move," Publisher Tom Stephenson told the Associated Press. "In some parts of the state, we were operating at a very significant loss." In October, the Hearst-owned paper announced plans to cut 40 to 50 jobs through buybacks and attrition. *The Dallas Morning News* and *Houston Chronicle* have also cut staff in the last year. At one point, expanding distribution and coverage beyond core areas was seen as the key growth industry for newspapers, as they cast a wider net for readers. But papers around the country, unable to gain traction in outlying communities, have been cutting back on zoned editions and broad distribution. "The State Desk mission remains the same because we cover South Texas primarily for the benefit of our readers in San Antonio and the surrounding counties," *Express-News* Editor Robert Rivard told the AP. – Kevin Brass

▶ Former White House Deputy Chief of Staff **Karl Rove** will receive a reported \$1.5 million for his **autobiography** from Threshold Editions, a right-wing imprint at Simon & Schuster. Run by Mary Matalin, a former assistant to President George W. Bush and counselor to Vice President Dick Cheney, it has become the memoir outlet of choice for a series of Bushies, including Mary and Lynne Cheney, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Bolton, former Governor of Iraq L. Paul Bremer III, White House counselor Ed Gillespie, and Alfred S. Regnery of arch-conservative press Regnery Publishing, the company responsible for the John Kerry-bashing *Unfit for Command*. – R.W.

▶ The old winning combo of an **oral citizenship declaration** and not looking like a menace to the nation will no longer cut it for United States, Canadian, and Bermudian citizens coming into the U.S. via official land and sea entry points. According to a **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** press release, "effective January 31, 2008, all travelers will be expected to present documents proving citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and government-issued documents proving identity, such as a driver's license, when entering the United States." The new rule is a product of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004's Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, one of the federal government's many post-9/11 attempts to strengthen border security. For more info on the initiative, see www.travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html. – Cheryl Smith



Rep. Lloyd Doggett filed for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 27 at the Texas Dem Party's headquarters on West 12th Street.

JOHN ANDERSON

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ Eleven hospitals and health-care clinics in Texas will share a \$4.5 million settlement from a more-than-a-decade-old lawsuit between the **Texas attorney general** and **BlueCross BlueShield of Texas**. The litigation began in 1996, when the AG's office opposed the merging of BlueCross BlueShield of Texas and BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois. (The AG argued the Texas branch was a charity, while the Illinois branch was not.) The settlement must be spent on indigent care, and a portion of the money will go to the **Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas** in Austin. – Justin Ward

▶ Speaking of moola, millions of dollars in lottery prizes are left behind each year, according to the **Texas Lottery Commission**. The commission estimates nearly half a billion dollars in prizes have gone unclaimed since it began keeping track in 1995. Though the majority of the money is small sums, there have been five jackpot winners worth a combined \$46 million. In Texas, lottery players have 180 days to claim their winnings, with an exception for military personnel on active duty. The prizes are split between the state general fund and a program for indigent health care. – J.W.

▶ A recently released letter revealed the UT System won't be divesting from Sudan anytime soon, despite calls from students and politicians for UT to cut ties with the nation for its human-rights record. The system's investment company, known as UTIMCO, is prevented by its own investment policies from "social investment," according to the letter from UTIMCO CEO Bruce Zimmerman to UT System Board of Regents Chairman H. Scott Caven. Furthermore, the letter said, even if UTIMCO wanted to divest, it would be difficult to achieve, since the company farms out much of the portfolio management to other firms. UTIMCO estimates \$27.6 million – one-tenth of 1% of the total portfolio – is invested directly or indirectly in companies identified by the state divestment task force. Almost 80% of that money is invested in China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. and PetroChina, two of the Sudanese government's biggest partners. Although other state-managed funds, such as public employee pension funds, are required by a state law to divest, UTIMCO is exempt. – J.W.

▶ Citizens annoyed about cars illegally parked in **spaces reserved for drivers with disabilities** can do something polite about it. The Governor's Committee on People With Disabilities is issuing courtesy reminders to be placed on windshields of cars blocking access. The nonbinding notices are intended to educate drivers parked in a reserved space, on an access aisle, or across a ramp. Any citizen can request one from the state and place them on windshields of offending vehicles. No formal training is necessary; however, "to protect the safety of all concerned," the committee wisely notes, "use of the reminders is recommended only when a vehicle is not occupied." – R.W.

▶ The U.S. Senate recently confirmed demographics professor **Steve Murdock** as the next director of the **U.S. Census Bureau**. A Texas native, Murdock is a professor of sociology at Rice University and director of the Texas State Data Center. Murdock was the first official state demographer of Texas, and *Texas Monthly* named him among "The 25 Most Powerful Texans" in 2005. "Demography is a divine calling," said Murdock in an online article. "We know it is because there is a book of Numbers in the Bible, and it's all about the census." – J.W.

▶ The Texas Education Agency is opening seven new high schools that will specifically recruit low-income, minority students and prepare them for college, as well as three new Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math academies. The new schools are part of the \$261 million private-pub-

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TOP 10 LOCAL STORIES
TOBY TO SOS

BY MICHAEL KING

1) Farewell Futrell By her own measure, city managers have an official life expectancy of five to seven years, so Toby's departure is pretty much right on schedule. Despite much recent melodrama and gratuitous public vitriol, Futrell dedicated her public (and much of her private) life to Austin and fully deserves a graduating ovation.

2) Acquiring Acevedo The model for the Futrell successor search was supposed to be the acquisition of new Austin Police Department Chief Art Acevedo, but right now the council seems determined to turn it into a quick round of spin the bottle. The city surprised suspicious onlookers by picking the Acevedo plum – we can't expect that kind of luck twice in a row, can we?

3) Cooling the City (and Planet) Austin emerged as a national leader against global warming, thanks to public activism and leadership from Mayor Will Wynn and Roger Duncan, Austin Energy's deputy general manager. We can't be certain that what we do here will reverberate nationally – but there will be no redirecting the global climate ship without everybody lifting an oar.



Toby Futrell in office ...

4) The Shooting of Kevin Brown Another police shooting of a young black man rocked the city in June, and although the circumstances were muddled as always, new Chief Acevedo passed the public test by terminating

Sgt. Michael Olsen in November. The story isn't concluded: Olsen is appealing, and the city's review process is itself being reviewed, but it feels like the tide is shifting against summary police injustice.

5) Smile, You've Been Wal-Marted! A bitter dispute between near-north neighborhoods and the city ended in court, as Responsible Growth for Northcross (and the Allandale Neighborhood Association) sued over the approval of a Wal-Mart Supercenter on the site of the former Northcross Mall. Last week the judge ruled for the city, but RG4N vowed to fight on, and the dispute promises to shadow this spring's council elections.

6) It's Unconventional A very strange mini-scandal paused this month, as former Convention Center Director Robert Hodge was indicted for record-tampering by a grand jury but avoided indictment on much more serious charges of financial improprieties. The city vows tighter controls, the record-tampering was apparently pointless, and Hodge may prove to have been a casualty of a change in the City Hall weather – from small-town arbitrariness to big-city officiousness.

7) It's Our Lakeside! Lady Bird Lake was at the center of several hot stories: the unveiling of an innovative city park (conceived in the surrounding neighborhoods), a battle to protect the waterfront against encroachment, and

the renaming of the unpretentious Town Lake itself in honor of the first lady who made it so central to her Austin. It's yours, if you can keep it.

8) The Full Treatment After more than 20 years of pure-dee Austin dithering, the city has apparently found a site for Water Treatment Plant No. 4, expected to treat all that water we're anticipating to buy for the next 50 years from the Lower Colorado River Authority. There will be plenty more arguments – like where to find the money to close the deal – and with any luck, in 20 years we'll actually build the thing.

9) Leaving Children Behind As merciless federal and state education policies steadily filter downward, the kids in the neighborhoods are becoming the inevitable pawns. Johnston High School is on the Texas Education Agency bubble, with the new year to determine whether it – and Reagan and Travis and ... – will be sacrificed to political notions of what constitutes "accountability."

10) SOS for SOS After years of environmental derring-do (and legal brinkmanship), Save Our Springs Alliance was forced into bankruptcy by one more lawsuit and a sprawl developer who thus far refuses to settle for less than SOS extinction. If the court can't find a middle ground, Austin's cutting edge of environmental activism may be dispersed to the next-generational eco-winds.

TOP 10 TOBY MOMENTS
WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Is her journey ours? The evolution of Toby Futrell mirrors and personalizes Austin's transformation from stoned, sleepy slack-town to condo-shocked L.A. on training wheels. On the eve of her successor's selection, we present our "Top 10 Toby Moments" – from the barefoot, Hippie-hallowed child of lost Austin to today's corporatist city micromanager of Manhattan on the Colorado.

1) You're Right, That Does Hurt Love her or loathe her, all observers acknowledge Futrell's undeniably hands-on approach. One dramatic example of many over the years: In the early 1990s, investigating complaints about EMS transport, Futrell field-researched the problem by hurtling over speed bumps while strapped down to an ambulance gurney.

2) Toby Futrell, Pet Detective A hagiographic *Statesman* profile on the ascendent city manager noted that in 1992, Futrell personally and furtively surveilled the troubled animal shelter, "watching animals get gassed in large groups, climbing on the roof at night to photograph rats stealing food from the cages." If that Ace Ventura impersonation wasn't enough, "she spent Saturdays patrolling around Town Lake on a golf cart with a Parks employee, searching for a predator that was leaving swans dead on the shore."

3) Anybody Find Those Hippie Hollow Pics? If the early press on Toby sought to impart anything, it's that she was "Austin" through and through. In his *Chronicle* profile ("She's One of Us," June 7, 2002), Mike Clark-Madison recounted that when voters approved 1998 open-space bonds, "Futrell danced barefoot within the drum circle, under the stars, at the victory party thrown by [the Save Our Springs Alliance]."

4) Dyslexia in Plain English This year's SaveTownLake.org lawsuit, looking to stop waterfront condo encroachment, is based on explicit height limits laid out in the city's 1986 Land Development Code – limits that mysteriously vanished following a supposedly nonsubstantive 1999 "plain English" rewrite – an effort overseen by then Assistant City Manager Toby Futrell.

5) Building Point Austin Although there is credit to spread over many hands and many years – architects Antoine Predock, Juan Cotera, and Phil Reed; Mayors Watson and Wynn; her mentor/predecessor, Juan Garza – the city's distinguished and distinguishing City Hall was completed on Futrell's watch, in a swirl of post-9/11 financial headaches and determination to make the building reflect the spirit of the city. It does so, from its music-and-politics plaza to its armadillo-"stinger" tail, and when Futrell moves on, she can look back on this landmark building as one of her proudest accomplishments.

6) Who's Fouling the Springs? When the *Statesman* claimed in 2003 that Barton Springs was awash in toxic hydrocarbons seeping in from ancient, mysterious "coal-gas" sources, Futrell spearheaded debunking efforts, tracing the chemicals eventually to oil-based sealants on nearby parking lots – most prominently, testing the *Statesman's* own lot along Town Lake for the culprit chems. The council eventually passed a groundbreaking ordinance banning the sealants, which seemed to mark a turning point in the city manager's heretofore cozy relationship with the denizens of the Batcave on Town Lake.

7) Unforgivable Loan On a prime political test, the city manager turned in an embarrassing low score: unprepared. When landmark African-American nightclub Midtown Live burned down in 2005, partly as penance for police responders' boorish reaction ("Burn baby, burn"), Futrell precipitously proposed a forgivable \$750,000 rebuilding loan. Following talk-radio uproar and City Council backlash (most notably from the since deferential Brewster McCracken), the offer was withdrawn. In the years since, it has reverberated into realms as disparate as the African American Quality of Life Initiative and the Las Manitas loan fracas. Final grade: incomplete.



... Toby Futrell out of the office

JOHN ANDERSON

8) Here Comes the Story of the Hurricane When Hurricane Katrina sent thousands packing to Austin, Will Wynn was the smiling public face of Austin's response, and Rudy Garza was its in-house manager – and both presented a stark contrast to the Bush administration's smirking indifference. When disaster struck, Katrina's evacuees were fortunate to have as indefatigable a planner and executor as Futrell in charge of operations, and like Calamity Jane, said to be her very best in a crisis. Now about those ordinary times ...

9) The "But Money Magazine Loves Us" Defense Toby's late-period "queen of all she surveys" imperiousness was epitomized by her response to a key May 2006 report from the city auditor. After detailed review of peer city practices, the auditor strongly recommended to City Council an update to the city's adopted vision and comprehensive plan for future growth. Futrell instantaneously killed it (citing national media accolades); the mayor and council meekly submitted to her political will. Comprehensive planning does so crimp one's wielding of personal power!

10) It's All Relative A year ago, her hidden-in-plain-sight conflict of interest with Wal-Mart (her husband does contract HVAC work for the company) cast further shadows over the already contentious Northcross controversy. In 2007, a welter of miniscandals unfolded (the Convention Center, the Austin City Store, and her "executive expenditures" stocking it, etc.). In spring, City Council gave her a break – along with raises and accolades – with the expectation she'd soon announce her retirement. She didn't until late summer – and when she did, it was partially to bump a story about the nepotistic placement of a relative at Austin Energy. As Futrell told the *Austin Business Journal* in 2006, "The moment I become political, get rid of me." While council was too cowed to do so, ultimately Futrell took her own advice.

**TOP 10
STATE STORIES**
MOLLY, PLEASE
COME BACK,
WE NEED
YOU!



ALAN POGUE

BY AMY SMITH AND LEE NICHOLS

1) Tell 'Em How Much Fun It Was! No sooner had 2007 arrived than Molly Ivins left us, after a long, plucky fight with breast cancer. Her passing created a gaping news hole in hundreds of newspapers and periodicals that carried her witty, populist-driven commentaries. Few scribes can nail Texas politics the way Molly did, but we take to heart one of her most valuable lessons: "And when you get through kickin' ass and celebratin' the sheer joy of a good fight, be sure to tell those who come after how much fun it was!" For present example, look how much fun 2007 was ...

2) Craddick vs. the House No one rocks the House like Speaker Tom Craddick, who managed to fend off, by hook and crook, two attempted coups at the dramatic beginning and chaotic end of the 2007 legislative session. With all but a few of his lieutenants having bailed or been kicked out of his shrinking inner circle, Craddick not only faces a slew of challengers in 2009, but the Midland lifer has even drawn – oh insult too cruel! – a Democratic 2008 opponent.

3) Kids Behind Bars In the national embarrassment department, Texas had a stellar year. Along with a still-booming execution conveyor line, the Texas Youth Commission scandal brilliantly served to strengthen the Lone

Star State's laughing-stock image. (There's also that little matter of the governor we cheerfully exported to D.C., but we're trying not to think about that.) After all the sordid horror stories coming out of the juvenile prisons, the Lege finally stepped in with headline-grabbing quotes but few resources, and judging from continuing reports, not much has changed – meaning "Kids Behind Bars" will likely serve as a headline for next year, too.

4) Don't Ask, Don't Vaccinate Politicians and pharmaceutical companies go together like ... drugs and money. Take Gov. Rick Perry. His surprise mandate requiring girls to be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted virus that can cause cervical cancer generated a passionate national debate – about sex. Moral conservatives yelped that Perry's executive order would promote prepubescent promiscuity. Democrats publicly hailed the order but privately questioned whether Perry was merely helping out his old pal Mike Toomey, the lobbyist for the vaccine's manufacturer, Merck. In the end, legislators overturned Perry's edict, and that was that.

5) Highway to Nowhere Perry's imperially ambitious but publicly reviled Trans-Texas Corridor project got its chain yanked, as lawmakers responded to citizen protests over the Texas Department of Transportation's brazen toll-road-building blitz (while still protecting toll projects in their hometowns). Now, it's hard to tell who's pulling whose drive chain, but TxDOT looks to be settling scores by messing with certain local road projects previously deemed safe. Local case in point, state Sen. Kirk Watson is blaring his horn over TxDOT's claim that it's short some \$500 million needed to complete a long-planned CenTex road package, recalling the old Texas adage: All's fair in highways and politics.

6) TXU Sells Out After beginning the year with 11 dirty coal plants in the queue, the wholly unpopular TXU Corp. sold itself, took on a new name (Energy Future Holdings/Luminant), and green-washed its image with a slick ad campaign and a promise to slim down its proposed pollution portfolio from 11 plants to three (including, alas, the worst). Now Luminant is on deck to retrofit existing plants as part of its pledge to cut pollution 20%. How can the company possibly clean up its coal-fired act without leaving Texas in the dark? Read our 2008 lips: "Nuke-ular."

7) Let 'Em Study Cake Among Rick Perry's many ham-handed vetoes this summer was one that axed \$154 million in health-care funding for Texas community-college employ-

ees, on inexplicable grounds concerning the way some of the funds were being paid. The veto touched off college budget crises all over the state and a wave of outrage among legislators and administrators who said Perry failed to raise his concerns during the session. The funding was eventually restored when Perry, Dewhurst, and Craddick (the Legislative Budget Board, aka the Oops! Brigade) agreed to make good. The political consensus was that Gov. Goodhair had unnecessarily plunged higher education into temporary financial chaos – but hey, 39% of voting Texans think he's doing just fine.

8) Anybody Know How to Work This Thing? The state's Children's Health Insurance Program was damn near nonfunctional by the time state officials finally owned up to their 2005 mistake and pulled the plug on a disastrous \$899 million contract with the private outsourcing firm Accenture. The company had been hired to streamline and "improve" the administration of CHIP, but the bumbling experiment was cursed by a whole series of failures, from computer snafus to poor training of workers (replacing the more experienced pink-slipped employees) to lost paperwork to – worst of all and inevitably – a dramatic drop in the number of children receiving health benefits.

9) Drop Dead – We Close at 5 That Sharon Keller – what a charmer. The clock-watching chief justice of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals barred the courthouse door to defense attorneys trying to file a last-minute appeal that would have spared the life of convicted killer and death row inmate Michael Richard. "We close at 5," was Keller's ho-hum explanation – four words that guaranteed Richard's pending execution. Never mind that the Supreme Court had just opened doors for similar appeals across the country over the constitutionality of lethal injections – that's why it's called a deadline.

10) You Celebrate Xmas Your Way, and I'll Celebrate Xmas My Way Granny, get your gun! Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson just can't fathom the idea that any red-blooded Texan might visit a park without packing a firearm. So he's defying the original land donor's wishes in a rush to market the state-owned Christmas Mountains to private (i.e., pro-gun) interests, while digging in his heels against any sale to the National Park Service, which would ban firearms and hunting. "Public" is the operative word here, but Patterson insists the gun factor is a deal breaker. No guns, no hunting, no sale – or, reach for the sky, tree-hugger.

COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR DRUG ABUSE IN LIMBO

Travis County officials are scrambling to find an alternate site for a grant-based **drug and substance-abuse counseling program** after neighbors protested a possible lease in an East 11th Street building owned by **Ebenezer Baptist Church**.

Commissioners have heard plenty of objections from the **Guadalupe Association for an Improved Neighborhood** over the county's proposed lease. Neighborhood leaders say the area is already overburdened with problem neighbors, including nearby homeless shelters.

The center in the church's **Marvin Griffin Building** would have been staffed with seven counselors for day and evening counseling sessions, **Community Supervision and Corrections Department** Director Geraldine Nagy told the Commissioners Court. The location would be used for individual and group therapy sessions for low-risk offenders. "The

offenses will be felonies or misdemeanors. Anyone with a history of a sexual offense will never go there, nor will individuals who are supervised in the mental-health unit," Nagy said. "That priority population will not be served there, nor will the people who face offenses against persons."

That did not satisfy neighbors, which frustrated those with the **East Austin Economic Development Corp.**, which serves as Ebenezer's nonprofit development arm in the community. Local longtime activist **General Marshall**, who sits on the EAEDC board, said it's ironic Ebenezer's own projects were being used against the church. "[EAEDC Executive Director] **Van Johnson** informed you two weeks ago that the Guadalupe neighborhood association did not support Ebenezer Child Development Center nor the Ebenezer Senior Village ... nor the Robertson Hill Apartments and condos that were mentioned a few minutes ago," Marshall said. "So we were surprised and found it a little odd that our own programs were now being used against us in leasing the Griffin office building."

Neighborhood representatives argued the program might be new to Travis County but cited national studies showing substance-abuse offenders often are rearrested. Resident **Buck McKinney** claimed that if those statistics held true, Travis County's proposal to treat 1,500 people at the counseling center would mean 375 of those participants would eventually be rearrested for committing a violent crime.

The counseling services would be funded from a \$650,000 state grant, which would provide a permanent centralized location for counseling sessions for the county's probationers. But each week the county fails to find a location, it loses \$11,000 of the grant.

When commissioners returned from an executive session on the lease, among other items, County Judge **Sam Biscoe** said Nagy had withdrawn her proposal to lease the space. In making the announcement, Biscoe noted the lease was a thorny issue for the county, a program that would incur opposition in almost any neighborhood.

– Kimberly Reeves

TOP 10 CITY COUNCIL MOMENTS

BY WELLS DUNBAR

1) Send in the Clowns All year long, the pending retirement of incumbent City Manager Toby Futrell was the City Hall soap opera, complete with an ever-retreating exit date and back-stage tears over council's determination to just get on with it. As the new year dawns, they're still looking, but we gave them the three-ring formula back in August: "Betty Dunkerley told the *Statesman* Austin needs a 'magician,' while some lobbyist or another said they'd have big shoes to fill. Put those two together, and you've got ... Bozo the City Manager? Great for kids' parties and council meetings – to the extent they're distinguishable." Or as the song goes: "They're already here ..."

2) Unboxing Day In February, after the Northcross Wal-Mart Supercenter got in under the wire, City Council passed the long-delayed Big Box Ordinance – intended to subject such enormo-projects to stricter public scrutiny. The conspiratorial question on everyone's mind was: What took so long? Futrell insisted the SuperWalton would have been grandfathered anyway – leaving the neighborhoods, as usual, fighting the last war. Oh, and a little thing called the Congress Avenue Retail Retention and Enhancement Fund passed on the same day.

3) Budget Trek: The Wrath of Toby A \$27.5 million "forecast gap" from city staff rattles the Austin Enterprise, then mysteriously teleports away, while council ducks for PR cover and the citizens wonder whatever happened to boom-for-everybody warp speed. Futrell and Mike Martinez set phasers to flame-war. (Martinez: "Please stop with the rhetoric, Toby. It really is not necessary. And it's painfully and embarrassingly transparent.") Martinez tells BTP he didn't meet with Futrell and staff on last-minute budget numbers due to previous sessions being "unproductive" and "full of rhetoric." Despite Tribble-like multiplications of "cost-drivers," Futrell's presented budget miraculously balances.

4) Unparticipatory Democracy If the Charter Revision Committee meets and nobody shows up, do single-member districts falling in the forest make a noise? A Martinez-driven push for a newly districted council receives resounding citizen silence, until it's finally put online; the committee gets enough

December Web response to cancel its remaining meetings and to recommend a charter vote this spring. Will the council accept the hot potato, and if it does, will voters notice?

5) Rock & Roll All Night Marathon Thursday council sessions routinely last into the wee hours, often with crucial votes after midnight, and staff is asked to offer a plan for more efficiency, less endlessness. Staff brilliantly concludes citizen comments could be cut from three to two minutes – and the resulting public backlash jettisons the whole effort. We've tried nothing, they say – and we're all outta ideas. Are these guys getting time-and-a-half? Cuz we're not.

6) No More Breakfast Tacos for You In the middle of the Las Manitas donnybrook, Brewster McCracken spills the refried beans on the Salsa Sisters, telling a radio audience the city was strong-armed into its forgivable-loan offer by the eatery's control over its alley right-of-way – allegedly holding it hostage against a deal with new Marriott developer. Shortly thereafter, the deal blows up, City Council still has migas on its face, and ... what about that triple-decker convention hotel? Anybody smell a campaign issue ... or is that just a whole lotta *mole*?

7) Panhandling Smackdown When a couple of neighborhood associations complain about street-corner panhandlers, McCracken and Jennifer Kim look for a policy (or campaign) handle. The resulting civil liberties backlash – and resistance from other council members – creates a yearlong push-me-pull-you over social services, public safety, firefighters' boot collections, and ... oh, yeah: "Isn't anybody going to think about the children?!" Most of the fuss died down in November – but like cedar fever, it's always in the wind.

8) It's a Doggie Dog World The bond project to build a new animal shelter runs smack into an animal-advocate war over where to put it – on the Eastside Levander Loop, as planned, or right where it already sits, on floodable Downtown parkland suddenly declared sacred ground by animalists who had been the dogs that did not bark during months of bond hearings. After a vitriolic Oct. 11 public hearing, council splits the puppy by voting shelter for Eastside (despite howls from yet another set of affordable-housing absolutists, abhorring a "dog hotel") and adoption center for Lady Bird Lake. It ain't wagging away:

TOP 10 DEVELOPING STORIES LESSONS LEARNED

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

1) Developers Pay Up 2007 will be remembered as the year Austin raised its standards for the public benefits we expect from the private interests that shape our city. What's new: No developer dared ask for a major height/density variance from council in 2007 without first offering up "voluntary" contributions for the public good. A series of City Council-backed initiatives this year signals a real if nascent culture shift: the density-bonus initiative, affordable-housing fees-in-lieu, expanded park-dedication fees, stronger urban design standards, etc. Lesson learned: Economic development alone no longer punches a developer's ticket.

2) Densifying Downtown The urban fabric became more tightly woven this year: high-rising towers, livelier streetscapes and nightlife, scarcer parking, some 2,600 new condos under construction (median asking price \$800,000) and another 2,300 planned. Most City Hall newsy: The spat over Capitol View Corridors, \$124 million in new flood controls for Waller Creek, the Second Street retail district, density as climate protection, and a 2008 referendum for Downtown rail transit. Most crucial: completing Phase I of the Downtown Austin Plan, as a comprehensive road map. Lesson learned: Growth is a given; the question now is quality.

3) Climate Protection With the watershed 2007 passage of the Austin Climate Protection Plan, the city moved to require green building and energy efficiency, with more stringent new construction standards each year. Buyers of some older houses will need to make energy-efficiency improvements. Smart developers are embracing higher standards, because in Austin, green sells. Lesson learned: Austinites will pay for buildings that work for climate protection.

4) Las Manitas Saga This twisting tale epitomized the struggle to preserve Austin's unique character – and the community's angst over change. When City Council rose to defend the iconic Downtown Tex-Mex eatery against the Marriott hotel chain, our elected officials appeared noble champions of keeping Austin weird, but when they offered up a \$750,000 forgivable loan, public opinion turned ugly. Las Manitas' owners reclaimed folk-hero status by finally rejecting the city's loan – then struck their own deal with the landowner/developer. Still uncertain: the fates of both the planned trihotel complex and the taco joint. Lesson learned: We're weird all right.

5) Northcross Mall, RG4N, and Big Box The (continuing) fight over Northcross Mall's redevelopment – as New Urbanist town center or a dumb mall with gargantuan Wal-Mart? – has been a painful lesson in how much civic grief one bad developer can inflict. Also exposed: lack of council consensus, staff's power to subvert council policy, and city weaknesses in urban planning. Silver lining: In the uproar, the Big Box Ordinance passed (to pre-

vent future such debacles). Lesson learned: Council has shown notably more fortitude and leadership in championing good development.

6) Rally Around the River Lady Bird Lake (née Town Lake) saw a 2007 outpouring of citizen love. Everyone from Jimmie Dale Gilmore to the mayor sang out for protection, plus trail improvements and completion (with a boardwalk?). New nonprofit SaveTownLake.org led a populist rally against developers seeking variances for tall towers on the shoreline. Council (led by Mike Martinez) listened, got out in front, and vocally opposed on principle one-off variances to Waterfront Overlay District protections – then reinstated a WO task force. Still pending: the lightning-rod CWS project that kicked it all off. Lesson learned: Austinites love their river, and council can do the righteous thing.

7) Concordia Concord The frustrating discord over redevelopment of Concordia University's 22-acre central campus exhausted all parties involved. An intelligent, detailed ROMA Design Group site plan finally achieved consensus among neighborhood associations, city officials and staff, and developer East End IG – where adversarial lawyers and positions had failed. Citizens beseeched council to create a better process. Lesson learned: Council moved to draft new, higher standards (now largely completed) for planned unit developments.

8) New Transit Town Two major new public planning processes began in 2007 to better align development patterns with transit corridors and rail. For the new vertical mixed-use zoning:



FixAustin sued the city anyway, and the whole deal will come back to council via zoning issues. Bring your dog whistles.

9) The Angry Young Mayor Heretofore a mayor of sweetness and light, the 2007 Will Wynn developed a rep for going ballistic at inopportune public moments. First there was the South by Southwest party crasher at his Downtown condo complex, who accused His Surliness of attempting to throttle him just for being a garden-variety idiot (we've been there), then the 311 call from a rattled construction foreman roundly cursed by Hizzoner for blocking morning rush-hour traffic. With a year and a half to go, should we hope for a Fiorello or for a Giuliani? Peace for the citizens – or better copy for BTP? (We know how we're voting.)

10) Kim's Airport Insecurity With a mysterious assist from City Hall, the *Statesman* acquires documentation of an apparent Jennifer Kim demand for security-free access to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport's restricted gates, resulting in much public hilarity, followed by public remorse from the council member. Unfortunately, KVUE discovers Kim also attempted to pull rank on a ticketing cop – "Do you know who I am?" – and before the dust settles, a Kim staffer takes the blame and the exit. We wouldn't bring it up, of course – except that you will soon hear it in chorus from the herd hoping to retire Kim come the May election.

Neighborhoods across Austin reviewed and recommended how (and where) the city should promote desired density. For transit-oriented development: Station Area Planning was largely completed along Capital Metro's new commuter-rail line. In November, Mayor Wynn called for a 2008 voter referendum for a modern central-city streetcar. Lesson learned: Austin is finally getting on board with pro-transit cities like Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; and even Dallas.

9) UT's Brackenridge Tract Another hefty chunk of old Central Austin was put on the block, eliciting more neighborhood and city pleas for enlightened urban planning. This time, the self-interested "greedy developer" is UT-Austin. The tract's 345 acres include Lions Municipal Golf Course, which the city dearly wants to keep – but UT has barely given the city's planning wishes a polite nod. The town-and-gown power wrangle is sure to be fascinating; the city may discover what it feels like to be a placated-yet-powerless neighborhood association. Lesson learned: Beware of the Big Gorilla.

10) Downtown North The upscale Domain retail/restaurant/residential site is the first phase of a 10-year plan to transform the old IBM campus at MoPac and 183 into a walkable, New Urbanist "second downtown." Upon adoption of the North Burnet/Gateway Area Master Plan, the area should become our eighth official transit-oriented development district to follow the quality-critical three Ds: density, diversity, and design. Lesson learned: Growing Austin well requires high-quality planning and urban design – in the burbs, too.

TOP 10 MEDIA STORIES MORE IS LESS

BY KEVIN BRASS

In a year that saw Austin legend Molly Ivins pass away (see “Top 10 State Stories”), there was little cause for celebration in media circles.

With Ivins’ death, wit and style moved a little farther to the back of the bus, driven by in-depth reports on Anna Nicole Smith’s baby and sightings of Bigfoot. Real journalists were mocked, scorned, and fired in 2007. Revelations about nefarious government activities and environmental crises were ignored in favor of live coverage of Paris Hilton going to jail.

All in all, it was a dreary year for the Fourth Estate.

1) Riots in the Streets Media outlets around the country gobbled up the tale of a Mexican-American man torn limb from limb by a liquored-up mob of Juneteenth revelers in East Austin. The story was just too good to be true. And it turns out it wasn’t. In the process, the stories ended up revealing far less about race relations and far more about the media’s pack mentality and salivating desire for blood.

2) Damn That Media It turns out all the world’s ills, from the inability to capture Osama bin Laden to genital herpes, can be blamed on the media. Who knew? Media-hating is the great uniter. The right wing smirks at every new revelation revealed by the liberal America-haters. The left wing mocks the Britney-fixated cowards. Meanwhile, the public yawned at attempts to develop a shield law to protect journalists’ freedom.

3) Musical chairs As they say in the finance game, media properties were in play: KEYE was sold to the same private equity firm that gobbled up Chrysler. KXAN was for sale, and then it wasn’t. Border Media sold off a bunch of radio stations. The list goes on and on. The one consistent factor: Not one transaction resulted in a better media outlet.

4) Air America Crashes The Great Radio Hope for progressives continued to spiral into oblivion. Management filed for bankruptcy. Al Franken left to run for Senate. Ratings plummeted. In Austin, KOKE dropped the network when it was sold to a chain specializing in Spanish-language formats. Few wept.

5) KXAN Reborn After a meltdown in ’06, KXAN bounced back into the TV news competition with a new set, new graphics, and a new commitment to “Austin News.” First sign of the new commitment to “Austin News” was a trip to Afghanistan. Otherwise, the station stuck to the rigid TV news format, except now the anchors stand and talk a lot, instead of sitting and talking. Radical!

6) The Statesman Lives! The *Austin American-Statesman* emerged from its Eisenhower-era schnooze with a snappy new look. Now the paper uses colorful graphics on Page 1 to tease high school football coverage and that swell fitness column. Editorial occasionally showed signs of a pulse, including the once-a-decade look at the University of Texas football program’s extravagant budget. And yet – cruel irony – circulation and reader interest continued to slide.



7) The Incredible Shrinking Media Job security became a running joke in the industry. *The Dallas Morning News*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *San Antonio Express-News* all slashed staff. Radio stations like rocker KLBJ-FM continued to jettison old-timers. TV newsrooms look like junior-college journalism workshops. And local advertising agency icon GSD&M, once a bastion of creativity and energy, cut staff and switched management after losing a string of big accounts.

8) Diversity Reigns No, not in terms of race. Most media outlets remain lily white. But the selection and variety of ways for the public to gather information continued to explode. *The New York Times* ditched its pay service, opening its doors to the great unwashed; *The Wall Street Journal* is sure to follow. Blogs, podcasts, and social network sites like Facebook created new ways to flood data to anyone interested in finding it.

9) FCC Slapdown The Federal Communications Commission relaxed rules prohibiting conglomerates from buying multiple properties, while ignoring the plight of smaller players. Government regulators were far more concerned about the utterance of even a single nasty word, which has left FCC-governed broadcasters shaking in their weenie boots. One casualty was KVET icon Sammy Allred, who was canned after muttering one too many bad words.

10) New Technology Flounders HD radio was a bomb. Only one TV station, KEYE, made the move into HD. Copyright fees threatened to gut Internet radio. And satellite-radio pioneers XM and Sirius, unable to make it on their own, tried to merge, reminding everyone that cool technology is no guarantee of success.

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see *Community Listings*, p.58.

FRIDAY 04

ALTERNATIVE RADIO has Nobel Peace Prize laureate Al Gore speaking on the U.S. Constitution. 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

LAST DAY: CITY OF AUSTIN SEEKS INPUT ON WEBSITE DESIGN With its sights set on “a new era of open government,” the city of Austin is redesigning all of its websites and needs help. Take the Web-usage survey at www.austingo.org. Deadline: Fri., Jan. 4.

SATURDAY 05

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Drop off trees at Zilker Park (follow signs to the polo fields) to be ground into mulch, which is given away this month. (Pay-as-You-Throw customers, place trees curbside on yard-trimming pickup days.) Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 10am-4pm. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm.

SUNDAY 06

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN MEETING Paulette Delahoussaye discusses the Humanist Manifesto of 1933. 10am-12:30pm. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free. www.esoa.org.

MONDAY 07

COUNTY, STATE, AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS – AND YOU Join the Texas State Employees Union for a discussion about the delegation selection process for the State Democratic Convention. 6-7:30pm. Texas State Employees Union Hall, 1700 S. First, 323-2199. www.cwa-tseu.org.

TUESDAY 08

CHICAS VERDES The eco-minded Chicas Verdes’ monthly meeting features special guest Effie Brunson of Rays of Hope, which helps provide solar energy systems for low-income homeowners. First Tuesdays, 11:45am (January’s meeting falls on the second Tuesday of the month). Mekong River, 215 E. Sixth, 236-8878.

SIERRA CLUB Public Citizen’s Tom “Smitty” Smith, Sustainable Energy and Economical Development’s Karen Hadden, and the Sierra Club’s Cyrus Reed and Donna Hoffman speak on What’s a Nuke-Free Texas? 7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

WEDNESDAY 09

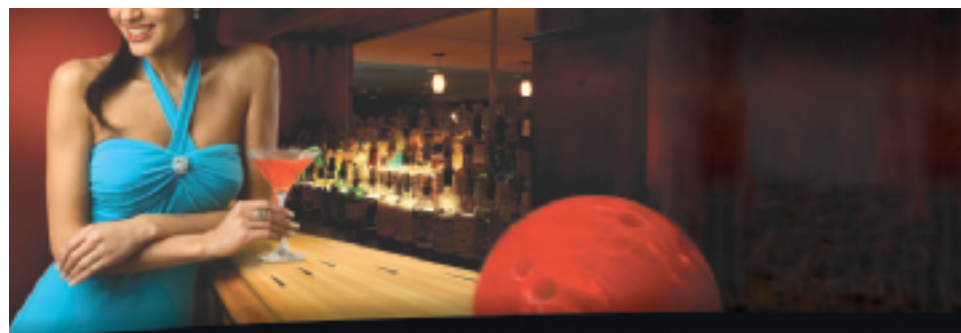
CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE MEETING explores the feasibility of single-member districts. Feedback is welcome, and the city seeks input online at www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter. 5-7pm. Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 W. Second, 974-7593. Free. leslie.schneidewiss@ci.austin.tx.us.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB Army medic Alan Babin discusses the Urge to Serve. RSVP online. 7-8:30am. UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15-25. www.mbcaustin.org.

ONGOING

VALLEY LAND FUND WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST This annual competition rewards Texas’ private landowners for good behavior by pairing them with

photographers who will capture the natural beauty of their wildlife-friendly properties. Participants are eligible to win \$100,000 in prizes. See www.valleylandfund.com for details. Register through Feb. 29.



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TOP 10 2007 JOINTS
REEFER MADNESS

BY JORDAN SMITH

1) Down With Crack On Nov. 1, the first step toward eliminating the draconian 100-to-1 crack-to-powder-cocaine federal sentencing ratio took effect, cutting crack-related federal sentences by an average of 16 months for most defendants. On Dec. 11, officials made the downgraded sentences retroactive for all federal prisoners – nearly 20,000 inmates, almost 10% of the entire federal population. Beginning March 3, more than 2,500 will be eligible to apply for early release. If Congress would eliminate the same disparity from the mandatory-minimum sentencing scheme, there would really be something to celebrate.

2) Hold Those Handcuffs To ease county jail overcrowding, HB 2391 – authored by Rep. Jerry Madden, R-Richardson, and carried by Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo – downgraded a host of minor crimes, including minor marijuana possession, to ticket-only offenses, offering police the option to write citations for possession of up to 4 ounces of pot. The Travis Co. Sheriff's Office is on board, estimating that last year some 7,000 people were booked for the offenses listed under the new law – along with pot possession, criminal mischief, graffiti, and misdemeanor theft. APD is officially still pending.

3) Ron “Hemp” Paul for President Surfside Republican Rep. Ron Paul is unique, and consistent – especially on most issues of personal liberty (excepting, alas, women's reproductive rights). He's the only member of Congress with the guts to call the drug war a failure, and to support industrial hemp farming. For the second time, he filed the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, which would return the environmentally friendly rotation crop to the nation's agricultural landscape. “This could be something to help the economy,” he told us last spring. “Any kind of problem that we deal with, if there's no violence and no harm done, then it should be left to the people to decide.” Amen!

4) NoDak Hemp Lands in Federal Court The quest of North Dakota farmers to cultivate non-narcotic industrial cannabis on their family farms ramped up this year, with farmers Wayne Hauge and Dave Monson (a veteran Republican state lawmaker) filing a federal suit to get the DEA to butt out of their agriculture: NoDak has enacted strict hemp-farming regulations, and that should be enough. In November a federal district judge ruled that although he had little faith the DEA would really consider the farmers' bid to grow the crop, federal law does indeed give the agency oversight over hemp operations – it would be up to Congress, he ruled, to change that. Monson and Hauge appealed in December.

5) Drug War Censorship According to a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court majority led by Chief Justice John Roberts, speech that invokes the bogeyman – drugs! – is not protected, at least at a “school-sanctioned” event. An Alaska teen, Joseph Frederick, was handed a 10-day suspension for unfurling a banner that read “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” during the 2002 Olympic torch relay. School officials claimed the right to censor any speech that “advocates” drug use – though

Frederick insisted his banner was simply a political message. The Supremes, like good vice principals everywhere, brought the hammer down.

6) Raich Fights On After five years of legal wrangling, famed California medi-pot patient/advocate Angel Raich announced in May that she would drop her appeals. Raich, plagued by illnesses including an inoperable brain tumor and wasting disease, wanted only to secure her right to use medi-mari in compliance with state law. After a string of defeats affirmed the feds' right to prosecute her for toking up to alleviate her pain, Raich decided she'd had enough. She insists she will battle on elsewhere, lobbying Congress to extend compassion to millions of seriously ill patients.

7) Barr vs. Barr In March, the Marijuana Policy Project announced its newest Capitol Hill lobbying heavyweight: former Georgia GOP Rep. Bob Barr. Sweet smokin' Jesus! Barr, of the eponymous Barr Amendment, which threatened Washington, D.C., residents with losing all federal funding should they be so bold as to enable an approved citywide medi-pot law, suppressing the will of 70% of district voters. Last year Barr joined the Libertarians, and will now be lobbying to repeal his own amendment. Welcome to the bright side, Bob.

8) Judge Says Grow More Pot In an exhaustive February legal opinion, DEA Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner agreed that University of Massachusetts professor Lyle Craker should be allowed to grow research-grade pot inside his secured lab. Craker initially filed an application to grow dope back in 2001, but his bid was stalled by DEA bureaucracy. Bittner ruled there's only a minimal risk that Craker's dope would move into the black market and that medical researchers need another source for consistent-quality weed. (The University of Mississippi currently grows all fed-approved research pot.) But Bittner's ruling is nonbinding, and the DEA has made no move to approve Craker's application.

9) Needle Exchange Gets Stuck She's not a doctor – nor, thankfully, will she be a state rep much longer – but in May, Rep. Dianne Delisi's quackery derailed the Legislature's proposal to create an anonymous needle exchange program, supported by doctor and Sen. Robert Deuell, R-Greenville. San Antonio Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon revived a version that would create a pilot program, which has stalled thanks to Bexar District Attorney Susan Reed, who is also afraid of needles. Whether the program would violate state law regarding possession of drug paraphernalia is a question for Attorney General Greg Abbott, whose office is expected to release its opinion early this year.

10) NORML Goes Corporate Early last year the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws put on its blue suit and partnered with software designer Jian to offer a model corporate human-resources policy to cover off-the-clock marijuana use – aka an “enlightened” employee marijuana policy. In February, the granddaddy of pot policy organizations teamed up with former D.C. politico Webster Hubbell to get into the risk racket, writing life insurance policies for casual pot smokers. If they “make the market,” says NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, NORML may also forge onward into the health and disability insurance markets.

TOP 10 POLICE BEAT STORIES
SHADES OF BLUE

BY JORDAN SMITH

1) New Top Cop The search to replace Stan Knee was a marathon – a reality star search featuring everything except a swimsuit competition. In the end, there was one outstanding candidate: Art Acevedo, a former chief with the California Highway Patrol. He had the necessary charisma and energy, impressing the Austin Police Association as well as dozens of community activists – groups that in recent years haven't been harmonizing “Kumbaya.” Acevedo's quick wit and determination caught Austin's attention; we'll see if he can sustain the energy (and the honeymoon).

2) Brown Killed, Olsen Fired Even before Acevedo was sworn in, it was clear his first big test would be handling the June shooting death of Kevin Brown – shot twice in the back by Sgt. Michael Olsen after a late-night foot chase from the now-defunct Chester's Nightclub on East 12th Street. Olsen had been told the 25-year-old might be unlawfully carrying a firearm, but Brown was not packing when he was shot, and Olsen fired again when Brown was down and helpless. In November, Acevedo fired Olsen, ruling the officer had “abandoned” his good judgment, common sense, and police training, creating a deadly-force situation that should have been avoided.

3) DOJ Considers On June 1, city officials announced the U.S. Department of Justice would investigate the Austin Police Department to determine whether the department “is systematically violating constitutional rights, with a focus on the department's use of force,” City Manager Toby Futrell wrote to council. It was welcome news for Nelson Linder of the Austin NAACP and Jim Harrington of the Texas Civil Rights Project, who'd requested an investigation in 2004 over concerns of excessive force against minority suspects – including in the high-profile shootings of Sophia King, in 2002, and Jesse Lee Owens, in 2003. The other shoe is still suspended.

4) Drug War Hits Home In October, an early-morning APD drug raid in Montopolis left a 72-year-old man in critical condition and an officer wounded. Police said neighbors complained that Felix Rosales was dealing crack; the raid came after minimal investigation, and discovered tiny amounts of marijuana and cocaine. Police say they clearly identified themselves and that Rosales knew who they were before he fired. Rosales was charged with attempted capital murder; he remains in critical condition. A grand jury declined to indict Detective Aaron Bishop for shooting Rosales; an internal investigation proceeds.

5) APD's Electric Pot Patrol Are you (or your house) an energy hog? You may well be on the APD's radar, pegged as a potential pot-grower. At least one APD narco dick has made trolling through Austin Energy customer consumption records his personal pot-hunting beat, and the basis for a series of search warrants for properties owned by Austin resident Travis Colby. Although there's little real evidence linking Colby to any pot-growing, the

APD's data-mining operation has filed a federal case against the local real estate broker. Legal? Maybe. Ethical? When you're chasing the evil weed, who needs ethics?

6) Streamlining APD In August, the new chief unveiled a reorganization plan that, among other things, beefs up traffic enforcement and centralizes specialized units so they're available to respond to shifting crime trends. By year end, the new executive team had already restyled the notorious No Information Office into an actual Public Information Office and was well on the way to implementing a new use-of-force policy and reporting system.

7) Birth of a Superhero Batman has his grappling hook; Wonder Woman has her Lasso of Truth; Spider-Man has his web. When the shi-zat really hits the fiz-an, wouldn't it be nice to have a superhero with the “unique ability” to function at “110%,” as well as “enhanced speed, strength, agility, reflexes, hearing, and eyesight” – and, just in case things get really messy, an awesome mastery of nonlethal weapons? Meet the Defuser, aka APD Detective Jarrett Crippen, chosen by Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee as the winner of the second season of Sci Fi's *Who Wants to Be a Superhero*? Crippen aced a series of dynamic challenges to beat nine other contestants – all while wearing spandex. And he's a genuinely nice guy, dedicated to using his alter ego for good – in part by raising money for breast cancer research. When the Defuser's around, bad guys are going down!

8) Misreported Murder Forty-year-old David Morales was beaten to death on June 19, just after work, when a minor accident set off a parking lot dispute and amateur boxer Kurtiss “Lucky” Colvin allegedly dropped Morales with a single punch. Thanks to sloppy local reporting and madman Bill O'Reilly, the story played nationally as a crime either perpetrated or ignored by a crowd of Juneteenth revelers – neither was true.

9) APD Neutralizes Clinic Bomb Twenty-seven-year-old Paul Ross Evans, perhaps delusional, was sentenced to 40 years in the federal pen for planting a nail-packed pipe bomb outside the Austin Women's Health Center in April. Thanks to the quick response and technical abilities of the APD's bomb squad – plus agents with the ATF and FBI – the bomb, inside a soft-sided cooler, was defused without incident. The explosion could have proved deadly to anyone within a 100-foot radius.

10) Cruz Family Files Federal Suit The family of 24-year-old Joseph Cruz, beaten and arrested by APD Officer Gary Griffin at an East Austin bus stop in 2006, filed in June a federal civil rights suit, claiming Cruz was the victim of excessive force, assault, false detention, and malicious prosecution. Cruz, a schizophrenic, had fallen asleep at the stop. Although Griffin was directed to wait for EMS, he poked Cruz until he reacted and then struck Cruz repeatedly with his baton even after paramedics tried to intervene. Griffin was fired in January, but in December an arbitrator gave him his job back, arguing in part that the APD's use-of-force training and policies are inadequate.



THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE BIZARRE IDOLIZATION OF REAGAN

I must admit the seven-year reign of Bush & Co. makes me yearn for the years of Ronald Reagan, when the term "conservative" merely meant right-wing, rather than full-tilt, bull-goose loopy.

Still, let's not get our national memory so warped that we put "the Gipper" on a pedestal, as today's far-right ideologues want to do. Bad enough they keep trying to stick Reagan's name on public facilities all across America (apparently oblivious to the irony of naming these things for the guy who claimed to hate government) – but now they're pushing to put his mug on Mount Rushmore. I kid you not! One website even offers a retouched photo of Rushmore that superimposes Ronnie's likeness onto the mountaintop, right alongside Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Lincoln.

Even more hilarious is the scramble by this year's GOP presidential contenders to one-up one another in their claims to be the new Reagan. This is a hoot, because if Reagan were running today, the ideologically correct voters who control the Republican primary elections would savage him for his record on practically every hot-button issue.

Start with abortion. As governor of California in 1967, Reagan the Conservative Icon signed a law allowing abortions six years before the U.S. Supreme Court legalized them in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. How about taxes? Reagan signed a billion-dollar tax increase in California and later signed several tax hikes as president. And, ooooo, looky here: In 1986, Reagan signed a national law giving amnesty to illegal immigrants. With stands like these, the beloved Gipper would be running behind Duncan Hunter in today's Republican race!

The real Reagan certainly doesn't deserve the heights of Mount Rushmore, but neither did he fall to the depth of today's extremists trying to claim his image.

AMERICA'S GAPING ECONOMIC DIVIDE

What happened to the good ol' American notion of the common good – the idea that we're all in this together, trying to build a strong, unified society by fairly sharing the economic gains that all of us help produce?

Oh, sure, we've always had the rich and the poor, but at least we've tried in the past to narrow that gap, recognizing that a cohesive democratic society – a morally secure society – is dependent on maintaining both a vibrant middle class and a broad perception of fairness. Today, the powers that be – both corporate and governmental – have abandoned all pretense of shared sacrifice, shared gains, and a shared future. The very, very rich are being made ever and ever richer, and they are sailing blithely away from the rest of us, no longer moored to America's egalitarian ideals.

The latest indicator of this extreme change in our nation's guiding ethic comes from FairEconomy.org, which analyzes CEO pay, perks, and pensions. Its latest survey finds the chieftains of Fortune 500 corporations averaged \$10.8 million each in pay in 2006 – more than 364 times the annual paychecks of the average U.S. worker! On top of this, CEOs salted away an average of \$1.3 million in pension gains in 2006, and they averaged another \$438,000 in such freebies as personal travel on corporate jets, country-club fees, and even corporate payment of their taxes.

Well, asserts the CEO clique, we run huge corporations and are simply being paid accordingly. However, FairEconomy.org compared the 20 highest-paid U.S. chief executives to the 20 highest paid in Europe. The European chiefs took only one-third as much pay – even though they ran companies that generated \$19 billion more in sales than the U.S. companies.

The ever-spreading pay gap has become a sundering chasm in our society. To learn more about it and to see some proposals for bridging this dangerous fissure, go to FairEconomy.org.

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

2007-2008 MUSIC POLL BALLOT

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A Primary Primer

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Most people, even the highly intelligent ones, are incapable of taking seriously any fact or idea that doesn't satisfy them emotionally.

That, alas, is the weakness of democracy.

I don't say this from a perch of superiority — I too am one of democracy's weak links. I hate it when one of my pet notions is flatly contradicted by a fact or seriously undermined by an idea. I would rather vote my wishes than my reason. I may trust my car only to experienced mechanics, and I may trust my body only to experienced doctors, and I may want the kids I love to be taught only by qualified teachers — yet I too have entertained the notion that, in these dire times, inexperience may be the only right experience for the presidency. For who in their right mind wants more of the same? And who, in this media-saturated world where what might be called “the authority of the image” reigns supreme, doesn't fancy that merely the image of a woman in the Oval Office, or an African-American or even a populist, would cause fundamental change? It's an exciting (if somewhat ungrounded) concept. Might even be true, right? And that would be wonderful. Feels, to me, very satisfying emotionally. Yet once in the Oval Office, he or she must act. No way around that. And he or she will act upon his or her experience. In fact, people have no choice but to act upon their experience — or someone else's. Which is where fancy ends and the messy stickiness of life takes over.

All the ways that presidents screw up fall into two categories: domestic and foreign. Domestic screwups can be addressed, often fixed, by the next administration. But foreign screwups — which, as screwups go, are always the most catastrophic — hobble the next administration with severe limitations and often gruesome options.

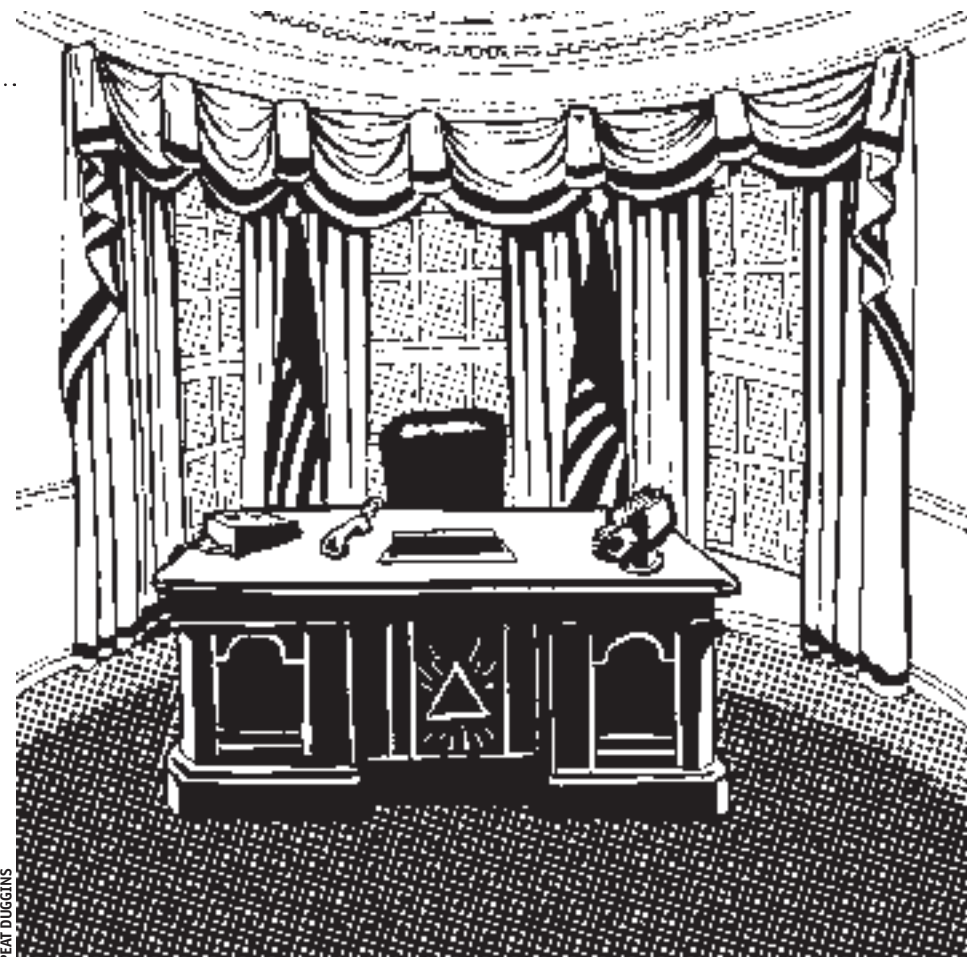
Everyone makes mistakes, the experienced and inexperienced alike. The difference is dependence. Presidents inexperienced in foreign affairs must depend upon their advisers — and advisers usually have agendas. So the inexperienced John F. Kennedy listened to advisers and embarked upon the pathetically misplanned Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. He fired those

advisers, then heeded much better advisers the following year during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a life-or-death-of-the-world event that would probably not have happened but for the fiasco of the Bay of Pigs. Like Kennedy, George W. Bush was another foreign-policy virgin dependent upon experienced but agenda-crazed advisers. And if our next president is Barack Obama, John Edwards, or any Republican save John McCain, that person will take on the biggest foreign-policy mess in half a century utterly dependent if not on the kindness of strangers, then certainly on the expertise of people whom he hasn't had time to know well.

Lost in our election-year demolition derby of crashing head-on rhetoric, images shining and/or dented, charge topped by countercharge, exaggeration answered by misstatement, and more poses than a runway line of high-fashion models — lost, I say, in the media battle of the bands that is an American election is a simple, humble question: What does a president do?

Just for fun, we'll imagine a president who behaves pretty much lawfully, that is, with the advice and consent of Congress and within the limits of presidential power as defined in the Constitution. So, what does a president do?

The president is commander in chief of the armed forces and is the only elected official empowered to conduct foreign policy, both in his or her own person or through secretaries and ambassadors whom he or she appoints. For about a century, foreign policy has usually become a president's prime function, whether that president likes it or not — events demand it, events that are always unpredictable. In addition, the president is called our “chief executive,” his or her term of office is called an “administration,” because it's the president's job to execute policy and to administer the largest organization in the world: the U.S. federal government. Just as importantly, the president initiates domestic change, partly through the (overestimated) “bully pulpit” and mostly through prioritizing economic resources and sponsoring legislation. Put this way, it sounds unromantic, even dry. Put any way, it's a lot of work and a mind-boggling responsibility.



Ideally, to be qualified for the presidency, one needs, first and foremost, hands-on familiarity with foreign affairs and, almost as importantly, skills in administration and the crafting of legislation. Presidents can't administer everything, but they must know what complex administration requires when delegating people to do it for them. Presidents don't write the legislation they submit to Congress, but they'd better understand the small print or be at the mercy of their crafters. That's the nuts and bolts of the job.

Would you want to take on that job without sufficient experience? I sure wouldn't. I can only marvel at the ego of anyone who would and wonder more at that person's grasp of reality.

In this election, for the first time, it's possible for a citizen to hit the Internet and view the candidates' records on websites, Wikipedia, and congressional documents (national and state). Try it. Here's pretty much what you'll find.

Foreign affairs: No Republican candidate but John McCain has any experience worth mentioning, and most of that comes from his 22 years in the military, plus dealing with foreign affairs during his two terms as a congressman and 21 years in the Senate. (McCain is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, but that's not quite a hands-on foreign-policy job.) On the Democratic side, Barack Obama has served only a year on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (his second year as senator, he's been running for president and hasn't put in much time on his job). John Edwards and Dennis Kucinich have no experience save voting for or against this or that. Hillary Clinton has her experience as first lady (whatever that was) and the near-but-not-quite experience of serving on the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the U.S. government's Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.



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On the other hand, Chris Dodd was in the Peace Corps in Latin America for two years, speaks fluent Spanish, and is considered an expert on Latin American affairs; in addition, he's served on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Bill Richardson has been our ambassador to the United Nations and has been nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize(!), partly in recognition of his successful diplomatic efforts in (prewar) Iraq, North Korea, Cuba, and the Sudan. And Joe Biden has long been on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and has authored studies and analyses on missile defense, homeland defense, Putin's policies, bioterrorism, Afghanistan, HIV/AIDS, and homeland security. Biden, Richardson, and Dodd are qualified – as the others clearly are not – for the most important responsibility of the presidency.

Administration: Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, and Bill Richardson were or are governors; Rudy Giuliani and Dennis Kucinich were mayors. (Huckabee's record as governor is exceptional and surprising.) John McCain, Ron Paul, Duncan Hunter (Ann Coulter's choice for president), Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Joe Biden, and Chris Dodd have never administered anything larger than their offices – though it's fair to add that Clinton, McCain, Biden, and Dodd have especially extensive experience dealing with our federal bureaucracy, which is a president's main headache.

Legislation: In John Edwards' one term as senator, he left no lasting mark. Barack Obama is still a novice U.S. senator, but his record in the Illinois Legislature is generally impressive. In their various capacities, all the other candidates have wide experience as legislators, but Joe Biden's record stands out both for its range and its depth.

You can find serious blemishes on the records of every single one of 'em (as you can for anyone who's lived awhile and done much). More on that another time.

The most qualified are, in descending order: Joe Biden, Bill Richardson, and Chris Dodd. A Hispanic will not be elected president in 2008, so Richardson is out. In terms of achievement and hands-on experience across the board in what a president needs to know, Joe Biden and Chris Dodd are head and shoulders above the others.

But, as a country, we don't care too much about that, do we? ■

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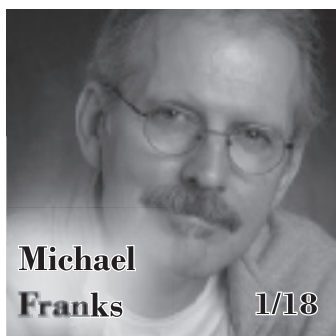
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the arts

28 TOP 10s

62 ARTS LISTINGS

The Future Is Here

In 2007, that distant tomorrow when Austin's arts dreams would be realized finally arrived

BY ROBERT FAIRES

For years, folks in the cultural community have talked about “the day when,” as in the day when the city gets its own performing-arts center, the day when a Downtown museum gets built, the day when the African-American and Mexican-American communities get their own cultural centers, and so on, and so on – the point being that once this or that project was finally completed, that would be the point when the Austin arts scene would really take off, would be recognized on the level of the Austin music scene, nationally and even internationally. The problem, however, was that so many of these projects took so many years to be realized – delayed by troubles marshaling public will, city support, or funding – that “the day when” always seemed to be some distant tomorrow, barely visible in the city's future.

But in 2007, we saw one of the oldest of those projects – the Mexican American Cultural Center, 30 years in the making – finally open and with it the opening of Salvage Vanguard Theater's first home venue in 13 years of producing theatre and Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center, a spacious Downtown facility that finally frees it from the cramped quarters of its longtime home on Guadalupe. With the Long Center for the Performing Arts set to open next spring and the completion of the Blanton Museum of Art due next summer, it became clear that “the day when” was no longer this vague out there; it was *here*.

Of course, one could argue that the Austin arts scene has been taking off for quite some time, and the year offered more evidence of that: loads of recognition on the national scene (Lawrence Wright and Steven Tomlinson both taking homegrown one-man shows to New York in the spring, the local visual-art scene being profiled in *Art in America* magazine, the Ransom Center acquiring David Mamet's archives, the city's prominent participation in the yearlong national theatre event 365 Days/365 Plays) and increasingly, on the global scene (Austin Lyric Opera staging the U.S. premiere of Philip Glass' new opera, *Waiting for the Barbarians*; the Rude Mechs taking *Get Your War On* to Finland and Edinburgh, Scotland; Conspirare getting picked up by the Harmonia Mundi label and being invited to the 2008 World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen, Denmark).

Still, 2007 seemed to offer more of a sense that Austin's arts community was coming to the end of one era and beginning another. Part of that came from the loss of several longtime legends on the scene: performers Karen Kuykendall and Joe York, drama teacher Ruth Denney, artist and art teacher Gibbs Milliken. Part of it came from the changes in institutions of long standing: the closing of pioneering Fire Island Hot Glass Studio and Sharir + Bustamante Danceworks, the reinvention of the 50-year-old Austin Fine Arts Festival as Art City Austin, and the departure of more than a dozen cultural leaders from organizations and institutions they had worked with for years (see “Monumental Shift,” Dec. 28). Part of it came, too, from an influx of new players in those same organizations and institutions and a major effort throughout the entire year by cultural advocates, artists, and arts administrators across the community (including this writer), who have been hard at work on CreateAustin looking at the next 10 years and what we want the arts scene to grow into.

It all points to the old days of waiting for dream projects to be finished being over. We may not have the flying cars, but the future has arrived. ■

TOP 10 (PLUS ONE) THEATRICAL TREASURES AND PLEASURES OF 2007

BY ROBERT FAIRES

1) *Present Laughter* (Zachary Scott Theatre Center)

“I've been to a marvelous party,” sang Noël Coward once upon a time, and that was my thought after seeing Dave Steakley's high-gloss, high-spirited revival of this Coward comedy. Cliff Simon's set and Susan Branch's costumes had style to burn, the cabaret numbers were intoxicating, and the comic verve of the cast – led by an uproarious Jamie Goodwin, giving a master class in theatrical vanity – left me positively elated. Propriety should keep me from including the show on this list, much less leading off with it – my wife was in the cast, and I worked with Goodwin on a Zach show later in the year – but I honestly didn't have a better time in the theatre in 2007.

2) *Full Circle* (Mary Moody Northern Theatre)

Dramatist Chuck Mee hijacked Brecht's *Chalk Circle* for a mad joyride across reunified Germany, and director David Long put the pedal to the metal. With a student cast in high gear and game guest Jill Blackwood leading the pack as a dizzy socialite, the St. Ed's show raced along like a BMW on the autobahn, its scenes and riotously inventive bits of staging flying by.

3) *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (Austin Community College Drama Department/ProArts Collective)

Few directors could – or would care to – rescue Adrienne Kennedy's one act from obscurity; its knotty exploration of racial identity, spun in a feverish dreamscape, might seem best left to the Sixties. But Marcus McQuirter's resurrection of this bold work proved that its nightmare visions still have the power to disturb and to make us think. The year's most potent show, with a compelling performance by Feliz Dia McDonald.

4) *Elephant's Graveyard*

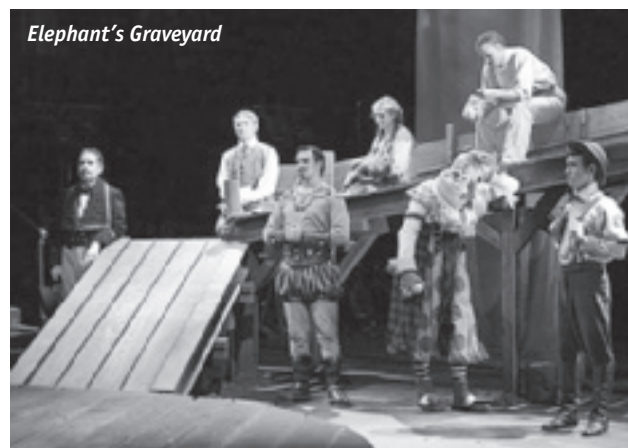
(UT Department of Theatre & Dance) The grim, if unlikely, execution of a circus animal in the Old South serves as the foundation for George Brant's new drama, which plays like an oral history – all interwoven monologues in past tense – but the vivid writing, coupled with Laura Kepley's deft staging, made the fate of Mary the elephant immediate and heartbreaking.

5) *Take Me Out* (Zachary Scott Theatre Center) This smart, savvy baseball drama reminded us that no individual's actions are without ramifications for the team, and Zach's tightly directed production – Dave Steakley again – reminded us that theatre is also a team sport. All-star ensemble work and a Hall of Fame turn by Martin Burke as an accountant newly besotted with baseball.

6) *Big River* (TexARTS) TexARTS made good on its vow to mount quality productions of classic musicals with this all-singin', all-dancin' *Huckleberry Finn*. Rousing music, a lively cast, and Daniel Adams lighting up the entire Paramount stage as Mark Twain's irrepressible hero made rollin' on the river a rollicking joy.

7) *Macbeth* (Actors From the London Stage)

Something wondrous this way came when five players from Shakespeare's homeland visited to present his darkest tragedy. Shifting smoothly among characters on a bare stage, this masterful quintet seized the cursed play by the throat, pierced its haunting text, and let it bleed.



8) *Fefu and Her Friends* (UT Department of Theatre & Dance) Rooted as it is in Seventies feminism and theatrical experimentation, Maria Irene Fornes' drama might have come off as dated, but the commitment of eight strong UT actresses and Leslie Swackhamer's staging, especially in the intimate scenes staged around the Winship Building, drew us into the characters' lives and made these women matter.

9) *Liz and Ann Hampton Callaway/Faith Prince* (Austin Cabaret Theatre) Six years in, Stuart Moulton's gift of cabaret keeps on giving, lavishing Austin with more and more exquisite singers in a setting that has them as close as your heartbeat. This year, enchanting jazz chanteuse Ann Hampton Callaway made a welcome return with Broadway-belting sister Liz in tow for her first visit; they blended their varied styles into a creamy, dreamy sound that just melted you. Also new to town was another Broadway baby, Faith Prince, whose powerhouse voice, stunning control, and cheery good humor made every number blaze like the sun.

10) *Ashes, Ashes* (UT Department of Theatre & Dance) A fable about the dangers of pollution and forgetting set in a Seussian universe, Eve Tulbert's new play was brought to life with wildly fanciful design work and inventive staging by Dustin Wills. The result: a triumph of imagination and a world like no other onstage this year.

11) *Voices Underwater* (Salvage Vanguard Theater) Drenched in atmosphere and history, this Abi Basch drama was a ghost story of the Old South to steep in. The dense script required time to absorb, but moody design work and Jenny Larson's resourceful direction got its spooky vibe under our skin right away and for good.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Jesucristo Superestrella (Zachary Scott Theatre Center)
Disney's High School Musical (Zach Performing Arts School)
Far Away (Austin Community College Drama Department)
Happy Days (Capital T Theatre)
My Child, My Child, My Alien Child (Hyde Park Theatre)
Slaughter City (UT Department of Theatre & Dance)
A Thought in Three Parts (Rubber Repertory)

Special Honorable Mention: *The Lion King* (Disney Theatrical) In a class by itself. Eleven years on Broadway and five on tour has done nothing to dim the wonder of Julie Taymor's visionary reinvention of the animated film. The blend of her imagery and the skill and fullness of spirit displayed by the performers made this long-time-coming road version feel thrillingly fresh.



BY BARRY PINEO

- 1) A Thought in Three Parts (Rubber Repertory)** This unashamedly obscene, relatively old Wallace Shawn script was considered by many to be unstageable, until Austin's Rubber Rep took it on. Challenging? You betcha. Risky? Cornered the market. Best show of the year? Without question. Directed by Carlos Treviño, Matt Hislope, and Josh Meyer.
- 2) Funnyhouse of a Negro (Austin Community College Drama Department/ProArts Collective)** The insanity of racism and the self-hatred it engenders, actualized in a theatre. Directed by Marcus McQuirter.
- 3) Big River (TexARTS)** One of the best musicals I've seen in 20 years in Austin. Directed by Franchelle Stewart Dorn.
- 4) Dance Carousel (Spank Dance Company/Austin Independent Choreographers)** Spank's annual FronteraFest contribution. Always different, always innovative, always entertaining. Conceived by Ellen Bartel.
- 5) Trickster (Vortex Repertory Company)** If you didn't see Matt Hislope

play the Fool, then you missed one of the outstanding Austin musical performances of this or any other year. Directed by Bonnie Cullum.

6) La Dispute (Capital T Theatre Company) The most consistently funny comedy I saw all year was this relatively ancient Marivaux script. Directed by Mark Pickell.

7) The Ultimate Christmas Musical: The Musical! (Yellow Tape Construction Co.) You want camp? You got camp. And Christmas, too! Directed by Jonathon Morgan.

8) A Beautiful View (the dirigo group) Daniel MacIvor's script about love deferred, staged simply and beautifully. Directed by Lowell Bartholomee.

9) The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia? (Different Stages) One of the last productions to grace the stage at play! Theatre was this brilliant American tragedy by Edward Albee. Directed by Norman Blumensaadt.

10) Brilliant Traces (The Vestige Group) Cindy Lou Johnson's strange love story, most notable for the performances by Jen Brown and, especially, Andrew Varenhorst. Directed by Susie Gidseg.

TOP 10 DANCE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC WONDERS OF 2007 BY ROBERT FAIRES

- 1) Waiting for the Barbarians (Austin Lyric Opera)** Mounting the American premiere of a new opera by Philip Glass in Austin was a coup for ALO, but what made this a still greater achievement was the production's enveloping atmosphere of suspense and impending violence, which spoke powerfully to life in a time of oppression and terror. A timely call to recover our humanity, stunningly realized and anchored with expansive humanity by baritone Richard Salter.
- 2) Crossing the Divide Closing Gala Concert (Conspirare, et al.)** How often are we blessed to hear hundreds of voices bound together in song and a love of song? The grand finale of Conspirare's National Endowment for the Arts-funded symposium on American music saw 14 choirs massed in the Riverbend sanctuary, and their voices lifted together was a mighty joy, as expansive as our nation's spacious skies and as stirring to the heart.
- 3) Faces of America: The Light (Miró Quartet)** Pushing beyond the holy trinity of Copland, Gershwin, and Sousa, the UT School of Music's resident string quartet assembled a program of musical works that evoked the best aspects of our national character – our openness, our industry, our optimism – and performed them with a spectacular virtuosity matched by an exuberant intensity.
- 4) Illumination (Blue Lapis Light)** Venturing indoors for the first time in years, site-specific choreographer Sally Jacques, her team of trusted designers, and her amazing corps of aerial dancers transformed the massive beams and vast emptiness of the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant into a grand temple, a sacred space in which the spirit was free to soar toward heaven.
- 5) The King & I (Forklift Danceworks)** In a comeback special to rival Elvis', Allison Orr's choreographic tribute to the man, the legend, rocked even harder than in its earlier versions. Dancers Orr, Theresa Hardy, and Ann Berman channeled the King in all his signature moves – as did Presley impersonator Donnie Roberts – and, with wit and heart, revealed the connection to Elvis in all of us.
- 6) The Odyssey (Austin Children's Choir)** Adapting the heroic saga into an hourlong choral piece for kids was its own amazing journey, but composer Graham Reynolds, librettist Beverly Bardsley, and choir Artistic Director Kathleen Turner brought the epic by Homer home with a skill Odysseus would have envied. A splendid adventure, sailing on captivating rhythms and melodies and the choir's very fine singing.
- 7) Russian program (Austin Symphony Orchestra)** Like a series of nesting dolls, ASO's October expedition to Russia revealed a succession of delights – Stravinsky! Khachaturian! Liadov! Borodin! – each more enchanting than the last. Concertmaster Jessica Mathaes proved herself a master of



the *Khachaturian Violin Concerto*, her quicksilver bowing flashing keenly expressed emotion that always found its mark.

8) Threshold of Night: Music of Tarik O'Regan (Conspirare) Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson has found a kindred spirit in young Brit composer O'Regan, and in the season opener, given over entirely to O'Regan's work, he guided his company of voices to moments of ecstatic joy and serene stillness that proved O'Regan's worth as a composer and let us hold infinity in the curl of our ears.

9) Expressions/Lingo (American Repertory Ensemble) Both programs by this ambitious company balancing chamber music and dance offered double the pleasure, double the fun of many concerts in either discipline, the latter owing to the dazzling craft of performers in executing exacting works (Balanchine, Brahms, et al.), the former to the playfulness of the modern dances and co-founder/choreographer David Justin.

10) Flash Dance (Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company)/Dolly Would (Getalong Gang Performance Group)/Night of Spank Dance Company (Hot September Flurries) In an exceptionally fine year for Austin's independent choreographers and smaller dance companies, these three shows – a program of 30 dances in 60 minutes, a giddy tribute to the music and philosophy (!) of Dolly Parton, and a sly look at group dynamics among a few identically dressed women – proved especially well how inventive and playful local dance makers are and how exhilarating they make it to watch.

Special Honorable Mention: The Souls of Our Feet (Tapestry Dance Company) The program of meticulously recreated tap routines from classic films and vaudeville – No. 2 on our Top 10 list for 2006 – was revived in March and proved every bit as delightful and awe-inspiring – and an achievement for Tapestry – as in its debut.

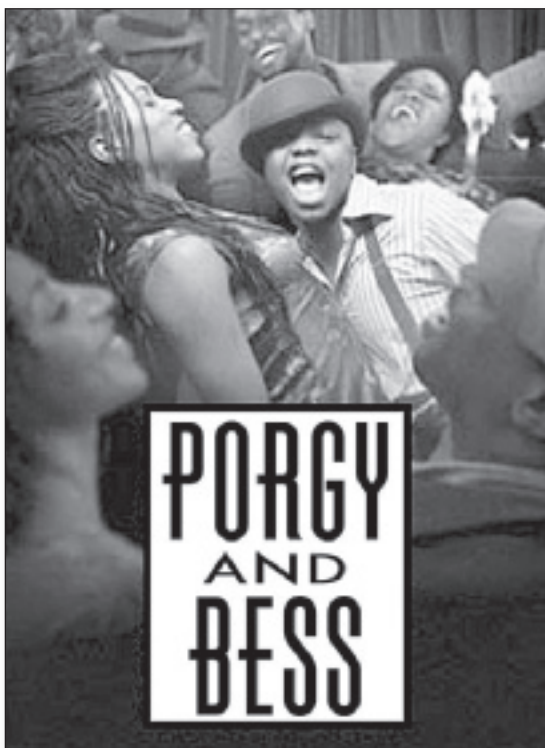


TOP 10 (PLUS ONE) MEMORABLE DISCOVERIES OF 2007

BY SALVADOR CASTILLO

- 1) Scott Eastwood, Jules Buck Jones, and Drew Liverman's "Stalemate of the Boozefox" (Mass Gallery)** Wow. www.flickr.com/photos/47744263@N00/sets/72157600094557836. Double wow! There's a video on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnTwn6eXAY.
- 2) Finding Jesús Rafael Soto's Penetrable still installed at the Blanton three months after "The Geometry of Hope" closed!**
- 3) Ginjiro Mawatari's freaky tongues in "No American Talent 2: Dark Matter, New Work From Japan" (Okay Mountain)**
- 4) Seeing a mermaid singing and the ocean of bodies at the opening of "Radical Nautical" (Gallery Lombardi)**
- 5) Eric Gibbons and Nathan Green complementing each other well in "Lasers in the Jungle" (Art Palace)**
- 6) The sparkling atmospheres of Cecelia Phillips' paintings in "Existence Is Elsewhere" (Else Madsen Gallery)**
- 7) Florian Slotawa's "One After the Other" (Arthouse)**
- 8) Katherine Bash's "Broken Symmetries" (Women & Their Work)**
- 9) Meg Stone in "Occult Balance" (Bolm Studios)**
- 10) Salvage Vanguard Theater's commitment to visual art with a gallery and soon-to-be studios**
- 11) The well-designed and very practical catalog for "Interchange" (Creative Research Lab)**

Top 10s continued on p.30



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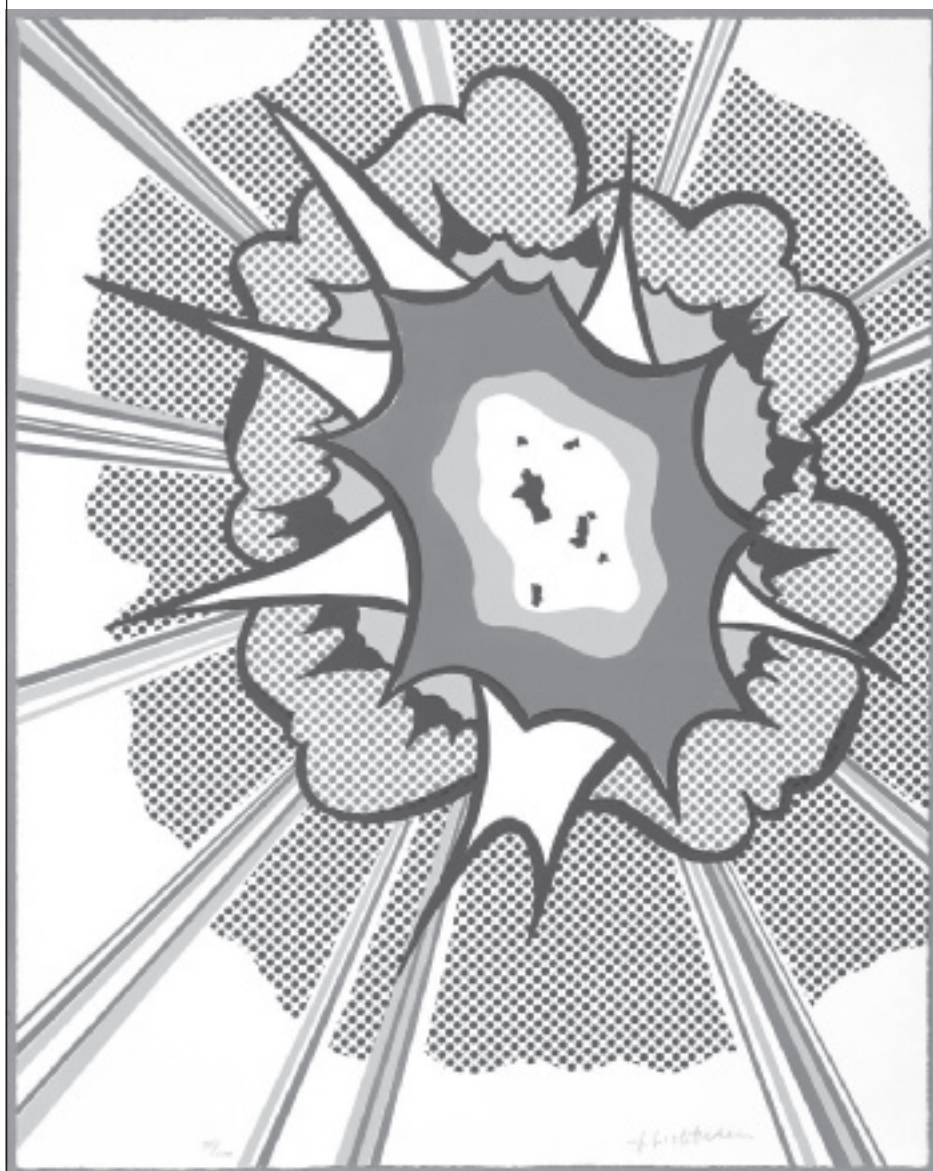
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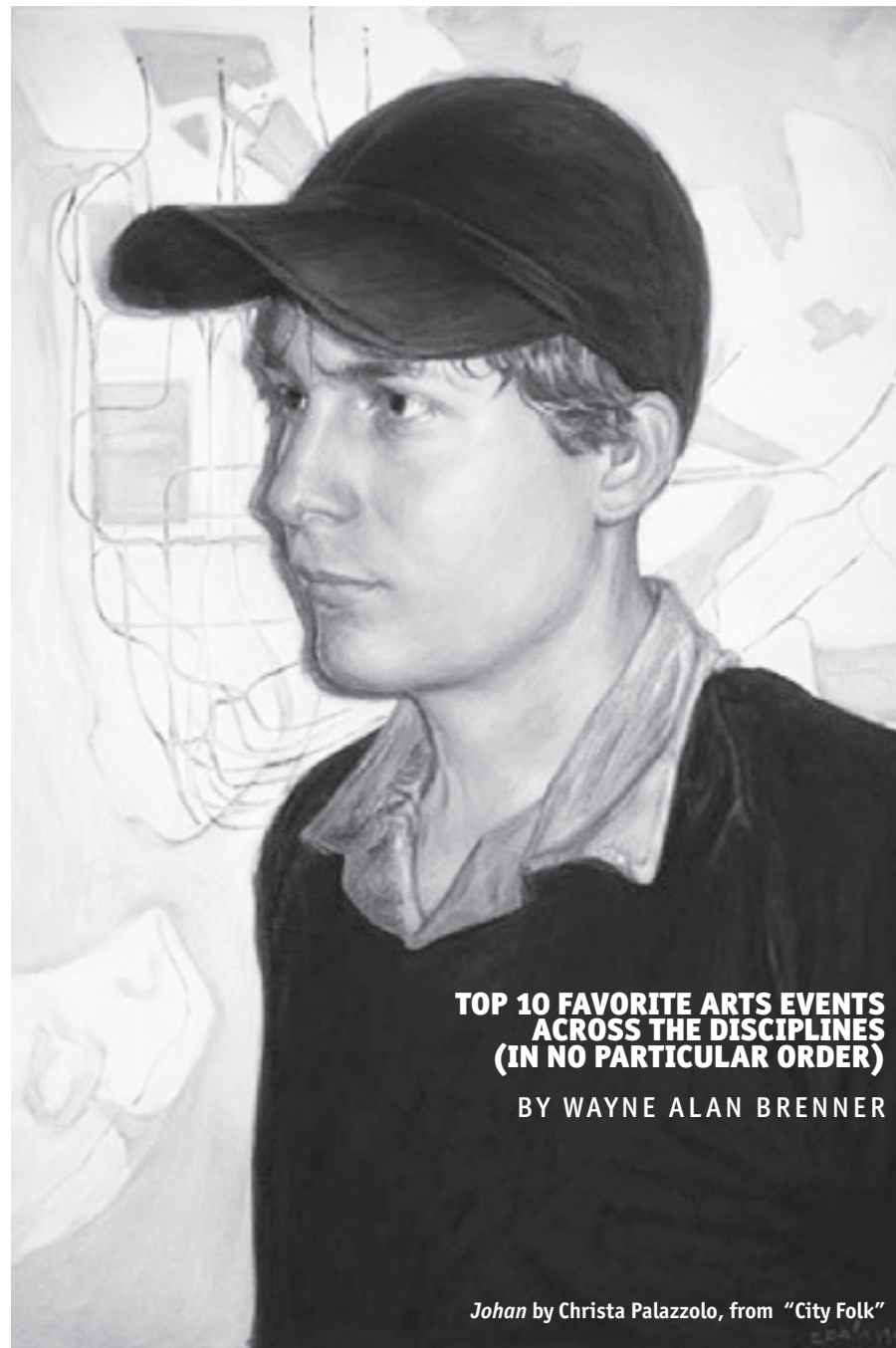
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Roy Lichtenstein, Explosion, from the portfolio Portfolio 9, 1967, Lithograph, edition 85/100, 22 1/16 X 17 inches, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, 2004.275, © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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TOP 10 FAVORITE ARTS EVENTS
ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES
(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Johan by Christa Palazzolo, from “City Folk”

1) “City Folk” (1906 Gallery) The first solo show by painter Christa Palazzolo featured 3-foot-by-4-foot oil portraits of her friends in the Big Apple, rendered in formal compositions and with such stunning realist precision that it made me want to shake my sense of aesthetics like a Polaroid picture. That Roberto Ainslie’s 1906 has had to call it quits after only a year of smart exhibits makes me want to shake my head.

2) “Wait and Hope” and “Restless Timber” (Volitant Gallery) This two-woman show, displaying Katy O’Connor’s gorgeously life-sized slices of human life in oil on paper and Jennifer Drummond’s brush-and-ink portraits of leafless oaks in all their wracked configurations, was a canny pairing of resonant beauty, a study in the contrasts of color and monochrome. And now Volitant’s gone, too; more’s the pity.

3) A Thought in Three Parts (Rubber Repertory) Rubber Rep brought Wallace Shawn’s previously “untouchable” play from the Seventies – featuring a middle section with more extreme sexual hijinks than a “Ron Jeremy Live at Fuckfest ’82” highlights reel – to the stage fully realized, treating all parts of the triptych with unerring accuracy. Funniest goddamn thing I’ve seen in years, and it reportedly brought playwright Shawn (in town to attend the opening) to tears with its excellence.

4) Thom Pain (based on nothing) (Hyde Park Theatre) Do you like magic? Hyde Park Theatre’s Ken Webster garnered an Austin Critics Table Award for Outstanding Acting in a Leading Role for his performance of this Will Eno monologue, of course, as the man’s fierce acting skills and sense of timing served up a pitch-perfect rendition of the character’s funny, thoughtful, pained, and poignant ramble through modern life and personal history.

5) Present Laughter (Zachary Scott Theatre Center) Director Dave Steakley found the perfect man for the lead in this Noel Coward comedy: Jamie Goodwin, joyously overpowering the show as a sort of William Shatner for the Jazz Age in his embodiment of stage actor and epicenter of contumely, Garry Essendine. A fine supporting cast with impeccable blocking and timing made this old-school sitcom a laugh-out-loud pleasure.

6) Salvage Vanguard Theater finally gets a space of its own Sure, original Artistic Director Jason Neulander is releasing the reins after more than a decade of eclectic spectacles but not

before having overseen the opening of SVT’s own bricks-and-mortar venue on the Eastside, complete with offices, two separate performance spaces, artists’ studios, and a visual-arts gallery that’s already presented – surprise! – some of the best artists in the country.

7) Little Stolen Moments Yes, your humble reporter produced the first full-length show by Lindsey Taylor, Nicole Whiteside, and Stanley Roy Williamson, but he would not have been inspired to had he not seen the song-and-dance power trio, whether on their trademark minitrampolines or off, explode viewers’ expectations with kinetic wit and beauty. The gangly singer’s got a ukulele and a voice like a backwoods angel, and he and the two lithe foxes with him dance in sync like Kraftwerk as retrained by Paula Abdul: This was the spectacle at Hyde Park Theatre that had audiences howling for more.

8) Backpack Picnic The comic geniuses David Bewley and Mitch Baker, formerly known as the Edmund Bulldogs, rebounded from an MTV rejection by grabbing Austin improvisers Shannon McCormick and Jeremy Lamb to help create an ongoing collection of brilliant sketches for nascent Internet powerhouse ON Networks. Expertly captured by video wunderkind Rene Pinnell, these slices of gonzo marzipan are a perfect snack for the hyperintelligent and ultrasilly.

9) Golden Arm Trio’s The Tick-Tock Club CD release Composer/bandleader Graham Reynolds and his stellar coterie of musicians had the ghost of Dmitri Shostakovich walking Spanish through Memphis and gangland Chicago with strings and percussion and brass, then indulged themselves (and a thoroughly rocked crowd at the Mohawk) in the snazziest version of Duke Ellington numbers this side of jazz heaven.

10) The Alamo reborn The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Downtown closed its location on Colorado and moved, while we all waited with Norman Batesed breath, to the old (and now fully revamped) Ritz, bringing with it not only the usual uncanny cinematic treats conjured by Tim and Karrie League and their film-obsessed friends but live performances like the Dionysium and Master Pancake Theater. If you think of it as an oasis, as a mecca, would you also consider the frat rats along Sixth Street to be insurgents? Hold your fire.

Michael Sieben’s *Juxtapoz*
Art & Culture Magazine cover



TOP 3 VISUAL-ARTS STORIES FOR 2007

BY RACHEL KOPER

1) Austin galleries and artists get national press! Fine artists in Austin and the galleries that represent them are getting a level of national press coverage that bodes well for the future. The Austin Museum of Art, Arthouse, the Blanton Museum of Art, the Texas Biennial, Lora Reynolds Gallery, D Berman Gallery, and others were included in a seven-page “Report From Austin” in the December issue of *Art in America*. Art Palace was in *The New York Times Magazine* and *Art in America* articles, then traveled to Art Basel Miami Beach where it made ArtForum.com. Michael Sieben got on the cover of *Juxtapoz Art & Culture Magazine* in October, and they printed double covers for him. Matthew Rodriguez was called a “sculptural tour de force” in *The New York Times* after participating in the Deitch Projects spring Art Parade. There are other artists’ achievements that I’m not including here, but these listed I felt vicarious happiness for.

2) James Housefield has a ton of energy! The adjunct curator of the Austin Museum of Art and Texas State University professor is earnest and knowledgeable about art, without forcing his ideas down your throat. He’s an excellent lecturer, with an infectious peppiness. Watching him guide a tour through Robert Long’s office art collection was interesting; Mr. Long liked it, as did everyone else on the tour, and both were very frank and confident speakers.

Without talking down to anyone, Housefield proved to have an encyclopedic knowledge of the basic Postimpressionist French collection. Housefield straddles his responsibilities as a teacher and curator with grace, charming all he meets. He treats AMOA collectors and board members, local galleries, students, and artists with equal respect. The things that most impress me are his open-minded attitude and the way he’s so responsive, quick on his feet, and approachable. He forwards e-mails – “thought this would interest you,” and they always do. This guy works hard, long days helping to educate all of us on ways to discover new art issues.

3) R.I.P. Volitant Gallery and taking it to the next level Artists Xochi Solis and Sean Gaulager were thrown into their jobs as curators and managers of Volitant Gallery, and just as quickly as their jobs appeared, they disappeared. But before Volitant closed in October, these two worked hard, and they were able to pull together a great season of programming and some diverse and bright special events. They ran videos, concerts, and tours and hosted receptions that lit up Fourth and Congress. Gaulager helped start *Cantanker* magazine, as well as edit and distribute it this year. He’s shown his own art in Marfa and at Else Madsen Gallery in Austin. The future looks bright for Solis, as she was chosen for the show “New Art in Austin” at AMOA.



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Debra Winger -- March 5

Texas Monthly's Evan Smith interviews Debra to discover why she left Hollywood...and more!

Upcoming Shows...

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It Is What It Is *The Year in Books*

We're not big on listing by 10s on the Books page; it's too much to expect our reviewers (none of whom count this as a day job) to winnow down to 10 when they've barely had a chance to read a half-dozen. Hell, we hardly knew what books were until the *Chronicle* called us home from an unhappy sojourn in Los Angeles (where the printed word is roundly dismissed; just ask the WGA), but we're pleased to announce that we've since come to know these wondrous inventions – pages numbered and cut, sometimes rough, sometimes smooth, and sammiched between two covers. We heartily recommend them.

It was mostly smooth waters in publishing this year – no single book sounded trumps, no spectacular duds, either – but what we got were a few new additions to and from the pantheon and a smattering of sit-up-and-listen debuts.

The Pleasure of Your Company

As a writer, you can't help studying other writers' work, even when reading for pleasure. But there are those writers who draw you into their prose with such skill, you don't pause to critique; you just keep reading. Manuel Muñoz's short-story collection ***The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue*** (Algonquin) and Junot Díaz's novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* are two of those books. Muñoz's fearless short stories about small, defining moments of heartache are almost unbearable. But don't be put off: His elegant prose and knack for selecting those poignant moments are alchemic. Díaz's novel – about a painfully nerdy Dominican American, a curse, and his family and friends making their way in working class New Jersey – also has its share of heart-break, leavened by well-placed guffaws. An unconventional narrative style, using footnotes for historical and anecdotal commentary, and an omniscient narrator who later reveals himself (the foul-mouthed yet strangely appealing Junior) may unsettle narrative purists and the generally straight-laced. Still, it's a dazzling read that's hard to put down. – *Belinda Acosta*

Food Stuffs

Because this is the year the locavore movement found traction in our cultural consciousness, I would be remiss if I didn't applaud Barbara Kingsolver's ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*** (HarperCollins), a memoir – co-authored by Kingsolver's husband and daughter – of a family that dined on the fruits of its labor for a year. Taking a longer historical view is former *New York Times* food critic Molly O'Neill's exhaustive ***American Food Writing: An Anthology With Classic Recipes*** (Library of America), which surveys more than a century of writings on

Following last year's *Everyman*, Philip Roth continued his long goodbye (every new book feels like another adieu) with ***Exit Ghost*** (Houghton Mifflin), bookend to 1979's *The Ghost Writer* (see Jay Trachtenberg's year-end thoughts for more). Don DeLillo, whose archives have a home at the Harry Ransom Center, also visited mortality in ***Falling Man*** (Scribner), what some critics called the most significant 9/11 novel to date.

There were new works from the new old guard – the ones not yet canonized but certainly waiting in the wings. Denis Johnson, who regularly moonlights at local universities, won the National Book Award for his Vietnam novel, ***Tree of Smoke*** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Michael Chabon took a cue from Roth in the "what if?" subgenre of historical speculation with ***The Yiddish Policemen's Union*** (HarperCollins). The always-reliable Richard Russo came out with a doorstep of a

everything from the virtues of growing one's own dinner (Nathaniel Hawthorne) to the immigrant's version of takeout meals (Jhumpa Lahiri). Monica Pradhan puts a diasporic spin on chick-lit with *The Hindi-Bindi Club* (Bantam Books), which follows three Indian-American mother-daughter dyads as they negotiate the tensions of old and new worlds via the exchange and preparation of beloved recipes. ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*** (Scholastic) was the perfect goodbye to a beloved boy hero, and Mo Willems' ***Knuffle Bunny Too*** (Hyperion) is a triumph of visual and narrative creativity. – *Melanie Haupt*

I Shall Anoint You the Awesomest of the Year!

Not necessarily the best but definitely the most interesting and entertaining book of the year, ***I Shall Destroy All the Civilized Planets!*** (Fantagraphics) introduced a new generation to largely forgotten artist Fletcher Hanks' strange work. Soon after the April 1938 premiere of Superman in *Action Comics No. 1*, new publishers sprang up and needed content for the suddenly popular comic book. Almost anyone who could draw landed a job in the burgeoning industry. During this mad scramble, Hanks, who obviously understood little about anatomy, began publishing often-crude but always-dynamic stories in a variety of obscure publications such as *Fantastic*, *Jungle*, *Fight*, and *Big Three Comics*. The outlandish stories usually featured intergalactic protectors who meted out justice and vengeance upon the guilty like some cosmically powered Shadows. Complete with Paul Karasik's insightful, illustrated afterword, the fascinating and somewhat freakish *I Shall Destroy All the Civilized Planets!* successfully rescues Hanks from the purgatory of forgotten creators and restores his rightful place among the pantheon of the bizarre.

– *Rick Klaw*

novel, ***Bridge of Sighs*** (Knopf). And Ian McEwan's slim meditation on sexual repression, ***On Chesil Beach*** (Nan A. Talese), was elegantly crafted but felt like an awful tease.

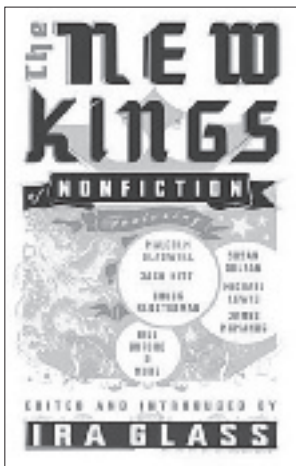
The new new guard announced itself with Junot Díaz's spark plug of a novel, ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** (Riverhead Hardcover), which artfully weaved comic book lore with Dominican history and weaved in and out of Spanish, no less (Belinda Acosta's got more to say about that). And Rudolph Delson's sweetish Manhattan romancer ***Maynard and Jennica*** (Houghton Mifflin) read like a 304-page blueprint for next year's arthouse rom-com, so it shouldn't surprise anyone that it was optioned while still in galleys.

Inspiration, Melancholy

Truth be known, I've been remarkably boring this year, sticking too much to semiacademic film books, so my apologies if this reads like a syllabus. Mike Figgis' ***Digital Filmmaking*** (Faber and Faber) makes a swift and entertaining read, like a series of lectures by the sort of cranky and demanding professor who inspires and frightens in equal measure. Jeanine Basinger's *The Star Machine* (Knopf) nicely elucidates the nearly scientific process of making stars explode or implode in the old studio system. Elsewhere, Earl Shorris' thoughtful and melancholy ***The Politics of Heaven: America in Fearful Times*** (W.W. Norton) may not exactly tread new ground in the study of the ongoing crisis of politics and religion in America, but the book does tread that ground with an admirable mixture of sympathy and directness. And since the book got good reviews elsewhere, I'll give a quick shout-out to my friend Brian Groh, whose warm and funny debut novel, ***Summer People*** (Harper Perennial), makes me sorry I can't review it with impartiality. – *Spencer Parsons*

Great Man/ Great Woman

The best book I read that came out this year was Kate Christensen's ***The Great Man*** (Doubleday). Never having read Christensen's previous works, novels (*In the Drink*, *Jeremy Thrane*, *The Epicure's Lament*) or otherwise, I had no idea what a great artist this woman is. The author's brush is sensitive to the touch, taste, smell, and sight of her characters and – cliché or not – brings them to life, a short life, at only around 300 pages. My favorite graphic novel of the



On the nonfiction front, our personal favorites numbered two: ***The Braindead Megaphone*** (Riverhead Trade) and ***The New Kings of Nonfiction*** (Riverhead Books). The first – from fiction writer George Saunders, who wooed audiences at November's Texas Book Festival with his dead-sexy mix of corduroy and wry – was a collection of essays kicked off by a coulda-been-dour piece decrying public apathy that read instead like a rousing call to action. The second, edited by Our Man in Chicago Ira Glass, was a far-ranging compendium of the past 20 years' best feature writing (Susan Orlean's sly

but weighty "The American Man, Age 10," from 1992, is a miniature masterwork). Best yet, proceeds from the book benefit 826 Chicago, whose mission is to encourage youths to embrace the written word. Reading. We hear it's fundamental.

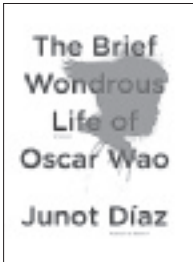
– *Kimberley Jones*

year was the satirical ***Incredible Change-Bots*** (Top Shelf), good old Jeffrey Brown's homage to/parody of *Transformers*. Words that come to mind: hilarious (!), genius (!), more than meets the eye (!). I'm currently plowing my way through ***Laura Warholic or, the Sexual Intellectual*** (Fantagraphics), a new novel by Alexander Theroux, released just at the tail end of 2007. This hunk (at nearly 900 pages) of satirical, anachronistic literature is shaping up to be a fine piece of writing and a good lesson in elaboration. Nine-hundred pages, remember? – *Sofia Resnick*

Thanks for the Memories

Philip Roth's *Exit Ghost* is the concluding chapter in his nine Zuckerman books. Confronting medical problems and memory loss, Roth's alter ego Nathan Zuckerman returns to NYC and is quickly swept up in a vortex of interconnected relationships that confront themes of aging, friendship, and lust. At times brilliantly insightful but also painfully frustrating. Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* vividly creates the frozen enclave of Sitka, Alaska, where post-Holocaust Jews have settled since Israel lost its War of Independence in 1948. Part hard-boiled detective mystery, meditation on living in exile, love story, and chess puzzle, Chabon's noirish narrative and memorable characters make this a real delight. Honorable mentions: ***House of Meetings*** (Random House), Martin Amis' tale of two brothers' love triangle and harrowing survival in a Stalin-era gulag, and ***You Don't Love Me Yet*** (Doubleday), Jonathan Lethem's touching, humorous look at love among indie-rock scenesters in L.A. Guilty pleasure: Marking the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love by re-reading Tom Wolfe's ***The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*** (Bantam) ... still hilarious and psychedelic.

– *Jay Trachtenberg*



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 <p>7% Solution Discussing Mystery <i>Red Harvest</i> by Dashiell Hammett Monday, January 7</p>	 <p>Rewritten History Discussing Historical Fiction <i>Lincoln</i> by Gore Vidal Wednesday, January 9</p>
 <p>Ludicrous Speed Discussing Sci-Fi/ Fantasy <i>Stranger in a Strange Land</i> by Robert Heinlein Monday, January 21</p>	 <p>New & Noteworthy Discussing the Best in Literature <i>Echo Maker</i> by Richard Powers Monday, January 28</p>
	 <p>Literary Movie Night Watching Movies Adapted from Books <i>High Fidelity</i> by Nick Hornby Tuesday, January 22</p>

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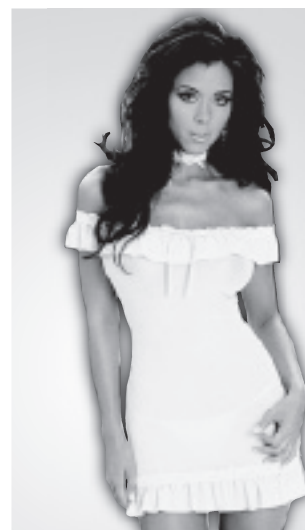
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food

42 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Virginia B. Wood's Best Bites of 2007

SWEET BITES:

Chocolate Peach Nectar-Filled Chocolates Lecia Duke's melt-in-your-mouth delicacies were a real revelation – the perfect burst of Hill Country summer flavor on the tongue.

Homemade Butterfingers at Jasper's The pastry chef was generous enough to share the recipe after I raved about this candy in print. It could be dangerous now that I know how to make these crunchy peanut-butter nuggets enrobed in semi-sweet chocolate.

Caramel Semi-Freddo With Salted Almond Croquant & Blackberry Syrup at Asti Pastry chef Amanda Rockman created this distinctive dessert for Asti's early fall menu, offering a lovely balance of sweet, tart, and salty flavors with crisp and creamy textures. We will miss her work now that she's returned to Chicago in search of fine-dining fame.

Brazos Supreme Goat's Milk Coffee Ice Cream With Miles of Chocolate The folks at Watroak Farm near Bryan make many wonderful flavors of ice cream with their superior goat's milk. Folding chunks of Miles of Chocolate into some of the flavors amounts to gilding the proverbial lily, but it sure tastes great!

Peppermint Gelato at Teo's Some time ago, I gave Matt Lee a few bags of the peppermint-stick candy we use to make my sister's favorite birthday ice cream, and this refreshingly subtle pink gelato was the ultimate result: in a word, marvelous.

Fresh Fruit Fried Pies With Ice Cream at Lamberts Downtown Barbecue The fresh-fruit fillings change with the seasons – blackberries, peaches, pears in vanilla syrup, apples, etc. – but these babies are always the perfect chaser for a plate of fancy barbecue.

Bombolini at Trattoria Lisina Delightfully decadent Italian cake doughnut holes dusted with cinnamon sugar are served warm with bowls of honey for dipping. Jerry Pizzitola has promised to teach me how to make these, and I can't wait.

Peanut Pay Bars at the Cookie Jar Judy Marts tops crisp shortbread with salted peanuts and rich, buttery caramel for an elegant version of a favorite childhood treat.

Dark Chocolate Chipotle Fritos From Tempt Chocolates Chocolatier Ginger Berryhill drizzles high-quality dark chocolate over spicy, salty corn chips, with addictive results.

Strawberry Lemonade at Mighty Fine Burgers Freshly squeezed every day, this sweet/tart refresher is my favorite fruit beverage of the year. I'd like to have a gallon on hand at all times.

SAVORY BITES

Peach Slices Wrapped in Venison Prosciutto With Hill Country Chèvre and Texas Chipotle Honey From Hudson's on the Bend

This was Jeff Blank's offering at the Save Our Springs benefit and provided the most definitive taste of the Texas Hill Country all year.

Shrimp & Grits at Jasper's Jasper's take on this Carolina Low Country classic is masterful: a perfectly grilled, gigantic, sweet Gulf shrimp sits atop a puddle of creamy, cheesy, stone-ground organic grits, surrounded by fresh corn kernels. Wow!

Lamb Delights I love lamb, and I found great examples of it everywhere I went this year –

the Roaring Fork served superior Lollipop Lamb Chops at the SOS benefit; we reveled in great lamb ribs at the original Cooper's Pit Bar-B-Q in Mason; the Texas Hill Country Dorper Association presented marvelous lamb meatballs at the Fredericksburg Food & Wine Festival; and the strolling gauchos at Fogo de Chão serve up perfectly spiced lamb chops and leg of lamb.

Lobster Bisque at the Falls Bistro If the quality of this voluptuous soup is any indication, this new bistro and wine bar in Marble Falls will become an important dining destination in the coming year.

Parmesan Popovers at TRIO at the Four Seasons Baskets of these enormous, soufflé-

like wonders were a big hit at the hotel's holiday preview luncheon in August. I predict the popovers will become a TRIO trademark.

Zucca Chips at NoRth Restaurant These innovative bar snacks were the most creative appetizers I tasted all year – whisper-thin slices of zucchini squash are lightly battered and fried so as to just disappear in your mouth. Keep them coming.

Green Chile Truffle Mac & Cheese From Cafe Josie Chef/owner Charlie Mayes brought this rich, elegant example of comfort food to the Green Corn Project benefit, and it was a big hit – easy serving and great eating. **Roasted Salsa Ranch Dip** This dip from HEB's Chef Prepared line of products is a

tasty match for crisp, fresh veggies or salty tostada chips.

Schnitzel With Artichoke Hearts and Lemon Spaetzle at the Welfare Cafe Another ladies culinary road trip to this popular rural dining spot outside Boerne revealed a German-inspired menu with a bounty of choices.

Fantastic Sweet Corn on the Cob From Boggy Creek Farm While some folks swear by the Silver Queen variety, my personal favorite corn is the strain called Fantastic. I enjoyed as much of it as possible during its all-too-short early summer run at the farm.

Top 10s continued on p.39



Ratatouille

Claudia Alarcón's Top 10 Quotes From 'Ratatouille'

Ratatouille has now overtaken *A Clockwork Orange* as my all-time favorite movie. My deepest admiration to Brad Bird and his amazing writing team! Here are some of my favorite quotes, in order of appearance in the movie.

"If you are what you eat, then I only want to eat the good stuff."

– Remy

And I agree. Fresh ingredients are always best, so I grow herbs and veggies, support local producers, and often turn to Bistro Le Marseillais for delivery of wholesome, delicious meals.

"[Humans] don't just survive; they discover; they create. ... I mean, just look at what they do with food!"

– Remy

Yeah ... and Remy hasn't even been to Uchi yet. (Or has he?) Kudos to the entire kitchen and sushi-bar staff for staying way ahead of the curve!

"Anyone can cook, but only the fearless can be great."

– Chef Auguste Gusteau

Wise chef Gusteau would smile at the likes of fearless young chefs Josh Watkins, Josh Hines, Paul Petersen, Tyson Cole, Ryan Samson, and Andrew Francisco.

"All this cooking and reading and TV-watching while we cook and read. It's like you're involving me in crime!"

– Emile

Poor Emile. I know what you mean. The Food Network celebrities have ruined it for me. But some of our own have made it to the screen (notably Flip Happy Crepes and Wes Marshall's *The Wine Roads of Texas*), and there are great local food books to read – all while we cook!

"I can't believe it! A real gourmet kitchen, and I get to watch!"

– Remy

Cool, open kitchens like those at Asti, Vespaio, Trattoria Lisina, and Uchi are great fun to watch. Sit at the counter and observe.

"Haute cuisine is an antiquated hierarchy built upon rules written by stupid old men, rules designed to make it impossible for women to enter this world."

– Sous chef Colette

Collette would be proud of Aquarelle's Terry Wilson, Jeffrey's Alma Alcocer, Austin's BBQ's Marisela Godinez, Stortini's Kristen Kittrel, and Fête Accompli's Quincy Adams-Erickson, among other successful Austin women chefs.

"What are corn dogs?" – François. "Cheap sausages dipped in batter and deep-fried. You know? American."

Ah yes, American cheap sausages, but not deep-fried. Make mine on a toasted bun topped with yummy condiments, like the ones from Best Wurst or Dog Almighty.

"People think haute cuisine is snoooooty, so chef must also be snooty. But not so."

– Sous chef Colette

That's right. Great food shouldn't mean snobbery. Go to Ventana at the Texas Culinary Academy, and see for yourself. Their chef instructors and student chefs are very talented – and humble about it.

"Not everyone can become a great artist, but a great artist can come from anywhere."

– Food critic Anton Ego

Bitter old Anton finally gets it. Perhaps he's ready to try the food at some of our street taco trucks or take a trip to the Real New Orleans Style Restaurant in Round Mountain to confirm his revelation.

"The bitter truth we critics must face is that, in the grand scheme of things, the average piece of junk is more meaningful than our criticism designating it so."

– Anton Ego

Amen. I wish all the Anton Egos around the country understood that. I am lucky to be able to express my passion for food through my writing, and I thank you all for reading it.

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Shanghai Chinese Restaurant

MICK VANN: EXCELLENT DUMPLINGS I HAVE KNOWN IN 2007

Shanghai Chinese Restaurant, 6718 Middle Fiskville, 458-8088. Shrimp and leek dumplings: with sweet shrimp and leek in a steamed wrapper. Pan-fried dumplings: huge, nicely browned, with minced pork, scallion, and cabbage in a medium-thick pastry; they are *the* best in town. Shrimp roll in rice-pasta sheets (*cheung fun*): fresh rice pasta forming a rectangle with small shrimp. All wrappers are house-made and perfect.

Pao's Mandarin House, 2300 Lohman's Spur #134, Lakeway, 512/263-8869. Pan-fried dumplings are superb: thin wrappers encasing a chunky pork filling (and the dipping sauce is perfectly balanced, the best in town). Pao-Tze are large, dome-shaped pork dumplings with a unique sauce of tamarind, lots of ginger, soy, and black vinegar; they are excellent and radically different from the previous dumplings.

Asia Cafe, 8650 Spicewood Springs Rd. #115 (at Highway 183), 331-5780. Zhong dumplings are exquisite: Handmade pastry surrounds juicy pork, resting in a pool of sweet soy, chile and sesame oils, and loads of garlic. Spicy Wonton is a large bowl of long dumplings with pork sitting upon pea shoots, dripping with a spicy broth of sesame with scallion. Asia's roasted chile oil on the table is the best: incendiary and loaded with *ma la* (Sichuan peppercorns).

NG House, 6800 West Gate Blvd. #112, 416-9888. Pan-fried dumplings are outstanding: handmade pastry properly browned, containing a plump pork filling, accompanied by a nicely balanced soy-ginger sauce (and excellent chile paste). Spicy Wonton: a bowl of meaty dumplings perched atop a pool of garlic oil kissed with vinegar and garnished with sesame seeds.

China Palace, 6605 Airport, 451-7104. Hot and Spicy Wonton consists of shrimp and pork-filled wontons covered with a spicy red oil sauce, with a hint of vinegar and lots of garlic. Pan-fried dumplings are minced-pork packets, perfectly browned on the bottom, and served with a well-balanced gingery sauce.

Tâm Deli & Cafe, 8222 N. Lamar Ste. D-33, 834-6458. Steamed rice wraps (*bánh cuốn*) never fail to delight, especially the ground pork/black mushroom version that comes topped with slices of Tâm's homemade pork pâté, garnished with fried garlic, and along with a salad of cucumber slices and sprouts.

Golden Wok, 500 Canyon Ridge, 228-3688. A newbie from San Antone, with delightful shrimp *har gau* (fat steamed dumplings with tapioca flour skins, shrimp *sui mai* (wheat flour skins, shrimp within), and *fun kwok* pot stickers (pork, chicken, and shrimp filling). All first-rate.

MM PACK'S TOP 10 SANDWICHES OF 2007

Garlic and Herb Roasted Leg of Lamb, *FoodHeads*, 616 W. 34th, 420-8400. This essential Austin lunch spot is well-known for loaded and tasty sammies, which include design-your-own deli combos and grilled specialty sandwiches. The No. 1 draw for me is the luscious, garlicky, herby roast-lamb sandwich with slices of grilled eggplant and feta cheese, dressed with lettuce, tomato, and cucumber mayonnaise on a toasted ciabatta.

Soft Shell Crab Po'boy, *Ms. B's Authentic Creole Restaurant*, 1050 E. 11th, 542-9143. I'm a sucker for a fried-oyster po'boy, and there are good ones all over town, but Ms. B's lunchtime soft-shell crab po'boy trumps even the finest fried oysters. The crusty Louisiana-style bread roll is bursting with two crispy-on-the-outside, juicy-on-the-inside whole crabs, lettuce, tomato, and tartar sauce. Crab heaven on a bun.

El Cubano, *Cafe Mangu*, 15200 FM 1825, Pflugerville, 512/990-3121. A pan-Caribbean riff on an old Spanish standard, the Cuban sandwich was immortalized in Tom Russell's story-song of the same name: "It's got two kinds of pig, ham and roast pork, a slice of white cheese as long as your fork." Cafe Mangu's Dominican-born Alex Fernandez and Rafael Montes de Oca offer a terrific version served on the traditional oblong white roll, pressed and grilled on the *plancha*, with a side of addictive plantain chips. (The restaurant's name derives from "man, good!" – purportedly exclaimed in 1916 by invading American Marines about Dominican food.)

Gourmet Banh Mi, *Lily's Sandwich*, 10901 N. Lamar, 973-9479. Lily's in the new Chinatown Center does the Cuban sandwich one better. This Vietnamese baguette sandwich includes three kinds of pork cold cuts on a 10-inch roll, dressed with sliced fresh jalapeño, pickled carrot, daikon radish, cucumber, and cilantro, all for an astonishing \$2.75. Bang for the buck? Best deal in town.

Prosciutto Panini, *Enoteca Vespaio*, 1610 S. Congress, 441-7672. It's almost impossible to order something that isn't exceptionally satisfying at the informally Italian Enoteca Vespaio, but for something quite different, try the hot-pressed panini of thinly sliced prosciutto, melty fontina cheese, arugula, and a softly sautéed egg, with just a hint of truffle. Decadent? Yes. Rich? Yes. Divinely delicious? Oh my, yes.

Vegetariano Panini Caldi, *Mandola's Italian Market*, 4700 W. Guadalupe, 419-9700. Mandola's at the Triangle serves some of the best hot paninis around, and the Vegetariano leads the pack of good choices. A variety of warm sliced and grilled Mediterranean vegetables in a pressed ciabatta rests under an oozy layer of mozzarella, singing a beautiful medley with the spicy additions of pepper relish, artichoke spread, and garlic aioli.

American Wagyu Corned Beef Reuben, *Jasper's*, 11506 Century Oaks Terrace, 834-4111. When you shell out \$14 for a sandwich, it better be pretty special. It's a splurge, but Jasper's in the Domain delivers with the melt-ingly tender and deeply flavorful Wagyu corned beef on rye bread adorned with real Russian dressing and slow-cooked choucroute instead of the standard, more strident sauerkraut. This is your classic deli Reuben puttin' on the ritz.

Shrimp and Avocado Tartine, *Blue Dahlia Bistro*, 1115 E. 11th, 542-5942. *Tartine* is French for open-faced sandwich, a specialty at Blue Dahlia, where each tartine is artfully presented on a wooden platter. Of the several arresting combinations, I'm particularly fond of the one with whole shrimp and avocado that's graced with tomato, mango salsa, and a little toasted nori for crunch, served on très fresh slices of whole-wheat bread from Mandola's bakeshop.

Fajita Ranchero Torta, *Habanero Mexican Cafe*, 501 W. Oltorf, 416-0443. In our local love affair with Mexican food, we tend to overlook *tortas* – sandwiches served on *bolillos*, small, white crusty rolls inspired by French baguettes. Habanero Cafe serves theirs with any of the delectable fillings that are available for their tacos – *carnitas*, barbacoa, *tripas*, *lengua*, carne guisada. It's hard to decide which is best, but the fajita ranchero torta is a great sandwich: a winning contrast of the white roll with very spicy beef skirt steak grilled with strips of onion and plenty of jalapeños. Not for the faint of palate – it's fiery.

Korean Bulgogi Burger, *Burger Tex II*, 2912 Guadalupe, 477-8433. I know I'm stretching the definition of sandwich here, but the bulgogi "burger" at Burger Tex II on the Drag is just too tasty to leave out. A hefty pile of thin-sliced beef marinated in soy and sesame oil is grilled and heaped on a toasted bun. It's perfect as is, with no additional condiments except maybe a pickle or two.

Top 10s continued on p.40



FoodHeads

JOHN ANDERSON

KATE THORNBERRY'S 10 BEST SURPRISES OF 2007

1) The Roasted Tomatillo Salsa Verde at ZuZu Handmade Mexican Food I really wasn't expecting to find *my ideal* green sauce at ZuZu. This salsa isn't just good; it is archetypal. It is the very essence of what salsa verde is meant to be: mild yet robust in flavor, complex, earthy, and unforgettable. I am thunderstruck that it has not (yet) won the Salsa Verde category in the annual *Austin Chronicle* Hot Sauce Festival.

2) I am astounded at the difference in quality between whole-leaf tea and mass-produced supermarket tea bags Iced tea is my beverage of choice; I probably drink a gallon a day. Seriously. Discovering Tea Embassy (900 Rio Grande) and switching from grade Z tea-dust-in-a-bag to the fresh, sparkling, clear flavor of whole-leaf tea has made me a proselytizing convert.

3) I have been deeply surprised (and humbled) that a lifelong vegetable gardener like myself, who gardens in Central Texas (where few of the "temperate zone" rules apply) could actually be taught a thing or two by a damned Yankee gardener. *The Way We Garden Now*, by Katherine Whiteside, has become my No. 1 gardening book; I have bought more copies of it to give to friends than any other book this year.

4) I was very surprised to discover that when whole grains are sprouted prior to being baked into bread, they are transformed from (primarily) carbohydrate into 80-90% easily assimilated protein. I knew **sprouted-grain bread is health-foody and "better for you"; I didn't realize that it changed its composition entirely! The sprouting process considerably enhances the food value of all grains, and if the sprouted-grain waffles and pizzas at DaVine Foods (1412 W. Olton) are any indication, sprouted grains are more satisfying and flavorful, too.**

5) Absolutely the best surprise in the cookbook department: *The Taste of Country Cooking*, by Edna Lewis. Her insights concerning seasonal cooking and the local foodways of her childhood (now a hundred years distant) are so timely today that this has become the workhorse of my cookbook shelf. I am amazed I ever lived without it!

6) It was a shock to find out that, during times that Austin was innocent of any such establishment, Georgetown was enjoying authentic Italian pizza at **Paisanos Pizza & Pasta – for more than a decade! "Old-coun-**



JOHN ANDERSON

9) This sounds like a dig, but it really isn't: I was surprised that **the sandwich counter at Whole Foods Downtown is such a good deal! The sandwiches cost around \$6, and they are fantastic. Premium cold cuts, European cheeses, a panorama of fresh ingredients, and speedy service; plus, sandwiches can be toasted on a hot press for no extra charge. Until I tried one, I just didn't get it; *now* I know why the sandwich counter always has the longest line.**

10) Following up on the simple, self-generated press release about her book, *Your Healing Diet*, I was very surprised to learn that **Deirdre Earls had, in a short period of time, already burgeoned to national prominence. What was intended to be a mention turned into a feature article, and I have no doubt that we'll be seeing Earls all over the TV in 2008.**

WES MARSHALL'S 10 BEST WINES OF THE YEAR

Here's the best of what I tasted this year. A few – the Banfi, Chateau St. Jean, and Jadot – are widely available. My choices are evenly matched with five whites and five reds, but I had to throw in the Champagne that most lit my rockets this year. It's too good to miss.

Banfi Principessa Perlante Gavi (\$14) This is what the Italians call *frizzante* – a slightly sparkling wine. It is made from the white Cortese grape, which is pretty obscure to American tastes. Italians love it. So do I, and check that price!

Chateau St. Jean Fume Blanc (\$15) Chateau St. Jean has been on a roll for the last couple of years. Their high-priced wines have always been some of California's best, and often at a bargain compared to their competition. But it's down in the trenches at the budget level where these wines shine. If you like this one, try their equally yummy Chardonnay.

Domaine Davenne/Domaine les Temps Perdus Sauvignon de St. Bris (\$20) You'll have to order this wine from a specialty retailer. It's worth the trouble. This is one of the few Sauvignon Blancs legally allowed to grow in Burgundy. One taste, and you'll understand why French Sauv Blancs are the gold standard.

F.X. Pichler's Grüner Veltliner Smaragd "M" (\$70) This is another wine for which you'll have to romance your purveyor, and I admit it's steep for an Austrian white. But

once you get a perfumed whiff, feel the luxurious richness in the mouth, savor the bracing acidity, and then experience the five-minute finish, you'll understand.

Domaine Ponsot Morey-St.-Denis Premier Cru Clos des Monts Luisants Vieilles Vignes Blanc (\$50) Take your favorite wine purveyor a Christmas gift when you ask for a bottle of this Aligoté; it's not going to be easy to acquire. I've never tasted an Aligoté like this. The grape, widely planted in Eastern Europe, is also the second most planted white in Burgundy after Chardonnay. People love it for its lively acidity and apple-y citrus aromas. Very attractive and very powerful.

Jadot Fixin (\$27) Fine wineshops should either have this or be able to get it. If you like Pinot Noir but have been turned off by the astronomical prices of most Burgundies, here's your chance. I've tasted \$400 Burgundies that aren't this good.

Lolonis Mendocino Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30) Organically grown, lovingly tended, and very elegant for a California Cab, this wine whispers.

Château Génot-Boulanger, Mercurey (\$35) I judged in a Burgundy competition in New York earlier this year. After tasting 50 bottles of Pinot Noir in a double-blind shoot-out, this was my favorite.

Frank Family Napa Valley Zinfandel (\$32) Rich Frank used to run Disney. Now he sits high above the Napa Valley, surveying his vineyards and producing killer wines. This Zinfandel is one of his least-expensive bottles. It's a true Napa Zin, more restrained and controlled than its Sonoma brethren.

L'Arco Pario (\$55) If I had Michael Dell's money, one wine I'd be buying by the case would be Quintarelli Amarone, which runs about \$300. I don't, but once or twice a year, I don't mind swinging for a truly great wine like L'Arco Pario. They rest young grapes on the pressed skins of the Amarone, lending a bit of the flavor of the real thing. And L'Arco's winemaker had the blessing of the elder Quintarelli.

Ruinart Blanc de Blancs (\$70) If my Champagne collection had only Ruinart Blanc de Blancs and Bollinger, I would be perfectly satisfied. They play yin and yang, with Bollinger's dark, rich, toasty flavors offsetting the Ruinart's sunny brightness. I tried a lot of very expensive Champagnes this year. I'd buy this one over any other.

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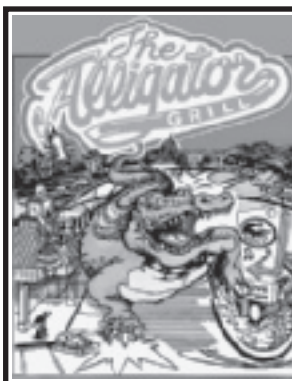
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KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN The interior may be newer and brighter, but the sushi and Korean dishes are as good as ever. Try the *banchan* tidbits and the noodle dishes. You can also grill on your table. 6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149. \$\$\$

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

TEX-MEX: EL POLLO FELIZ Tender, juicy rotisserie chickens by the plate, whole bird, or party pack paired with reliable side dishes will make your wallet happy. 6801 Airport, 323-6604. \$

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

SOUTH

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL A welcome South Austin branch of the venerable neighborhood institution where the coziness of the original is replaced with a sleek sensibility. The menu is identical, however, including the legendary fries. 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR "Irie" is Jamaican for the "ultimate positive," so you'll find free Wi-Fi, coffee, and occasional live music. Try the roasted vegetable sandwich or the muffaletta. 2310 S. Lamar, 326-4636. www.iriebean.com. \$

BARBECUE: CHIEF'S BBQ & GRILL If Mom's barbecue sauce doesn't bring you back, Joe Bob's Beans will. You'll also feast on ribs, brisket, sausage, turkey, ham, and barbecue bologna. 7811 S. First #104, 444-BEEF (2333). \$\$\$

BARBECUE: RAY'S BBQ There are two sauces to choose from for ribs, which are country-style, rich, moist, and delicious. The sausage is all beef, from the famous Southside Market in nearby Elgin. 601 Montopolis, 385-8262. www.rays-bbq.com. \$

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

CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: HAO HAO Features a mix of popular Chinese dishes coupled with their Vietnamese menu. They really shine with the blackboard Vietnamese specials, particularly the vegetarian dishes. 1901 W. William Cannon, 447-8121. www.haohaoaustin.com. \$\$\$

CHINESE: SUZI'S CHINA KITCHEN Normally priced Chinese food that manages to surpass the mundane, sometimes by a good bit. Vegetarians: Try the eggplant in garlic sauce, but make sure you specify "without pork." 1152 S. Lamar, 441-8400. www.suzischinagrill.com. \$\$\$

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

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: SOUTHSIDE FLYING PIZZA If Neapolitan-style goodness with a semolina crust strikes your fancy, try this pizza. Italian hoagies, calzones, and stromboli are also recommended. Don't forget the healthy and reasonably priced salads. 2206 S. Congress, 442-4246. www.southsideflyingpizza.com. \$

TEX-MEX: EL FLACO MEXICAN CAFE Mexican food just like your *abuelita* used to make: hearty servings, all made from scratch, and breakfast anytime you want it. 3632 S. Congress, 444-2767. \$

TEX-MEX: MAUDIE'S TOO In this "Tex-Mex Heaven," they serve breakfast every day and make their margaritas with fresh-squeezed juices. 1212 S. Lamar, 440-8088. www.maudies.com/maudiestoo.html. \$\$\$

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: CAIN & ABEL'S This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but also serves salads, soups, wraps, and breakfast tacos all day. 2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201. www.cainandabels.com. \$

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

CHINESE: YEN CHING NOODLE HOUSE Get your noodle fix with homemade noodles and fantastic Ma Po Dofu. 2910 Guadalupe, 472-4754. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: CAFE INDIGO Along with Seattle's Best Coffee, you'll find salads, panini, soups, slushies, shakes, and something called Creamice. 2021 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 505-0052. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NAU'S PHARMACY A traditional, old-fashioned, mom-and-pop drug store, with soda fountain/diner, office supplies, and a decent selection of cards and gifts. Not many of these places left. 2406 San Gabriel, 476-1544. \$

FRENCH, JAPANESE: FUSE BOX Billed as "fun, fresh, Fusion," this spot serves up fresh salads such as cranberry with goat cheese, and shrimp and melon. The bento boxes are varied and reasonably priced. 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, first floor), 236-0207. \$

JAPANESE: SUSHI NICHU EXPRESS This no-frills sushi spot will satisfy your wasabi cravings. Be sure to stop next door for Momoko's Bubble Tea. 705 W. 24th, 469-0086. \$

PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. 3500-B Guadalupe, 302-5200. www.mangiapizza.com. \$\$\$

PIZZA: MELLOW MUSHROOM Don't go here just for the gourmet pizzas. In addition to hoagies, pepperoni rolls, and salads, they offer 35-36 beers on tap on any given day. 2426 Guadalupe, 472-MELO (6356). \$

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

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: BLUE STAR CAFETERIA Find an upscale comfort-food menu that is both affordable and inviting. Try the homemade cobbler. 4800 Burnet Rd., 454-7827. www.bluestarcafeateria.com. \$

AMERICAN CAFE: THE FRISCO SHOP Still cooking a bang-up breakfast after all these years. Not only are they generous with the biscuits, both orange juice and coffee are included with the special. 5819 Burnet Rd., 459-6279. www.thefriscosshop.com. \$

BARBECUE: BERT'S BBQ The chicken still rocks the yard, but with those ribs as an opener, you can't lose. 3563 Far West, 345-2378. www.bertsbbq.com. \$

BARBECUE: COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL They will bring you a big platter of sweetly sauced beef ribs, tender brisket, and peppery sausage with all the trimmings until you tell them to please stop. 6500 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1742. www.countyline.com. \$

BURGER JOINT: WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Hand-cut fries, chocolate-cinnamon shakes, and live music on the weekend draw a comfortable, mixed crowd. 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400. www.waterlooicehouse.com. \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, TAKEOUT: LITTLE DELI Nestled in one end of the Crestview Shopping Center. Orders are placed at the counter, and the service is relaxed and friendly. 7101-A Woodrow, 467-7402. www.littledeli.biz. \$

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

ITALIAN, MEDITERRANEAN: PORTABLA The focus here is on wholesome takeout. Look for fresh ingredients, home-baked breads, and great daily specials. 1200 W. Sixth, 481-TOGO (8646). www.portabla.com. \$

PIZZA: MARYE'S GOURMET PIZZA You may crave a conventional Margherita pizza or something really wild like the Diabolo – a combination of Roma tomatoes, chipotle mayonnaise, red onions, smoked turkey, and jalapeño jack cheese. 3663 Bee Caves Rd., 327-5222. \$\$\$

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. www.antonioستمex.com. \$

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



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screens

46 FILM TOP 10s

48 TV EYE

66 FILM LISTINGS

There Will Be Film

2007 opens up a vein of cinematic riches

A clear sign that 2007 was a good year for good films is that the compilation of these Top 10 lists seemed easier than usual. All too frequently, it's a strain to come up with 10 films that can be considered worthy of such lists. This year, however, a common complaint among *Chronicle* critics was that they had difficulty pruning their lists down to the 10 best. (One corollary of this phenomenon is that the 2008 home-rental market should benefit from this bounty of quality selections – at least in the first half of the year.)

Unsurprisingly, the only film to receive a vote from all five critics contributing lists this year – *No Country for Old Men* – is also the movie that scored the highest in the total compiled vote tally. Following in the No. 2 position is *The Lives of Others*, the only film to receive a vote from four out of five critics. (A note on Germany's *Lives*: Although it won the Oscar in February for Best Foreign Film, the drama was not released in the U.S. until 2007, and the *Chronicle* is therefore counting it as belonging to that year, a choice that has varied from publication to publication.)

'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' TOP 10

- 1) *No Country for Old Men*
- 2) *The Lives of Others*
- 3) *There Will Be Blood*
- 4) *Persepolis*
- 5) *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*
- 6) *Juno*
- 7) *Atonement*
- 8) *3:10 to Yuma*
- 9) *The Bourne Ultimatum* (tie)
- 9) *Eastern Promises* (tie)
- 9) *Ratatouille* (tie)

Josh Brolin in
No Country for Old Men

Taken together, a total of 32 different films is mentioned throughout the five individual critics' lists (which appear on the following two pages). Including the other voting categories (overrated, underrated, best perfor-

mances, etc.), a wealth of titles appears here for your consideration. Remember, these lists are opinions, not facts – and we offer them in the spirit of the season.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

FILM NEWS TOP 10 OF 2007

BY JOE O'CONNELL

1) Television saved the film star

Friday Night Lights, we love you. We love your smart scripts, we love your great cast, and we love you even more for keeping our film crews (mostly) employed for two seasons, as the big Hollywood projects continue to swerve around us to New Mexico and Louisiana. *Lights* isn't alone. The CBS pilot **Swingtown**, about three swinging Seventies married couples living in the Chicago suburbs, also shot in Austin in 2007. And Dallas is feeling the love for **Prison Break**, which is calling the Metroplex home for a second straight year.

2) Strike that

We'd love those television series even more if they were actually shooting to start 2008. But the **Writers Guild of America** is on strike in a battle with producers to get a share of online sales. Who will flinch first? Will this drag into negotiations between producers and the Screen Actors Guild? Will late-night talk shows be funny without scribes? Will jaded audiences care? Stay tuned.

3) Texas gets friendly incentives

It's admittedly not as much as offered by New Mexico and Louisiana, but the **Texas Legislature** did approve a \$20 million film/video incentives program that is expected to bear fruit this year. The film industry united to form the **Texas Motion Picture Alliance** and to get the job done. But, thanks to **Sen. Steve Ogden**, it all comes with a rider prohibiting funding for projects that portray Texas in a negative light.

4) Spiro leads Austin's indie onslaught

Count **Ellen Spiro** as Austin's shining independent film star of 2007. **Body of War**, the University of Texas film prof's Iraq war saga, was named best documentary by the National Board of Review and is one of 15 docs short-listed for the Oscars. Expect the five noms to be announced Jan. 22. That wasn't all. *Troop 1500*, from Spiro and **Karen Bernstein**, took two Gracie Awards: the Outstanding Documentary-Long Format prize and Outstanding Director for Spiro.

5) Eska is a close second

Runner-up for shining star of the Central Texas film scene is **Chris Eska**, whose **August Evening** follows an aging, undocumented farmworker and his widowed daughter-in-law as their lives are turned upside down. It's a nominee for Film Independent's Spirit Awards' John Cassavetes Award for the best feature made for less than \$500,000. (The awards happen Feb. 23.) *August Evening*, which shot primarily in Gonzales, Texas, already won Eska the \$50,000 Target Filmmaker Award for Best Narrative Feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival. It's been picked up for theatrical release by Maya Entertainment. Also making waves are **Laura Dunn**, whose Austin environmental epic, **The Unforeseen**, is up for the Spirit Awards' Truer Than Fiction Award, and **Jeff Nichols**, whose **Shotgun Stories**, the tale of a feud between two sets of half-brothers after the death of their father, received the Narrative Feature Jury Award at the Austin Film Festival.

6) Putting on the Ritz

Here's betting the nexus of the 2008 South by Southwest Film Festival will be the **Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz**. It seems like yesterday that **Tim** and **Karrie League** were wringing their hands over how to save the original Alamo Drafthouse amid rising Warehouse District rents. Poof, the original is history, and the Ritz has proudly taken its place. Save me a seat for SXSW, and preorder me a pizza and a thick chocolate milkshake.

7) Marfa, film capital of the world?

Last year I semijokingly opined that **Marfa** – which last knew fame when my Realtor pal Barb Dawson was an extra in *Giant* – was the new film capital of Texas after hosting the lensing of **There Will Be Blood** and part of **No Country for Old Men**. Now comes word that the Los Angeles Film Critics Association picked *There Will Be Blood* as the best film of 2007, while the New York Film Critics Circle chose *No Country for Old Men*. Oscars, anyone?

8) Pegged for mumbling

SXSW Film programmer **Matt Dentler** had a big hand in solidifying the low-budget, improvisational, talky film craze now dubbed mumblecore when he programmed and tub-thumped such entries as **Joe Swanberg's** winning **Hannah Takes the Stairs** (and other less-notables) at 2007's Fest. (SXSW has been rallying around Swanberg since screening his debut feature, *Kissing on the Mouth*, in 2005.) Then filmmaker **Andrew Bujalski**, who acted in *Hannah*, cemented the Austin connection by shooting his mumblecore follow-up to *Mutual Appreciation* here.

9) The horror! The horror!

Count 2007 as the year **Fantastic Fest** cemented its place as the self-described “best in new science-fiction, fantasy, horror, animation, crime, Asian, and all around badass cinema.” During his keynote address at the International Film Festival Summit in Las Vegas, *Variety* Publisher **Charlie Koonen** went so far as to include it on a list of “10 Film Festivals We Love.” Meanwhile, the Weinstein Co. and Lions Gate jointly picked up the Austin-shot horror flick **Teeth** and its scary vagina dentata. Look for this horrific trend to continue with **Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors** convention, Jan. 18-20, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, and the shooting of a **Friday the 13th** remake in the Austin area soon.

10) Stars! Stars! Stars!

Julia Roberts, **Carrie-Anne Moss**, **Emily Watson**, **Willem Dafoe**, **Ryan Reynolds**, and **Hayden Panettiere**. And that's just the cast list for Bastrop-shot *Fireflies in the Garden*. The tween set had to go to New Braunfels to watch twins **Cole** and **Dylan Sprouse** (*The Suite Life of Zach and Cody*) shoot *Kings of Appletown*. **John C. Reilly** played Stubb's – in character! – as his *Walk Hard* alter ego, Dewey Cox. All this in the same year *People* magazine closed its Austin bureau. Expect a paparazzi onslaught in 2008 if **Brad Pitt** and **Sean Penn** do indeed arrive for the filming of **Terrence Malick's** *Tree of Life*.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

GAMING'S HIGH FIVE

Sorry gamers, but the year past – like most years, honestly – didn't produce 10 truly great games. You'll have to settle for five, four of which can be categorized as sequels. In an industry that seems to survive on weakly updated sequels (*Halo 3*, *Madden*), these are blazing exceptions.

– James Renovitch

1) Super Mario Galaxy (Wii): Let Xbox and PlayStation duke it out. Wii remembers that fun is priority No. 1.

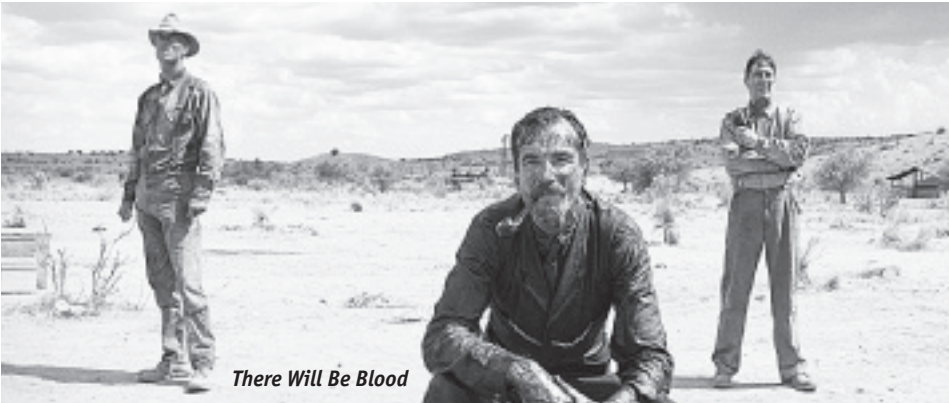
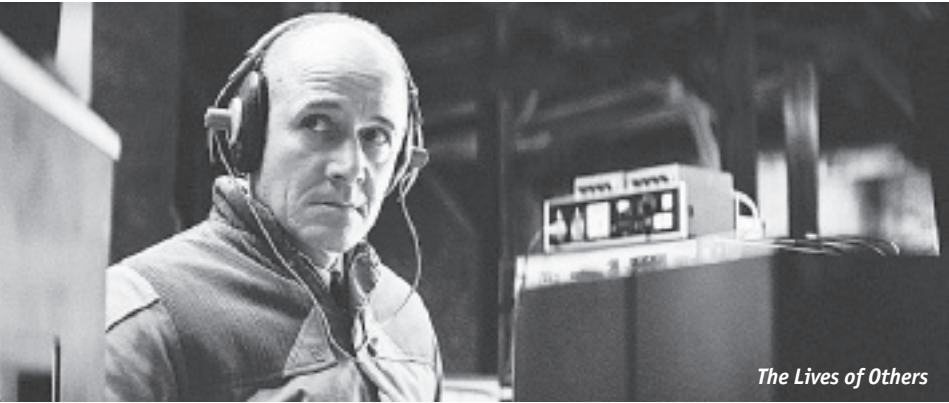
2) The Orange Box: Portal (PC, Xbox 360, PS3): Puzzle game *Portal* is the highlight of this bargain of a boxed set.

3) Rock Band (Xbox 360, PS2, PS3): Like *Guitar Hero* but better, and that's saying something.




4) The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass (Nintendo DS): A remarkably playable handheld title that rocks the stylus.

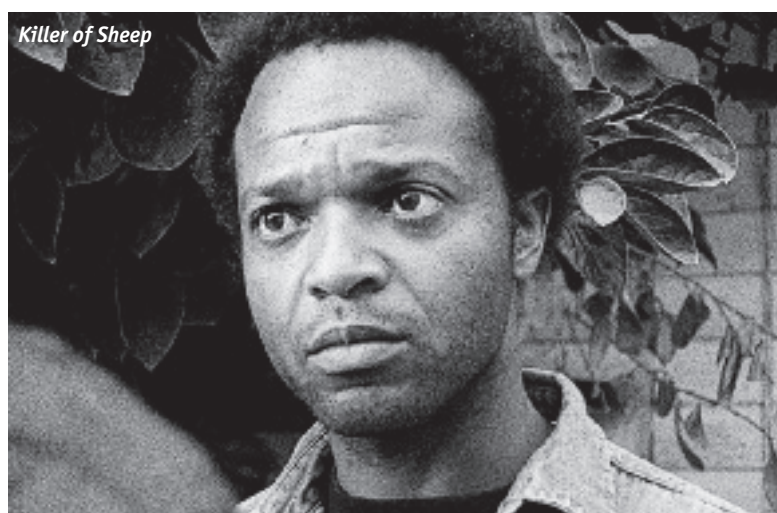
5) BioShock (PC, Xbox 360): The art direction alone puts it on the list.





	MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN	STEVE DAVIS	KIMBERLEY JONES	JOSH ROSENBLATT	MARC SAVLOV
1	<i>There Will Be Blood</i> No movie this year was more rooted in the American soil than this powerful character study and origin story.	<i>3:10 to Yuma</i> Who said the Western is dead? Notions of “hero” blur in the complex relationship between good guy and bad guy in the year’s most surprising film.	<i>The Lives of Others</i> Released at the beginning of the year, it may feel like old news, but there was no more powerful or lyrical document of resistance.	<i>The Lives of Others</i> Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck’s tale of repression and redemption in communist East Germany is as brilliant a directorial debut as anyone not named Orson Welles could hope for.	<i>There Will Be Blood</i> A bona fide, newfangled, old-school, take-no-prisoners, 100% all-American <i>epic</i> that mesmerizes and horrifies until the very ... last ... drop.
2	<i>The Lives of Others</i> The movie reminds us that goodness can exist even in the worst of times and that decency is a human, not heroic, impulse.	<i>Ratatouille</i> Pixar’s best animated feature yet, this tale of an unlikely gourmet chef compelled to express himself gastronomically speaks to the would-be artist in us all.	<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> Near tactile in its collage of life’s little moments – once disposable, then indispensable – in the wake of a tragic incapacitation.	<i>The Bourne Ultimatum</i> Director Paul Greengrass spins adrenaline into art and comes up with the best action movie since <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> .	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> Some scenes may be too intense for those not already dead. Pray that the Coen brothers never decide to film <i>The Road</i> .
3	<i>Persepolis</i> This animated, feminist, coming-of-age comedy about the effect of Iran’s Islamic revolution is a true original and a shout-out to unruly girls everywhere.	<i>The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters</i> This crowd-pleasing doc about a video-game championship rivalry is <i>Rocky</i> in real life; if you’re not cheering for the underdog, you’re probably heartless.	<i>Atonement</i> A marvelous adaptation with <i>Brief Encounter</i> in its blood; the kind of picture that revives the classic cinematic swoon.	<i>Eastern Promises</i> ▶ This unflinching look inside the Russian mafia is one of the oddest, most energizing films I’ve seen in years.	 <i>Persepolis</i> “Punk is not ded,” and neither are hope, courage, Catherine Deneuve, nor glorious 2-D animation, <i>insh’allah</i> .
4	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> The Coens’ movie renders evil disturbingly palpable, inscrutable, and immediate, while also returning the filmmaking duo to the top of their trade.	<i>Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street</i> Bloody and darkly beautiful, Tim Burton’s adaptation of Sondheim’s musical melodrama about revenge and meat pies in Victorian London is razor-sharp in execution.	<i>There Will Be Blood</i> Everything about this brutalizer spelled epic: the Marfa-shot terrain, Daniel Day-Lewis’ tragic savage, an under-the-skin score, and derricks spitting oil like ... well, like, blood.	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> The Coen brothers return to form with this elliptical, agnostic trip into America’s violent heart.	<i>Black Snake Moan</i> Craig Brewer, the ATL’s gift to heartrending, sex-bombing, subversively sultry cinematic swagger, continues to get all up in your shit. Samuel L. Jackson remains Godlike.
5	<i>The Savages</i> Without a hint of sentimentality or false emotion, this film finds the comedy, drama, self-delusion, and truth about ourselves as actors on the family stage.	<i>American Gangster</i> This taut crime epic set in a gritty, pre-Giuliani New York City is reminiscent of great Seventies filmmaking and yet wholly original.	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> The Coen brothers go beyond genre-bending kicks to make a master-stroke in existential dread.	<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> Can there be anything more inspiring than a movie about a stroke victim who creates an entire world inside his head? Or more humbling?	<i>Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead</i> Eighty-three-year-old Sidney Lumet officially eradicates all memories of <i>The Wiz</i> in one fell swoop. That’s one angry man.
6	<i>Away From Her</i> Sarah Polley’s excellent leap from actress to writer/director is all the more remarkable for the depth of her human understanding in someone so young.	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> A feeling of helplessness pervades the Coen brothers’ violent ode to the new criminal element, as personified by the most relentless killer since Jason Voorhees.	<i>After the Wedding</i> The fluid definition of family. The push/pull between selflessness and selfishness. Sigur Rós. Susanne Bier’s exquisite compassion. A mighty fine weep.	<i>The Wind That Shakes the Barley</i> Populist agit-prop at its finest, shot with a sense of ethical urgency by cinema’s great humanist, Ken Loach.	 <i>Juno</i> So it turns out teen pregnancy <i>is</i> funny after all. Go figure.
7	<i>I’m Not There</i> As audacious and illusive as its subject matter, Bob Dylan, the film grabs what’s blowing in the wind and inhales. Deeply.	<i>Michael Clayton</i> Legal ethics entangle everyone in this slickly plotted thriller that proves George Clooney can hold the screen as well as any American actor today.	<i>Juno</i> The year’s <i>other</i> comedy about courtship after conception was winning and winsome and sharp as a tack.	<i>Juno</i> This film’s unbearably clever first 30 minutes had me looking for a rafter to hang myself from. The next hour had me believing in something.	<i>No End in Sight</i> The best and the brightest do the worst and the dumbest. Again.
8	<i>Sicko</i> For just a moment there, Michael Moore had us all in indignant agreement that the American health-care system is broken and in need of fixing.	<i>The Lives of Others</i> Political ideals give way to human compassion in this German Oscar winner set in pre-unification Berlin, a worthy successor to Coppola’s <i>The Conversation</i> .	<i>Into the Wild</i> The kind of film that makes you tuck into a whiskey and wonder what the fuck you’ve been doing with your life ... but not enough to wander so far off the grid.	<i>Things We Lost in the Fire</i> As a junkie coming to the aid of his dead friend’s family, Benicio del Toro carves his face onto the Mount Rushmore of great film actors.	<i>Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten</i> Joe Strummer, the only punk that still matters.
9	<i>Atonement</i> British period dramas usually set off my internal snooze alarm, but this captivating swoon of a story proved to be the exception.	<i>Superbad</i> High-school geeks look for love in all the wrong places in this male-oriented fantasy that’s both hilariously raunchy and tellingly sweet.	<i>Zodiac</i> Unbearably tense, taut at well nigh three hours, and a fierce return to form for David Fincher. Too bad it got buried.	<i>Michael Clayton</i> Paranoia filmmaking the way it should be done. A throwback to the glory days of <i>All the President’s Men</i> and <i>The Parallax View</i> .	<i>Control</i> Not worth killing yourself over, but brilliant nonetheless. WWJDD?
10	<i>Eastern Promises</i> So dynamic, effective, and chock-full of memorable moments, <i>Eastern Promises</i> is an engrossing genre movie that is unique.	<i>Atonement</i> More intimate than epic in scope, this cerebrally satisfying film about the damage inflicted by a single lie gives new meaning to the happy ending.	<i>Once</i> The year’s sweetest surprise: Even when its twin troubadours were feeling bad, they gave us nothing but feel-good.	<i>Control</i> It’s no <i>24 Hour Party People</i> , but Anton Corbijn’s dour tribute to Joy Division lead singer Ian Curtis is still a masterpiece.	<i>Grindhouse</i> (“ <i>Death Proof</i> ”) Initially infuriating, QT’s elliptical, chick-habit horror show ended up impossible to dislodge from my head, like, say, a tire iron.

	MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN	STEVE DAVIS	KIMBERLEY JONES	JOSH ROSENBLATT	MARC SAVLOV
NEAR MISSES	<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, The Namesake, Michael Clayton, Into the Wild, Red Road</i>	<i>The Savages, The Darjeeling Limited, Eastern Promises, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Year of the Dog</i>	<i>Ratatouille, Persepolis, The Savages, Michael Clayton, Eastern Promises</i>	<i>The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford; The Hoax; Sicko; Lust, Caution</i>	<i>Things We Lost in the Fire, Tears of the Black Tiger, Superbad, Waitress, The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters</i>
MOST OVERRATED	<i>Juno, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford</i>	<i>Juno, Lars and the Real Girl, Before the Devil Knows You're Dead</i>	<i>Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, The Bourne Ultimatum, Superbad</i>	<i>Knocked Up, Gone Baby Gone, This Is England</i>	<i>The Darjeeling Limited, Ratatouille, The Savages</i>
MOST UNDERRATED	<i>Joshua, Black Snake Moan, The Hoax</i>	 <i>The Darjeeling Limited, Lions for Lambs, Zodiac</i> ◀ Christian Bale (3:10 to Yuma), Ethan Hawke (Before the Devil Knows You're Dead), Tommy Lee Jones (In the Valley of Elah)	<i>Breach, Catch and Release, Margot at the Wedding</i>	<i>The Hoax, Things We Lost in the Fire, After the Wedding</i>	 <i>Grindhouse ("Death Proof"), Things We Lost in the Fire, Gone Baby Gone</i> Daniel Day-Lewis (There Will Be Blood), Kurt Russell (Grindhouse, "Death Proof"), Javier Bardem (No Country for Old Men)
ACTING KUDOS (MALE)	Daniel Day-Lewis (There Will Be Blood), Javier Bardem (No Country for Old Men), Viggo Mortensen (Eastern Promises)		Emile Hirsch (Into the Wild), Daniel Day-Lewis (There Will Be Blood), No Country for Old Men's triumverate of good, bad, and off-the-charts evil (Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin, Javier Bardem)	Benicio del Toro (Things We Lost in the Fire), Ulrich Mühe (The Lives of Others), Tommy Lee Jones (No Country for Old Men)	
ACTING KUDOS (FEMALE)	Cate Blanchett (I'm Not There), Julie Christie (Away From Her), Ellen Page (Juno)	Julie Christie (Away From Her), Marion Cotillard (La Vie en Rose), Meryl Streep (Lions for Lambs and Evening)	Ellen Page (Juno), Imelda Staunton (Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix), Charlotte Gainsbourg (I'm Not There)	Ellen Page (Juno), Halle Berry (Things We Lost in the Fire), Martina Gedeck (The Lives of Others)	Marion Cotillard (La Vie en Rose), Adrienne Shelly (Waitress), Samantha Morton (Control)
BEST DIRECTOR	Paul Thomas Anderson (There Will Be Blood), Joel and Ethan Coen (No Country for Old Men), Tamara Jenkins (The Savages)	Ridley Scott (American Gangster), Tim Burton (Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street), James Mangold (3:10 to Yuma)	Paul Thomas Anderson (There Will Be Blood), Sean Penn (Into the Wild), Julian Schnabel (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly)	Ethan and Joel Coen (No Country for Old Men), Paul Greengrass (The Bourne Ultimatum), Julian Schnabel (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly)	Paul Thomas Anderson (There Will Be Blood), Joel and Ethan Coen (No Country for Old Men), Craig Brewer (Black Snake Moan)
BEST SCREENPLAY (ORIGINAL)	<i>The Savages</i> (Tamara Jenkins), <i>I'm Not There</i> (Todd Haynes), <i>Ratatouille</i> (Brad Bird)	<i>The Savages</i> (Tamara Jenkins), <i>Michael Clayton</i> (Tony Gilroy), <i>Ratatouille</i> (Brad Bird)	<i>Juno</i> (Diablo Cody), <i>The Savages</i> (Tamara Jenkins), <i>Ratatouille</i> (Brad Bird)	 <i>The Wind That Shakes the Barley</i> (Paul Laverty), <i>Eastern Promises</i> (Steven Knight), <i>Michael Clayton</i> (Tony Gilroy) <i>No Country for Old Men</i> (Ethan and Joel Coen), <i>Away From Her</i> (Sarah Polley), <i>The Hoax</i> (William Wheeler)	<i>Black Snake Moan</i> (Craig Brewer), <i>Before the Devil Knows You're Dead</i> (Kelly Masterson), <i>Juno</i> (Diablo Cody)
BEST SCREENPLAY (ADAPTED)	<i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> (Ronald Harwood), <i>No Country for Old Men</i> (Joel and Ethan Coen), <i>Away From Her</i> (Sarah Polley)	<i>Atonement</i> (Christopher Hampton), <i>American Gangster</i> (Steven Zaillian), <i>The Diving Bell and the Butterfly</i> (Ronald Harwood)	<i>No Country for Old Men</i> (Ethan and Joel Coen), <i>There Will Be Blood</i> (Paul Thomas Anderson), <i>The Namesake</i> (Sooni Taraporevala)		<i>Control</i> (Matt Greenhalgh), <i>This Is England</i> (Shane Meadows), <i>Persepolis</i> (Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi)
BEST REVIVAL	<i>Killer of Sheep</i>	The Alamo at the Ritz's opening night showing of <i>Attack of the Mushroom People</i> , a Japanese horror film forever burned in my memory since the age of 10.	<i>The Up Series</i>	<i>Army of Shadows</i> : 30 years after its original release, Melville's semi-autobiographical classic about the French Resistance gets the Criterion treatment it deserves.	<i>Killer of Sheep</i>
WILD CARD	The Last American Movie Taboo – the Scarlet A: Pregnant lasses in <i>Knocked Up</i> and <i>Juno</i> conveniently sidestep the divisive "abortion" option, finding comedy gold in unwed moms.	Don't miss the deleted scene on the <i>Knocked Up</i> DVD, where Jonah Hill bemoans the lack of explicit man-on-man action in <i>Brokeback Mountain</i> .	Too Long in the Tanning Bed: Danny Boyle's lovely, Kubrickian <i>Sunshine</i> morphed midway through into a Kentucky-fried slasher starring an extra-crispy sociopath. Whaaa?	The Strongest-Argument-for-a-Best-Cameo-Academy-Award Award: In <i>I Am Legend</i> , Emma Thompson creates more magic in two minutes of screen time than most actors manage in two hours.	Best Reason to Blow Every Goddamn Nickel You've Got on a Kickass Home Theatre (or a '70 GTO): Monte Hellman's <i>Two-Lane Blacktop</i> , from Criterion.



TV EYE

Baby, You're Tops

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

If there's a common theme in this year's Top 10 TV, it's strong ensemble casts and vivid writing (go, writers!). Some of the most respected are among the least viewed, which only goes to show that just when you've given up on TV, something appears to renew your faith. That was especially evident this year with some of the most well-written works coming out in droves on the small screen. With that, here's the list:

- 1) **Mad Men** (AMC) I was mesmerized with this series from the beginning but confess to being slow to appreciate it, even though I tuned in week after week. Now, after watching the first season in its entirety, I believe this glorious drama is much more than a stylish period piece about the advertising business. It's a meditation on the present, offering the nagging but unasked question: Who are the people we say we are?
- 2) **30 Rock** (NBC) So few TV comedies can make you laugh out loud, but this bright comedy manages to find unexpected laughs in the most outrageous moments. This year's jaw-dropping moment was Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy channeling Redd Foxx during Tracy Jordan's (Tracy Morgan) therapy session. Last year, it was Paul Reubens guest-starring as a member of an obscure royal family, the product of years of inbreeding (two words: ceramic hand). That was topped only by Jack and his ex (Isabella Rossellini) fighting over their Arby's franchise ("Damn you, Jack; you know how I love my big Beef 'n Cheddar"). Which gives *30 Rock* the unexpected prize for the most obvious yet most entertaining use of product placement.



- 3) **Damages** (FX) Another superb cast, this one in a taut legal thriller starring Glenn Close. Ted Danson was marvelous as the soulless corporate tycoon, Arthur Frobisher, but the transformation of Ellen Parsons (Rose Byrne) from a reserved first-year lawyer into a calculating creature bent on revenge was hair-raising.
- 4) **The Riches** (FX) The premise of this underappreciated series sounds preposterous: After accidentally running an affluent couple off the road, a family of professional drifters assumes the identities of the couple, bluffing their way into jobs, prestigious schools, and friendships. How they manage to keep up the hoax is what kept its woefully small audience watching. But its observation of class and the classic American reinvention tale is what makes this series much more than a fish-out-of-water story.
- 5) **The Office** (NBC) A great ensemble cast led by Steve Carell makes the dull 9-to-5 job on earth worth revisiting, week after week.
- 6) **Dirty Sexy Money** (NBC) Ah, the self-absorbed and spoiled Darling family. How I love them. Just be happy you don't work for them. The allure and repulsion of excess is what drives

Nick George (Peter Krause) to continue to work for the Darlings, along with his need to get to the bottom of his father's mysterious murder. The murder-mystery is a disposable device. It's the Darling family antics (superbly led by Donald Sutherland and Jill Clayburgh) that make this series especially delicious.

7) **Flight of the Conchords** (HBO) Quirky with a capital "Q." The series about two clueless Kiwis trying to make it as musicians in New York is delightfully absurd. This is what HBO should have focused their attention on promoting instead of that wearisome *John From Cincinnati*. Songs with off-the-wall lyrics presented as low-rent music videos are simply delightful. *Flight* may be an acquired taste, but it's one well worth cultivating.

8) **Extras** (HBO) I'm a sucker for behind-the-footlights projects, and this is one of my favorites. Another series from the brilliant Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant ended this year, but the laughs endure. And only this team could pull off a two-hour series finale with just enough bite to remind us that stardom isn't everything.

9) **Aliens in America** (CW) Another overlooked gem, this series about a Muslim Pakistani foreign-exchange student living in Wisconsin (Adhir Kalyan as Raja) packs a larger punch than might be expected from a typical based-in-the-suburbs sitcom. While effortlessly lobbing barbed commentaries on U.S. isolationism, it still managed to be warmhearted without being too mushy, condescending, or dependent on the cheap laugh.

10) **Friday Night Lights** (NBC) I don't think you're allowed to live in Texas without showing some love to this struggling but still solid drama about the lives and loves of a small Texas town driven by football.

Honorable Mentions: *Real Time With Bill Maher* (HBO), *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart* (Comedy Central), *My Name Is Earl* (NBC), *Heroes* (NBC), *Rescue Me* (FX), *Brothers & Sisters* (ABC), *Burn Notice* (USA), *Eureka* (Sci Fi), *The Unit* (CBS), *The New Adventures of Old Christine* (CBS)

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

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PICTURE IN PICTURE
FILM, TV, TECH, AND GAMING

On the future American landscape, minus writers:

"Reruns clutter every channel. Tensions are high. Fights break out. Water-coolers are abandoned. Sean Hannity declares exercise un-American. Jay Leno recruits elementary-school students to write his monologues. No one notices any difference."

- Josh Rosenblatt

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After 27 years, you know the drill: This is your chance to duct-tape the critics’ mouths shut and speak up about Austin music. Not sure whom to vote for? Turn on the radio, drop by the local record store, or head to the clubs. Your favorite band is probably playing.

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:

Best Performing Bands

ROCK:

PUNK:

METAL:

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:

DJ:

INDIE:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

KID BAND (MAJORITY OF MEMBERS UNDER 18):

NOVELTY:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)

FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS/PERCUSSION:

KEYBOARDS:

HORNS:

STRINGS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

RECORD PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, CD TITLE):

Related Categories

NEW CLUB:

LIVE MUSIC VENUE:

ACOUSTIC VENUE:

ALL-AGES VENUE:

RECORD STORE:

INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:

RADIO STATION:

RADIO PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

RADIO PERSONALITY (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION):

CONCERT POSTER (BAND, CLUB, DATE, ARTIST):

LOCAL LABEL:

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is yes.) Please circle one or fill in the blank*:

The Skunks	Spot Barnett
The Dicks	Barbara Lynn
The Motards	Major Burkes
American Analog Set	Roy Head
Bad Livers	Uncle John Turner
Byron Scott	Pinetop Perkins
Rosie Flores	Gary Primich

OTHER NOMINEE*

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

Required Information

NAME

ADDRESS

CITYSTATE

ZIP

AGEPHONE

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

Please mail to: Music Poll

The Austin Chronicle
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music

52 TOP 10s

76 MUSIC LISTINGS

OFF THE RECORD music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL

STATE OF THE UNION

Climbing up 10 spots from last year, Austin's **C3 Presents** ranked No. 13 among promoters on **Billboard's** annual year-end list, pulling in \$32 million, nearly a third of which came from the 2007 **Austin City Limits Music Festival**. The booking and promotion enterprise hosted 494 shows (132 of them sellouts) for a total attendance of more than 815,000. In the same issue, **Waterloo Records** owner **John Kunz** offers some advice for labels: "Give up DRM [Digital Rights Management], accept reality, and acknowledge that the customer is always right. It's the ABCs of retail. The universe has changed, and we need to change. There is no terra firma out there; we are on a spinning log going down the river. And give us more vinyl."



SANDY CARSON

WALL OF SOUND

Sliced and slowed, **Paul Wall** (l) christened the new, two-story **Club Fuse** (505 Neches) on Friday night. Playing to some 150 people, the People's Champ karoked over a 25-minute mixtape of Houston staples, including "Sittin' Sideways," selections from 2007's *Get Money, Stay True*, and his lone verse on **Chamillionaire's** "N Luv Wit My Money."



RADIO BIRDMAN

Ending one of the longest-running weekly residencies in town, **News 8 Austin** correspondent and *Chronicle* contributor **Andy Langer** is stepping down as host of **The Next Big Thing** on **KROX**, his 12-year, Sunday night mainstay responsible for four hours of new and local alternative music. Instead, Langer is switching frequencies to fellow **Emmis Austin Radio** outlet **KGSR**, commanding the airwaves each weeknight from 6 to 10pm, followed by the usual specialty shows until midnight. "KGSR is very much the heartbeat of radio in this town," says Langer, who promises new tunes, vault selections, and "at least a few songs an hour that you wouldn't normally hear." Don't touch that dial.

LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

TOP 10 (INTER)NATIONAL

- 1) **Radiohead**, *In Rainbows*
- 2) **Robert Plant & Alison Krauss**, *Raising Sand* (Rounder)
- 3) **M.I.A.**, *Kala* (XL/Interscope)
- 4) **Robert Wyatt**, *Comicopera* (Domino)
- 5) **Band of Horses**, *Cease to Begin* (Sub Pop)
- 6) **Boris with Michio Kurihara**, *Rainbow* (Drag City)
- 7) **Jay-Z**, *American Gangster* (Roc-a-Fella/Def Jam)
- 8) **The Shins**, *Winning the Night Away* (Sub Pop)
- 9) **P.J. Harvey**, *White Chalk* (Island)
- 10) **Phosphorescent**, *Pride* (Dead Oceans)

10 MORE IMPORTS

- 1) **Stephen Marley**, *Mind Control* (Universal)
- 2) **Dungen**, *Tio Bitar* (Kemado)
- 3) **Jens Lekman**, *Night Falls Over Kortedala* (Secretly Canadian)
- 4) **Amon Tobin**, *The Foley Room* (Ninja Tune)
- 5) **Mick Turner/Tren Brothers**, *Blue Trees* (Drag City)
- 6) **Arcade Fire**, *Neon Bible* (Merge)
- 7) **Life on Earth!**, *Look!! There Is ...* (Subliminal Sounds)
- 8) **Michio Kurihara**, *Sunset Notes* (20/20/20)
- 9) **Andy Palacio & the Garifuna Collective**, *Wátina* (Stonetree)
- 10) **Tinariwen**, *Aman Iman: Water Is Life* (World Village)



TOP 10 TEXAS

- 1) **Brownout**, *Homenaje* (Freestyle)
- 2) **Okkervil River**, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 3) **The Octopus Project**, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 4) **St. Vincent**, *Marry Me* (Beggars Banquet)
- 5) **Li'l Cap'n Travis**, *Twilight on Sometimes Island* (Glurp)
- 6) **Bexar Bexar**, *Tropism* (Western Vinyl)
- 7) **Spoon**, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 8) **Future Clouds & Radar** (Star Apple Kingdom)
- 9) **UGK**, *Underground Kingz* (Jive)
- 10) **Explosions in the Sky**, *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone* (Temporary Residence)

10 MORE LOCALS FOR THE ROAD

- 1) **Bill Callahan**, *Woke on a Whaleheart* (Drag City)
- 2) **Leatherbag**, *Love Me Like the Devil* (Superpop!)
- 3) **White Denim**, *Let's Talk About It*
- 4) **Lomita**, *Downtown Mystic* (Indierect)
- 5) **Belaire**, *Exploding Impacting* (Indierect)
- 6) **Krum Bums**, *As the Tide Turns* (TKO)
- 7) **Jana Hunter**, *There's No Home* (Gnomonsong)
- 8) **The Strange Attractors** (Rare Dust)
- 9) **Headdress**, *Turquoise* (Totem Songs)
- 10) **Peel** (Peek-a-Boo)

10 AUSTIN ACTS TO WATCH IN 2008

Balmorhea
The Belfuries
Corto Maltese

Oh No! Oh My!
Follow That Bird!
Mrs. Glass
Mike & the Moonpies

Silver Pines
Goodnight, Fish
The Archibalds

LARK OF THE BORDER

Tejano music legend **Lydia Mendoza**, best known for her 1934 hit, "Mal Hombre," died Dec. 20, in San Antonio, where she began her career in 1928 with **La Familia Mendoza**. Heralded as the **Alondra de la Frontera** (Lark of the Border) for her distinct 12-string acoustic guitar and vocal styles that bridged traditional Spanish musical styles, Mendoza, 91, recorded more than 50 albums for labels as diverse as **RCA** and **El Zarape**, paving the way for future generations of Mexican-American musicians. She was awarded the **National Medal of Arts** in 1999.

VOTE OR DIE

The rest of the industry may be changing, but the **Austin Music Poll** (p.50) remains the same. Cast your ballot before Jan. 31. The categories, with OTR's picks:

BAND OF THE YEAR: **Okkervil River**
MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: **Roky Erickson**
SONG OF THE YEAR:
"You Got Yr Cherry Bomb," **Spoon**
ALBUM OF THE YEAR: *Homenaje*, **Brownout**
NEW BAND: **White Denim**
ROCK: **Lomita**
PUNK: **Krum Bums**
METAL: **Lions of Tsavo**
INDUSTRIAL/GOTH: **Tungsten Coil**
DJ: **Table Manners Crew**
INDIE: **Spoon**
JAZZ: **Blaze**
BLUES: **Black Joe Lewis**
HIP-HOP: **Zeale 32**
INSTRUMENTAL: **Explosions in the Sky**
EXPERIMENTAL: **Bexar Bexar**
COUNTRY: **Dale Watson**
BLUEGRASS: **Onion Creek Crowdaddies**
ROOTS-ROCK: **The Gourds**
FOLK: **Peter & the Wolf**
LATIN TRADITIONAL: **Grupo Fantasma**
LATIN CONTEMPORARY: **Brownout**
WORLD: **Joel Laviolette & Rattletree Marimba**
COVER BAND: **Forever Changes**
KID BAND: **The Steps**
NOVELTY: **Sonic Uke**
NONE OF THE ABOVE: **Invincible Czars**
FEMALE VOCALS: **Dana Falconberry**
MALE VOCALS: **Ray Jackson**, Lomita
ELECTRIC GUITAR: **Jason Morales**, Tia Carrera
ACOUSTIC GUITAR: **Willie Nelson**
BASS: **Gian Ortiz**, Amplified Heat
DRUMS: **Chris Ortiz**, Amplified Heat
KEYBOARDS: **Pinetop Perkins**
HORNS: **David Chenu** (saxophone)
STRINGS: **Tosca String Quartet**
MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT: **James Evans**, Transmography (prepared guitar)
SONGWRITER: **Randy Reynolds**, Leatherbag
PRODUCER: **Erik Wofford**, various
NEW CLUB: **Lamberts**
LIVE MUSIC VENUE: **Emo's**
ACOUSTIC VENUE: **The Parish**
ALL-AGES VENUE: **Red 7**
RECORD STORE: **End of an Ear**
INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE: **Musickmakers**
RADIO STATION: **KVRX 91.7FM**
RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM: **The Next Big Thing**, KROX
RADIO PERSONALITY: **Deb O'Keefe**, KROX
CONCERT POSTER: **Mothfight** (any)
LOCAL LABEL: **Dead Oceans**

Wincing the Year Away

2007 in albums, mostly

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

What do Arcade Fire, Devendra Banhart, Chamillionaire, Steve Earle, Feist, the Frames, Fiery Furnaces, Gogol Bordello, Interpol, Kings of Leon, Bettye LaVette, LCD Soundsystem, Manu Chao, Spoon, Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band, Tinariwen, UGK, Mary Weiss, Wilco, Lucinda Williams, and the Wu-Tang Clan have in common? In 2007, *albumwise* ... well, they put on great live shows.

Many of them here in Austin even. In related news, on Dec. 10 in Stockholm, France’s Albert Fert and Deutschland’s Peter Grünberg won the Nobel Prize in Physics for their independent manipulation of electromagnetic fields allowing for storage of astronomical amounts of data onto minuscule hard drives. That’s right, the iPod won the Oscar of the science universe. At the ceremony, accepting honors from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, it wore white. ...

Back on planet rock, Radiohead’s beatific work of science fiction, *In Rainbows* – one of the year’s best albums – never even bothered with a physical storage vessel, a free download, if you like, from cyberspace. Its Austin equivalent, meanwhile – Top 10 best – Okkervil River’s *The Stage Names* put on a show of epic proportions without ever really acknowledging that the deluxe version of the album came packaged with a bonus disc of demos in some cases more compelling than the main attraction. Red River kids White Denim, on the other leg, stitched their triangular exuberance into local-music-scene nepotism not on outdated aluminum bit but rather on dazzling, 7-inch red-and-white vinyl. *Let’s Talk About It* when you get your turntable fixed.

If the medium truly remains the message, “albums” will one day again be played at 33 revolutions per minute on 12-inch petroleum product, while you lie on your floor reveling in the LP art and reading liner notes/production credits without trifocals.

RAOUL HERNANDEZ

TOP 10 NATIONAL

- 1) Radiohead, *In Rainbows*
- 2) Band of Horses, *Cease to Begin* (Sub Pop)
- 3) The Shins, *Wincing the Night Away* (Sub Pop)
- 4) Andrew Bird, *Armchair Apocrypha* (Fat Possum)
- 5) Lupe Fiasco, *Lupe Fiasco’s the Cool* (Atlantic)
- 6) *The Good, the Bad & the Queen* (Virgin)
- 7) M.I.A., *Kala* (XL/Interscope)
- 8) Panda Bear, *Person Pitch* (Paw Tracks)
- 9) Sea Wolf, *Leaves in the River* (Dangerbird)
- 10) Boris With Merzbow, *Rock Dream* (Southern Lord)



TOP 10 AUSTIN

- 1) Okkervil River, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 2) *Voxtro* (Playlouder)
- 3) White Denim, *Let’s Talk About It*
- 4) Explosions in the Sky, *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone* (Temporary Residence)
- 5) Bill Callahan, *Woke on a Whaleheart* (Drag City)
- 6) The Golden Boys, *Whiskey Flower* (Emperor Jones)
- 7) Iron & Wine, *The Shepherd’s Dog* (Sub Pop)
- 8) The Gourds, *Noble Creatures* (Yep Roc)
- 9) Brownout, *Homenaje* (Freestyle)
- 10) Krum Bums, *As the Tide Turns* (TKO)



10 LOCALS TO DIG OUT

- 1) Mark David Ashworth, *Viceroy* (Autobus)
- 2) Two Nice Girls, *2 Nice Girls* (Seasick Sailor)
- 3) Gulf of Mexico, *Rooms You’ve Never Seen Before*
- 4) American Graveyard, *Rough Around the Edges*
- 5) Baby Robots, *10 Year High* (Bunkhaus)
- 6) *The Strange Attractors* (Rare Dust)
- 7) Mothfight, *Hopscotch* 7-inch
- 8) Peter Stopschinski, *Chamber Music* (Pecan Crazy)
- 9) Suzanna Choffel, *Shudders & Rings*
- 10) Bettysoo, *Little Tiny Secrets*



AUDRA SCHROEDER

TOP 10 NATIONAL

- 1) R.J. Harvey, *White Chalk* (Island)
- 2) M.I.A., *Kala* (XL/Interscope)
- 3) Battles, *Mirrored* (Warp)
- 4) Pissed Jeans, *Hope for Men* (Sub Pop)
- 5) Panda Bear, *Person Pitch* (Paw Tracks)
- 6) Thurston Moore, *Trees Outside the Academy* (Ecstatic Peace!)
- 7) King Khan & the Shrines, *What Is?!* (Hazelwood)
- 8) Radiohead, *In Rainbows*
- 9) *Grinderman* (Anti-)
- 10) Deerhunter, *Cryptograms* (Kranky)



TOP 10 TEXAS

- 1) St. Vincent, *Marry Me* (Beggars Banquet)
- 2) Bill Callahan, *Woke on a Whaleheart* (Drag City)
- 3) UGK, *Underground Kingz* (Jive/Zomba)
- 4) The Golden Boys, *Whiskey Flower* (Emperor Jones)
- 5) *Ringo Deathstarr* (Spoilt Victorian Child)
- 6) White Denim, *Let’s Talk About It*
- 7) Jana Hunter, *There’s No Home* (Gnomonsong)
- 8) Lomita, *Downtown Mystic* (Indirect)
- 9) ST 37, *And Then What* (Noiseville)
- 10) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)



LOCAL CHORUS LINE

- 1) *Yellow Fever* EP
- 2) Coma in Algiers, *This Is Your Justice*
- 3) Baby Robots, *10 Year High* (Bunkhaus)
- 4) Foot Foot, *Everything Cool Has Been Canceled* (Bunkhaus)
- 5) Brazos, *A City Just as Tall* (Autobus)
- 6) *My Education* vs. Dalek (Thirty Ghosts)
- 7) The Strange Boys, *Nothing* 7-inch (Dusty Medical)
- 8) *Sparkle Motion* (Super Secret)
- 9) The Ugly Beats, *Take a Stand* (Get Hip)
- 10) Headdress, *Turquoise* (Totem Songs)



CRITICS POLL

BEST LOCAL SHOW

- GREG BEETS** Monterey Pop Tribute, Threadgill’s World Headquarters
- JIM CALIGIURI** Brownout, Grupo Fantasma, Mohawk (September)
- THOMAS FAWCETT** Rockit 7 with Brownout, DJs Manny & Bigface, Afrika Bambaata, Club de Ville
- DOUG FREEMAN** Okkervil River, Hogg Auditorium
- MELANIE HAUPT** The Jellydots, Austin City Limits Music Festival
- RAOUL HERNANDEZ** Led Zeppelin Hoot, Ruta Maya
- ANDY LANGER** La Manitas Benefit, La Zona Rosa (February)
- DAVID LYNCH** Terry Bozzio, Zakir Hussain, and Giovanni Hidalgo, One World Theatre
- MARGARET MOSER** Dead Pyrates Society, Threadgill’s World Headquarters
- AUSTIN POWELL** Roky Erickson & the Explosives with Billy Gibbons, *Austin City Limits*
- AUDRA SCHROEDER** Roky Erickson, Paramount Theatre
- DARCIE STEVENS** Spoon, Sound Team, La Zona Rosa
- JAY TRACHTENBERG** Road to Austin, Auditorium Shores

BEST ROADSHOW

- GREG BEETS** Stax/Volt 50th Anniversary Revue (South by Southwest), Antone’s
- JIM CALIGIURI** Richard Thompson, Texas Union Ballroom
- THOMAS FAWCETT** Roy Head, Archie Bell, Barbara Lynn, and Barbara Mason, Continental Club
- DOUG FREEMAN** Sonic Youth, Meat Puppets, Stubb’s
- MELANIE HAUPT** Eric Bachmann, Parish
- RAOUL HERNANDEZ** Boris with Michio Kurihara, Mohawk
- ANDY LANGER** Stooges (SXSW), Stubb’s
- DAVID LYNCH** Marcel Khalife, Hogg Auditorium
- MARGARET MOSER** Booker T. & the MGs, Palmer Auditorium
- AUSTIN POWELL** Boris with Michio Kurihara, Mohawk
- AUDRA SCHROEDER** Björk (ACL), Zilker Park
- DARCIE STEVENS** Gogol Bordello, Emo’s
- JAY TRACHTENBERG** William Parker Quartet, Victory Grill



SANDY CARSON

Best Roadshow:
Boris with Michio Kurihara (pictured)

LOCAL VENUE YOU VISITED THE MOST

- BEETS** Hole in the Wall
- CALIGIURI** Cactus Cafe
- FAWCETT** Emo’s
- FREEMAN** Mohawk
- HAUPT** Stubb’s
- HERNANDEZ** Stubb’s
- LANGER** Stubb’s
- LYNCH** One World Theatre
- MOSER** Continental Club
- POWELL** Mohawk
- SCHROEDER** Mohawk
- STEVENS** Mohawk
- TRACHTENBERG** Continental Club

continued on p.54

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NATIONAL TOP 10s

GREG BEETS

- 1) Loudon Wainwright III, *Strange WeirDOS: Music From and Inspired by the Film ‘Knocked Up’* (Concord)
- 2) Bruce Springsteen, *Magic* (Columbia)
- 3) Peter Case, *Let Us Now Praise Sleepy John* (Yep Roc)
- 4) LCD Soundsystem, *Sound of Silver* (DFA/Capitol)
- 5) Arctic Monkeys, *Favourite Worst Nightmare* (Domino)
- 6) The Cynics, *Here We Are* (Get Hi)
- 7) Junior Senior, *Hey Hey My My Yo Yo* (Rykodisc)
- 8) The Woggles, *Rock and Roll Backlash* (Wicked Cool)
- 9) John Doe, *A Year in the Wilderness* (Yep Roc)
- 10) The Clutters, *Don’t Believe a Word* (Chicken Ranch)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) The Dynamites Featuring Charles Walker, *Kaboom!* (Outta Sight)
- 2) Steve Earle, *Washington Square Serenade* (New West)
- 3) Ha Ha Tonka, *Buckle in the Bible Belt* (Bloodshot)
- 4) Levon Helm, *Dirt Farmer* (Vanguard)
- 5) Jason Isbell, *Sirens of the Ditch* (New West)
- 6) Norah Jones, *Thinking About You* (Blue Note)
- 7) Chuck Prophet, *Soap and Water* (Yep Roc)
- 8) Fionn Regan, *The End of History* (Lost Highway)
- 9) Sloan, *Never Hear the End of It* (Yep Roc)
- 10) Richard Thompson, *Sweet Warrior* (Shout! Factory)

THOMAS FAWCETT

- 1) Brother Ali, *The Undisputed Truth* (Rhymesayers Entertainment)
- 2) Stephen Marley, *Mind Control* (Tuff Gong/Universal)
- 3) Antibalas, *Security* (Anti-)
- 4) Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings, *100 Days, 100 Nights* (Daptone)
- 5) Mavis Staples, *We’ll Never Turn Back* (Anti-)
- 6) Common, *Finding Forever* (Geffen)
- 7) Amy Winehouse, *Back to Black* (Republic)
- 8) Bettye LaVette, *The Scene of the Crime* (Anti-)
- 9) M.I.A., *Kala* (XL/Interscope)
- 10) Saul Williams, *The Inevitable Rise and Liberation of Niggy Tardust*

DOUG FREEMAN

- 1) Band of Horses, *Cease to Begin* (Sub Pop)
- 2) Radiohead, *In Rainbows*
- 3) The National, *Boxer* (Beggars Banquet)
- 4) Rock Plaza Central, *Are We Not Horses* (Yep Roc)
- 5) The Shins, *Wincing the Night Away* (Sub Pop)
- 6) Andrew Bird, *Armchair Apocrypha* (Fat Possum)
- 7) Richard Hawley, *Lady’s Bridge* (Mute)
- 8) *Ola Podrida* (Plug Research)
- 9) MGMT, *Oracular Spectacular* (Columbia)
- 10) Feist, *The Reminder* (CherryTree)

MELANIE HAUPT

- 1) Beirut, *The Flying Club Cup* (Ba Da Bing)
- 2) Modest Mouse, *We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank* (Sony)
- 3) Feist, *The Reminder* (CherryTree)
- 4) P.J. Harvey, *White Chalk* (Island)
- 5) Sigur Rós, *Hvarf/Heim* (XL)
- 6) The Shins, *Wincing the Night Away* (Sub Pop)
- 7) Arcade Fire, *Neon Bible* (Merge)
- 8) Bloc Party, *A Weekend in the City* (Vice)
- 9) Of Montreal, *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?* (Polyvinyl)
- 10) Stars, *In Our Bedroom After the War* (Arts & Crafts)

ANDY LANGER

- 1) Jay-Z, *American Gangster* (Roc-a-Fella)
- 2) Lyle Lovett, *It’s Not Big It’s Large* (Lost Highway)
- 3) Robert Plant & Alison Krauss, *Raising Sand* (Rounder)
- 4) Kings of Leon, *Because of the Times* (RCA)
- 5) The Frames, *The Cost* (Anti-)
- 6) Sea Wolf, *Leaves in the River* (Dangerbird)
- 7) Mavis Staples, *We’ll Never Turn Back* (Anti-)
- 8) Against Me, *New Wave!* (Warner Bros.)
- 9) White Stripes, *Icky Thump* (Warner Bros.)
- 10) Josh Ritter, *The Historical Conquests of Josh Ritter* (Sony)

DAVID LYNCH

- 1) Eleni Karaindrou, *Elegy of the Uprooting* (ECM)
- 2) Andy Palacio & the Garifuna Collective, *Wátina* (Cumbancha/Stone Tree)
- 3) Tinariwen, *Aman Iman: Water Is Life* (World Village)
- 4) Arcade Fire, *Neon Bible* (Merge)
- 5) Marcel Khalife, *Taqasim* (Nagam/Connecting Cultures)

- 6) Rayssa Fatima Tabaamrant, *Taghlaghalt: Echo of the Atlas* (Institut du Monde Arabe/Harmonia Mundi)
- 7) Gilberto Gil, *Gil Luminoso* (DRG)
- 8) *The Good, the Bad & the Queen* (Virgin)
- 9) Andrew Bird, *Armchair Apocrypha* (Fat Possum)
- 10) Tord Gustavsen Trio, *Being There* (ECM)

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) Annie Lennox, *Songs of Mass Destruction* (Arista)
- 2) Mary Weiss, *Dangerous Game* (Norton)
- 3) Rihanna, *Good Girl Gone Bad* (Island/Def Jam)
- 4) Amy Winehouse, *Back to Black* (Republic)
- 5) Brandi Carlile, *The Story* (Sony)
- 6) Lucinda Williams, *West* (Lost Highway)
- 7) Linkin Park, *Minutes to Midnight* (Warner Bros.)
- 8) *The Redwalls* (Mad Dragon)
- 9) LCD Soundsystem, *Sound of Silver* (DFA/Capitol)
- 10) M.I.A., *Kala* (XL/Interscope)

DARCIE STEVENS

- 1) Beirut, *The Flying Club Cup* (Ba Da Bing)
- 2) The Besnard Lakes, *The Besnard Lakes Are the Dark Horse* (Jagjaguwar)
- 3) Arcade Fire, *Neon Bible* (Merge)
- 4) The Shins, *Wincing the Night Away* (Sub Pop)
- 5) Panda Bear, *Person Pitch* (Paw Tracks)
- 6) M.I.A., *Kala* (XL/Interscope)
- 7) Radiohead, *In Rainbows*
- 8) Amy Winehouse, *Back to Black* (Republic)
- 9) Richard Swift, *Dressed Up for the Letdown* (Secretly Canadian)
- 10) The National, *Boxer* (Beggars Banquet)

JAY TRACHTENBERG

- 1) Terence Blanchard, *A Tale of God’s Will* (Blue Note)
- 2) *Floratone* (Blue Note)
- 3) Gaudi & Nasrat Fateh Ali Khan, *Dub Qawwali* (Six Degrees)
- 4) Stephen Marley, *Mind Control* (Tuff Gong/Universal)
- 5) Pacha Massive, *All Good Things* (Nacional)
- 6) William Parker, *Corn Meal Dance* (Aum Fidelity)
- 7) Matthew Shipp, *Piano Vortex* (Thirsty Ear)
- 8) Mavis Staples, *We’ll Never Turn Back* (Anti-)
- 9) Laura Veirs, *Saltbreakers* (Nonesuch)
- 10) Wilco, *Sky Blue Sky* (Nonesuch)

LOCAL ACT YOU SAW THE MOST

- BEETS** The Ugly Beats
CALIGIURI Slaid Cleaves
FAWCETT Brownout
FREEMAN Leatherbag
HAUPT The Biscuit Brothers
HERNANDEZ Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel
LANGER Jon Dee Graham
LYNCH Magic Surprise
MOSER 3 Balls of Fire
POWELL Leatherbag
SCHROEDER Baby Robots
STEVENS White Denim
TRACHTENBERG Jon Dee Graham

BEST NEW LOCAL ACT

- BEETS** White Denim
CALIGIURI The Belleville Outfit
FAWCETT T-Bird & the Breaks
FREEMAN Mothfight
HAUPT White Denim
HERNANDEZ White Denim
LANGER The Black & White Years
LYNCH Central Time Jazz Collective
MOSER The Dead Pyrates Society
POWELL White Denim
SCHROEDER Ringo Deathstarr
STEVENS Brazos
TRACHTENBERG The Maelstrom

BEST REISSUE/BOX SET

- BEETS** Johnnie Taylor, *Live at the Summit Club*
CALIGIURI *The Traveling Wilburys*
FAWCETT Betty Davis, *They Say I’m Different*
FREEMAN Karen Dalton, *Cotton Eyed Joe*
HAUPT *The Brit Box*
HERNANDEZ Moby Grape five
LANGER Emmylou Harris, *Rare Tracks and Forgotten Gems*
LYNCH *People Take Warning! Murder Ballads & Disaster Songs, 1913-1938*
MOSER *The Heavy Metal Box*
POWELL Miles Davis, *The Complete on the Corner Sessions*
SCHROEDER Betty Davis, *They Say I’m Different*
STEVENS Depeche Mode, *Black Celebration*
TRACHTENBERG Billie Holiday, *Lady Day: The Master Takes and Singles*

BEST SOUNDTRACK

- BEETS** *Strange WeirDOS: Music From and Inspired by the Film ‘Knocked Up’*
CALIGIURI *The History Boys*
FAWCETT Jay-Z, *American Gangster*
FREEMAN *I’m Not There*
HAUPT *Dan in Real Life*
HERNANDEZ *Juno*
LANGER *Once*
LYNCH *The Simpsons Movie*
MOSER *Hairspray*
POWELL *I’m Not There*
SCHROEDER *Inland Empire*
STEVENS Kurt Cobain: *About a Son*
TRACHTENBERG *I’m Not There*

BEST MUSIC DVD

- BEETS** *You’re Gonna Miss Me*
CALIGIURI *The Johnny Cash TV Show*
FAWCETT *Respect Yourself: The Stax Records Story*
FREEMAN *You’re Gonna Miss Me*
HAUPT Sigur Rós, *Heima*



TEXAS TOP 10s

GREG BEETS

- 1) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 2) Lomita, *Downtown Mystic* (Indierect)
- 3) Mandible, *(Here Comes the) Mandible* (Almost There)
- 4) The Octopus Project, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 5) Good Times Crisis Band, *Select a Gather Point* (Australian Cattle God)
- 6) Dale Watson, *From the Cradle to the Grave* (Hyena)
- 7) Krum Bums, *As the Tide Turns* (TKO)
- 8) *The Summer Wardrobe* (Rainbow Quartz)
- 9) Zookeeper, *Becoming All Things* (Belle City Pop!)
- 10) *Future Clouds & Radar* (The Star Apple Kingdom)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) Bukka Allen, *Confidante* (Screen Door Music)
- 2) Brownout, *Homenaje* (Freestyle)
- 3) Johnny Bush, *Kashmere Gardens Mud* (Icehouse Music)
- 4) Ana Egge, *Lazy Days* (Grace/Parkinson)
- 5) Eliza Gilkyson, *Your Town Tonight* (Red House)
- 6) *Elana James* (Snarf)
- 7) Billy Joe Shaver, *Everybody's Brother* (Compadre)
- 8) Roger Wallace, *It's About Time* (Natchez Street)
- 9) Patricia Vonne, *Firebird* (Bandolera)
- 10) Kelly Willis, *Translated From Love* (Rykodisc)

THOMAS FAWCETT

- 1) Brownout, *Homenaje* (Freestyle)
- 2) Devin the Dude, *Waitin' to Inhale* (Rap-a-Lot)
- 3) UGK, *Underground Kingz* (Jive/Zomba)
- 4) Ruthie Foster, *The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster* (Blue Corn)
- 5) Omar Kent Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan, *On the Jimmy Reed Highway* (Ruf)
- 6) Patty Griffin, *Children Running Through* (ATO)
- 7) *Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears*
- 8) Scarface, *Made* (Asylum/Rap-a-Lot)
- 9) The Projeckt, *Strictly Confidential* (Armageddon)
- 10) Penname, *A Tale of Two Midis*

DOUG FREEMAN

- 1) Okkervil River, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 2) Bill Callahan, *Woke on a Whaleheart* (Drag City)
- 3) St. Vincent, *Marry Me* (Beggars Banquet)

- 4) Peel (Peek-a-Boo)
- 5) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 6) Leatherbag, *Nowhere Left to Run* (Superpop)
- 7) The Octopus Project, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 8) Dale Watson, *From the Cradle to the Grave* (Hyena)
- 9) *Voxtro* (Playloder)
- 10) The Gourds, *Noble Creatures* (Yep Roc)

MELANIE HAUPT

- 1) Okkervil River, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 2) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 3) Centro-matic, *Operation Motorcide* (Houston Party)
- 4) The Octopus Project, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 5) The Polyphonic Spree, *The Fragile Army* (TVT)
- 6) St. Vincent, *Marry Me* (Beggars Banquet)
- 7) Iron & Wine, *The Shepherd's Dog* (Sub Pop)
- 8) Matt the Electrician, *One Thing Right*
- 9) Patty Griffin, *Children Running Through* (ATO)
- 10) Masonic, *Things I Am Guilty Of*

ANDY LANGER

- 1) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 2) Patty Griffin, *Children Running Through* (ATO)
- 3) Okkervil River, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 4) Kelly Willis, *Translated From Love* (Rykodisc)
- 5) Bruce Robison, *It Came From San Antonio* (Premium)
- 6) Li'l Cap'n Travis, *Twilight on Sometimes Island* (Glurp)
- 7) Zykos, *Keep It Light* (Cult Hero)
- 8) Omar Kent Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan, *On the Jimmy Reed Highway* (Ruf)
- 9) *Voxtro* (Playloder)
- 10) White Denim, *Let's Talk About It*

DAVID LYNCH

- 1) The Sangeet Millennium Ensemble featuring Amelia Maciszewski, *Shimmering* (Sangeet Millennium)
- 2) Golden Arm Trio, *The Tick-Tock Club* (Shamrock)
- 3) Rajamani, *Forty Days/Forty Nights*
- 4) Dysfunkshun Junkshun, *Suga-Water-Purple-Groove-a-Listic* (Bad Fun)
- 5) The Octopus Project, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 6) Poor Man's Fortune, *In Good Time*

- 7) Guy Forsyth, *Unrepentant Schizophrenic Americana* (Small and Nimble)
- 8) Mundi, *The Book & the Flower* (International Rain)
- 9) Jimmy LaFave, *Cimarron Manifesto* (Red House)
- 10) Mr. Brown, *Boderation* (Coinhead)

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) 54 Seconds, *Postcards From California*
- 2) Doyle Bramhall, *Is It News* (Yep Roc)
- 3) Omar Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan, *On the Jimmy Reed Highway* (Ruf)
- 4) The Monstas, *Meet the Monstas*
- 5) Spencer Thomas, *Voodoo Dream*
- 6) Bob Spalding, *The 5th Venture*
- 7) Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights, *Crazy Crazy Baby*
- 8) The Gourds, *Noble Creatures* (Yep Roc)
- 9) Nakia, *Playing the Cards*
- 10) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)

DARCIE STEVENS

- 1) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)
- 2) St. Vincent, *Marry Me* (Beggars Banquet)
- 3) The Octopus Project, *Hello, Avalanche* (Peek-a-Boo)
- 4) *Voxtro* (Playloder)
- 5) Explosions in the Sky, *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone* (Temporary Residence)
- 6) Dale Watson, *From the Cradle to the Grave* (Hyena)
- 7) Brazos, *A City Just as Tall* (Autobus)
- 8) Okkervil River, *The Stage Names* (Jagjaguwar)
- 9) Bill Callahan, *Woke on a Whaleheart* (Drag City)
- 10) The Golden Boys, *Whiskey Flower* (Emperor Jones)

JAY TRACHTENBERG

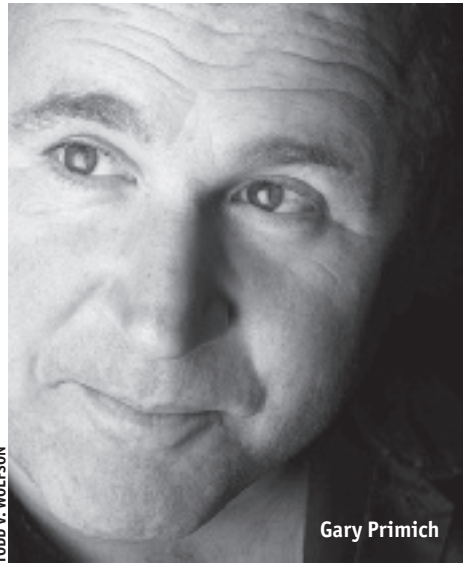
- 1) Blaze, *Night Sangin'* (Butter Vat)
- 2) Doyle Bramhall, *Is It News* (Yep Roc)
- 3) Omar Kent Dykes & Jimmie Vaughan, *On the Jimmy Reed Highway* (Ruf)
- 4) Ruthie Foster, *The Phenomenal Ruthie Foster* (Blue Corn)
- 5) Golden Arm Trio, *The Tick-Tock Club* (Shamrock)
- 6) Patty Griffin, *Children Running Through* (ATO)
- 7) Iron & Wine, *The Shepherd's Dog* (Sub Pop)
- 8) Jimmy LaFave, *Cimarron Manifesto* (Red House)
- 9) Rajamani, *Forty Days/Forty Nights*
- 10) Spoon, *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* (Merge)

CRITICS POLL :: CONTINUED

HERNANDEZ Duke Ellington Live in '58
LANGER AC/DC, *Plug Me In*
LYNCH When the Road Bends:
Tales of a Gypsy Caravan
MOSER Rolling Stones,
The Biggest Bang
POWELL You're Gonna Miss Me
SCHROEDER The Jesus Lizard, *Live*
STEVENS Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers,
Runnin' Down a Dream
TRACHTENBERG You're Gonna Miss Me

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BEETS TheAudioKitchen.net
CALIGIURI Planet Casper
FAWCETT Paying what you want
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FREEMAN Alt.country Wednesdays
at Hole in the Wall
HAUPT Beirut
HERNANDEZ Stooges at SXSW
LANGER *Guitar Hero III*, Bonnaroo
LYNCH Chain Drive
MOSER *Chicano Soul* by Ruben Molina
POWELL Western Vinyl Records
SCHROEDER AnthologyRecordings.com
STEVENS Pandora.com and the Music
Genome Project
TRACHTENBERG The timeless elegance of
Lester Young



R.I.P.

BEETS Ike Turner, Denny Doherty,
Byron Scott
CALIGIURI Gary Primich
FAWCETT Bobby Byrd, Obatallah Hayter, Pimp C
FREEMAN Hank Thompson, "Sneaky Pete"
Kleinow, Porter Wagoner, the Weary Boys
HAUPT Molly Ivins, Dan Fogelberg, Voldemort
HERNANDEZ Rollo Banks, Joe Hunter, Lydia
Mendoza, Luciano Pavarotti
LANGER Tom Snyder
LYNCH Karlheinz Stockhausen,
Ike Turner, Michael Brecker
MOSER Rollo Banks, Lady Bird Johnson,
Uncle John Turner
POWELL Lee Hazlewood, James Brown,
Karlheinz Stockhausen
SCHROEDER Lee Hazlewood, Pimp C,
Tom Snyder
STEVENS Damon O'Banion, Pimp C,
Sound Team
TRACHTENBERG Andrew Hill, Oscar
Peterson, Max Roach

LEAD STORY

Pink Justice: In parts of India's Uttar Pradesh state, according to a November BBC News dispatch, women are hopelessly oppressed by poverty, abusive husbands, and corrupt officials, but two years ago, Ms. Sampat Pal Devi got fed up. She organized bands of vigilante women (with several hundred members), dressed in pink saris, to protect their sisters using both nonviolence (heaping public shame on wrongdoers) and violence (with axes and the traditional Indian stick, the "lathi"). Said Devi: "Village society in India ... refuses to educate [women], marries them off too early [age 9, in her case], barters them for money. Village women need to study and become independent to sort it out themselves."

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

Dr. Paul Schum, 50, the principal of the Catholic Bethlehem High School in Bardstown, Ky., was arrested in October on prostitution-related charges after he was discovered loitering in an alley, dressed as a woman, in leather and fishnet stockings and with fake breasts. A local priest, presumably intending to help Dr. Schum, said dressing as a woman didn't sound like something Schum would be involved in, "[b]ut again, we're in the Halloween season." (Dr. Schum eventually resigned, and the prosecutor chose to drop the charge.)

Simple Explanations: 1) Alex Noel, 16, a finalist in Rhode Island's Great Pumpkin Weigh-Off in October, said his success raising his (1,224-pound) pumpkin was because: "You spend all your time with it. No sports. You just come home and be with the pumpkin." 2) Darren Mack, 46, pleading guilty in Las Vegas in November to murdering his wife and also accepting a judgment for attempting to kill the judge handling his divorce (after first insisting on his innocence): "I do understand ... in my [current] state of mind, that shooting at the judiciary is not a proper form of political redress."

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Failed to Master the Art of the Getaway: 1) Robert Hickey Jr., running from a Hamilton County, Tenn., sheriff's deputy in October, dashed into nearby woods, fell into a well, and had to be rescued. 2) Rudy Aguas, 25, running from a Reno, Nev., police officer in November after a failed carjacking, ducked into a building but got stuck in a freshly poured concrete floor.

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



A suspect in car break-ins, running from Miccosukee Indian Reservation police near Miami in November, dove into a retention pond but apparently failed to notice a "Live Alligator" sign and was killed by Poncho, a gator well-known to locals.

THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY

A few days after professional skier Stoil Popow was killed while kite-surfing in the rough winter waters off of Connecticut's Long Island Sound in 2004, his widow told the *Connecticut Post* that she had "begged" her husband not to go out "because it's January." Nonetheless, in November 2007, she filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in federal court, charging that her husband's tragic demise was actually caused by the town of Stratford, Conn., which was negligent in not posting warning signs along the stretch of beach used by Popow (of "hazardous and unsafe conditions") and for not having lifeguards on duty.

IRONIES

On Nov. 7, news media reported that New York City's Serendipity 3 restaurant had been noted by the Guinness World Records

for having the planet's most expensive dessert (a \$25,000 chocolate sundae, featuring, among other delicacies, edible gold flakes). On Nov. 16, the same news media reported that the city's Department of Health had ordered Serendipity 3 closed after inspectors found a live mouse in the kitchen, along with mouse droppings, fruit flies, house flies and more than 100 cockroaches.

A 21-year-old man was seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver in the early-morning hours of Nov. 3, in Suffolk County, N.Y., as he was walking away from his disabled sport utility vehicle. Police said that the victim was probably the same driver who, a few minutes earlier, had himself rear-ended a sedan and driven off without stopping. (And the day before, in Jacksonville, Fla., a 19-year-old man was seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver when he climbed over a barricade after being hit by another hit-and-run driver.)

Many of today's environment-friendly new buildings are apparently terrible for birds. According to ornithologist Daniel Klem of Muhlenberg College, between 100 million and 1 billion birds are killed each year colliding with glass, with a big culprit being the generous glass construction on buildings meeting the rigorous energy and environmental standards of the U.S. Green Building Council.

CRÈME DE LA WEIRD

Mr. Sandy Wong, 45, was sentenced in November in Edmonton, Alberta, to 90 days in jail for three counts of indecent exposure, including masturbating with his pants down while sitting on the roof of a BMW at a local agriculture fair. According to a psychiatrist, Wong said he is sexually attracted to the BMW's roof because "it's curved like a woman's body," but he also has been aroused by a 1967 Camaro, a 1965 Chevy Bel Air, a 2005 Mini Cooper, and a 1991 Buick Century.

ARMED AND CLUMSY (ALL-NEW)

More people who accidentally shot themselves recently: Opherro Jones, 32, shot himself in the stomach while allegedly pistol-whipping a man (Honolulu, June). A 23-year-old San Francisco police officer accidentally shot himself to death while demonstrating police training techniques to friends at a party (August). A 24-year-old man accidentally shot himself in the foot while aiming at a turtle (Massillon, Ohio, August). A 17-year-old boy and 19-year-old Patrick Jefferson accidentally shot themselves while "holstering" handguns in their waistbands (in, respectively, Pittsburgh, September, and Chicago, August). Eric Titov, 22, accidentally shot himself to death while fleeing from police, perhaps caused, they said, by his tripping on his baggy shorts (Houston, October).

URBAN LEGENDS COME TO LIFE

1) In Bayonne, N.J., in October, Lindsey Millar's car burned up after a squirrel, chewing on an electric line, caught fire, and its flaming carcass fell down beside the car and rolled underneath it. 2) Jacqui Dean, a member of the New Zealand Parliament, apparently became the latest prominent person to publicly fall for the H2O hoax. A constituent, perhaps intending to mock Dean's general alarm about dangerous substances, sought her help in "investigating" the "toxic" "dihydrogen monoxide," and Dean appeared to support an inquiry.

UPDATE

What was an edgy, unconventional treatment of a severe diarrhea when "News of the Weird" mentioned it in 2000 is now catching on as a remedy for the potentially deadly *Clostridium difficile* bacteria infection, according to a November report by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. "Good" bacteria in the stomach are often depleted by the antibiotics that work on (but may not remove entirely) *C. difficile*, leaving the patient with violent or chronic diarrhea. Some doctors now recommend controlling *C. difficile* by re-establishing the patient's "good" bacteria via a stool transplant from a close blood relative, who should have similar intestinal conditions. The donated stool (providing that a loving, straight-faced relative is found) is mixed with saline and administered by enema.

(CORRECTION: Last week, "News of the Weird" reported that the Army Corps of Engineers had admitted that an earlier calculation of improvement it had made in strengthening the levees in two New Orleans neighborhoods, which it said would withstand floods 5 feet higher than the level during Hurricane Katrina, was wrong and that the levees could withstand floods only 6 inches higher.

(However, the corps subsequently corrected its correction and now stands by its initial report of improvement of more than 5 feet.)

UNDIGNIFIED DEATHS

1) A 32-year-old man was found dead, stuck in the cat door of his girlfriend's St. Augustine, Fla., house after she had kicked him out. Said a friend, "[H]is head was caught ... like he was [trying] to reach up and unlock the door." 2) A 46-year-old construction worker fell to his death in November in Custer County, S.D., after co-workers had raised him, in a boom, 30 to 40 feet off the ground so that he could try to get cell-phone reception, but the boom's truck tipped over backward.

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RM #2685/07_V2

calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

Thursday 03

ECLECTIC VEGETARIAN Central Market chef Mark Holom shares tasty recipes full of healthy veggies, fruits, and grains today, including marinated asparagus salad, grilled peppers & tofu, crispy potatoes in sesame-tamari sauce, and more. 6:30-9pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. \$40.

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

HATHA YOGA WITH PAMELA 8-9am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.

THE 90S ONE-HIT WONDERS SING-ALONG: VOL. 2 Billy Ray Cyrus. The Spin Doctors. Deee-lite. Need we say more? Well, maybe one more thing: Be prepared to be hoarse by the end of the show. 9:45 & 11:55pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. \$12.

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS For anyone suffering from anxiety, depression, anger, phobias, or other emotional problems. Mondays, 7:30-9pm: Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Rd. Thursdays, 7:30-9pm: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Parish Office Building, room 210, 4800 Convict Hill. 233-0650. Free. www.recovery-inc.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Blade Runner: The Final Cut @ Paramount, 7:30pm

Tourist Trap @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Emo's Free Week, Part 1 Emo's

The Service Industry, the Ideals Room 710

Suzanna Choffel, Jade Day Hole in the Wall

Friday 04

ALTERNATIVE RADIO has Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Al Gore** speaking on the U.S. Constitution. 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-cranies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin's history and geography to life. Fri-Sat., 8pm. 853-9826. www.hauntedtexas.com.

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

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Blade Runner: The Final Cut @ Paramount, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Low Line Caller Stubb's

Emo's Free Week, Part 2 Emo's

Acid Tomb Beerland

Low Red Center The Opera House

Marcia Ball Antone's

the young ones

VICTOR PETER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This \$500 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Society of Texas is available to graduating high school seniors. To apply, address one of the following two topics in a 300-word essay: 1) **A Family Member Who Represents Czech Heritage** or 2) **A Family Member Who Contributed to the Czech Heritage in the United States**. (Applicants need not be of Czech origin to apply.) Call for more details. Deadline: Feb. 28. 281/342-4898.

SPRING TEEN FILMMAKING WORKSHOP Austin filmmaker Kat Candler teaches this course on screenwriting, directing, scheduling, marketing, festivals, and more. Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin School of Film, 906 E. Fifth #106, 236-8877. \$550. www.storieproductions.com.

HAND TALK is a weekly sign language class for kids (1-2pm), with a follow-up session for adults (2-3pm). Saturdays. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free. www.mitchie.com.

LATINITAS NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST FOR GIRLS *Latinitas*, Austin's own homegrown online magazine for girls, invites Latina youth ages 14-21 to submit 800- to 1,000-word essays explaining "What It Is to Be Latina." The winning submissions will be published both in print and online. E-mail for further details. Deadline: Feb. 10. latinitasawards@yahoo.com, www.latinitasmagazine.org.

MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES are designed to nurture children's musical abilities between the critical developmental stages of

infanthood and kindergarten. Call to reserve your spot in one of several free sample classes offered this week. Thu-Fri., Jan. 3-4, 10:15am, 11:15, 3:15, 4:15pm. Heartsong Music, 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.

WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER feature a new theme every day for ages 5-7 (like Animals in Winter, Beauty & the Creek, and Amazing Space), as well as ages 8-11 (with topics like Super Science, Migration & Hibernation, and Underground Adventurers.) Thu-Fri., Jan. 3-4, 8am-5pm. (Weather Works Camp for ages 5-7: Mon., Jan. 7, 8am-5pm). Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8181. \$40 per day. www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc.

Where Fashion Meets American History: Final Week

[SEE ONGOING, IN CITIZEN'S GARB]

Saturday 05

ARTIST'S MARKET features paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, candles, and more from new artists each week. All items are handmade locally, with no imports or resales. Live music throughout the day. Most Saturdays, 10am-6pm (check website for changes). Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free. www.downtownartistmarket.com.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

FIVE SECRETS TO PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS A class for the new you of this new year. 3pm. Natural Health Center of Austin, 4701 West Gate Blvd. Ste. B-202, 892-3366. Free.

HAND TALK This weekly sign language class has a special session for kids (1-2pm) before the adult session begins (2-3pm). Saturdays. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.

MAKING A LIVING IN ARCHAIC TIMES: A NEW VIEW OF SLAUGHTER CREEK Register online for this archaeologist-led hike through Balcones Canyonland's Water Quality Protection property. 10-11:30am. Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, 24518 FM 1431, just past Lago Vista, 512/339-9432.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE! Not a Pay-as-You-Throw customer with the city? That doesn't mean they won't recycle your tree for you. Just drop it off today (minus the stand and ornaments) at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields), and the city will grind it into mulch, which will be given away free later this month. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm for details. (If you are a Pay-as-You-Throw customer, just leave your tree at your curb on your yard-trimming/recycling pickup day.) Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 10am-4pm.

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free. www.austinsahajayoga.org.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET has all the locally produced fresh foods you could ever want, plus lots of nice local farmers to sell 'em to you. Consistently voted to be among the top farmers' markets in the country (most recently by the Audubon Society and *Eating Well* magazine), SVFM is celebrating its 10th year, so stop by, and tell them happy birthday. Saturdays, 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS (See Friday.)

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS (See Friday.)



Chief Quanah Parker,
circa 1888-1891

COURTESY OF THE JOE SWAMTEL COLLECTION

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Blade Runner: The Final Cut @ Paramount, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Emo's Free Week, Part 2 Emo's

Terroristic Room 710

Sister Carol Flamingo Cantina

Soilent Green Red 7

Capricorn Chillout 2 Beauty Bar

Night Viking The Opera House

Ted Roddy's 22nd annual Elvis Tribute Continental Club

Sunday 06

ATHEIST COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN LECTURE SERIES Join special guest Don Rhoades today for a presentation on **Freethinkers of Texas**. 12:15pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 371-2911. Free. www.atheist-community.org.

EXPLORE THE STORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN BEADWORK Join Comanche powwow dancer **Jhane Myers-Noisecat**, who shares with you her award-winning traditional beadworking techniques on the closing day of the special exhibit "In Citizen's Garb: Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891." 1-4pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free (with admission, \$3-5.50). tshn.news@thetoryoftexas.com, www.thetoryoftexas.com.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM presents **Social Computing: How Peer-to-Peer Networks Will Eclipse Institutional Power**, a talk from Forrester Research's David Kobierowski. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnuu.org.

TRANSFORMATIONAL YOGA WITH CHUCK MORROW ON SITAR 6-7:30pm. Metamorphosis Dance Academy, 900 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, 512/876-7836. \$15.

UTTER READING SERIES continues its fine tradition of the freshest of the cream from the Austin literary farm on this perennial day of battle in *Elvis vs. Bowie*. Tue., Jan. 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

JAZZY JAZZ bee doo skoo bops *This Jazzman*. Wed., Jan. 9, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

AUSTIN JEWISH ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Fourth- through seventh-grade students and parents are welcome to tour AJA's middle school this evening and meet with administrators, faculty, parents, students, and alumni. Thu., Jan. 10, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin Jewish Academy, 7300 Hart Ln., 735-8350. Free. www.austinjewishacademy.org.

UNTITLED Take a new approach to faith for the new year. This group of “post-college, pre-kids” young professionals hopes to offer an alternative to mainstream church and meets regularly to discuss life and faith. 10am. Quad 5-C at Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Free. www.riverbend.com.

WARBLERS, WILDLANDS & WATER A two-hour guided hike promising great views of the Colorado River as you wind through the golden-cheeked warbler's spring breeding grounds. Register online. 2-4:30pm. Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, 24518 FM 1431, just past Lago Vista, 263-6437. www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland.



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE! (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Blade Runner: The Final Cut @ Paramount, 2, 4:30, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week, Part 2 Emo's
Jacuzzi Boys Beerland
Ted Roddy's 22nd annual Elvis Tribute Broken Spoke

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 18 issue is Monday, Jan. 7.** 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 below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

L-WORD PREMIERE Tasha's flashbacks! Max a-packin'!! A pom named Sounder?!!!!leventyone. Holy Jenny. Join **HRC Austin** and **Foodies** this Sunday for a brand new episode of **The L Word**. This year, there will be two showings of the same episode. Note: The event is free with suggested donation to HRC of \$10. We suggest you donate. Click through the HRC website, and find the Austin Premiere page to RSVP. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. Free; \$10 suggested donation. www.hrc.org/lword.

HRC AUSTIN GALA DINNER New year! New date! New location! New attitude! This is the **Human Rights Campaign's** big'un, the once-a-year gala (previously held in mid-March during spring break and South by Southwest) where local folks are recognized for their contributions to the cause. What cause? Justice for all. And a fabulous wardrobe. (We threw in that last part.) Watch this space for more info on who's appearing and what to expect. For now, check HRC's site. Sat., Jan. 26, 6pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 800/494-TIXS (8492). austindinner@hrc.org, www.hrcaustin.org, www.boxofficetickets.com/hrc.

MYSPACE IS FOR QUEERS Queers named **Gay Place**. Yup. We are on the **MySpace**, unabashed in our quest to crack 2,999. (Who said “ho”?) We'd be proud to have you as our friend. Check our occasional specially themed top friends, and see if you make the cut. gayplace@austinchronicle.com, www.myspace.com/gayplace.

NEW TO TOWN? JUST VISITING? WHERE THE QUEERS AT? Welcome to Austin! Don't know where to go, you big beautiful queer? Let our **Austin Chronicle GAYTX Fun Guide** assist you. Updated, and more, more, more. How do you like it, baby? www.austinchronicle.com/gaytx.

BLOGGIN' IN A GAY PLACE STYLE C'mon to our cybersphere, you hottie cuties, you, and come comment on what we do. Yup. We blog. True dat. Come comment. Maybe win yourself a nice unicorn or T-shirt or something. Or go naked for all we care. 454-5766. gayplace@austinchronicle.com, austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.

LADIES OF THE EIGHTIES Bitchin'! Kissing booth. Tubular! Eighties costume contest. Gnarly! Gag me with **DJ Pumpkin Spice** spinning tunes from women from, you guessed it, the same era of big hair and Hypercolor (suddenly back in style)! Yo! Imagine breakdancing in a smokey goth bar filled to the brim with ladies shaking it. To the Eighties. All to benefit **Equality Texas**. **Radical! Thu., Jan. 10, 9:30pm.** Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$10 (\$8, advance). www.eqfed.org/eqtx.

MLK MARCH, RALLY, AND COMMUNITY FESTIVAL Step up. Get in line. Join **Rep. Dawwna Dukes** in the annual march from UT to H-T. The ideals and accomplishments of the good Rev. Martin Luther King save the hurts of all struggles. It's all part of one large struggle, now, isn't it? Come together. (Check the website for march route and details.) Mon., Jan. 21, 9am. From the MLK Statue on the UT Campus to the Huston-Tillotson Campus. www.mlkcelebration.com/marchandrally.php.

FIRST FRIDAY DINNER CLUB This group of professional gay men and women meets on the first Friday of each month. Hence the name. Fri., Jan. 4. joshloker@prideofaustin.com, firstfridays-subscribe@yahoo.com.

For more gay stuff, see *Calendar* online: austinchronicle.com.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Gay Place's Top 10 Queer Doin's 2007

ALL THE DOORS THAT OPENED FROM THE CLOSET TO THE MEN'S ROOM

BY KATE GETTY AND KATE X MESSER

1) While peckers like the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, **Gen. Peter Pace**, made the headlines, the noble **rebutters and straight allies** who stood up for us were lucky to get quoted in the jump. We'd like to change that. In the Senate hearing, replying to outgoing Gen. Pace, who just could not keep his twisted sense of moral entitlement and homophobic lunacy to himself, **Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin** retorted, “I want to make it clear that we don't have laws in this country any longer against homosexuality and against gay relationships.” And while the **Employment Non-Discrimination Act** passed the House, sadly without (trans-) gender-identity protection, the monumental baby step was put into perspective by **Georgia Rep. John Lewis**, who offered this impassioned reflection: “During the 1960s, we brought down those signs that said ‘white’ and ‘colored.’ Call it what you may: To discriminate against someone because they are gay is wrong. It is wrong. It is not right.” The year 2007, which saw the passage in the U.S. House and Senate of the **Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act**, would have not been what it was were it not for the quiet dignity of Shepard's parents, **Judy and Dennis Shepard**. Locally, **Atticus Circle**, a straight allies group founded in 2004 by human-rights champion and local attorney **Anne Wynne**, hosted **Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights** to correspond with **National Coming Out Week** this past October.

2) It was just too easy. After a while, we didn't even want to cover it, but plots just kept twisting, like so much water down the loo-chute. Republican homophobes caught toe-tapping, man-grunting for some **man love in the men's room**, all a-flush with stalled political careers. How unsanitary. We hope that Idaho **Sen. Larry Craig** and Florida **Rep. Bob Allen** learned how to hover – or at least made use of those toilet-seat protectors. You never know what you're gonna catch in the john ... or rather *which* john.

3) More than 300 volunteers, \$60,000 in fully sponsored smackeroos, and 11 build days later, and local grandmother **Marta** can now take the hard-earned money she was spending to live in squalor and apply it to an interest-free mortgage in a brand-new house courtesy of her own sweat equity and **Pride Build 2007**, the hard work and big hearts of an Austin gay community that came together to pull off this amazing **Habitat for Humanity** project. So amazing, they are prepping their calendars for **Pride Build 2008**.

4) Despite the declining number of gay characters on mainstream TV, **gay visibility in mainstream media** seemed to intensify. From **Air America's Dr. Rachel Maddow's** guest appearances on network and cable news programs and whispers of **CNN's** hunky metrosexual **Anderson Cooper's** orientation to daring and darling straight allies like **Jon Stewart**, **Stephen Colbert**, and **Cyndi Lauper's** awesome **True Colors** tour, cable “out”-lets like **Logo** and **Here!** were not the only repositories of queer voices heard. Here in Austin, niche marketing was gay marketing, and slick rags began to equal, if not outnumber, newsprint club rags (you know, the ones with plenty of phone numbers for lonely guys and pictures of packages – *bulging* packages). **Fave**, born out of the notion that “there needs to be a **Brilliant** for gay men,” and **L Style G Style**, employing a clever flip-book device to distinguish between the gay male and gay female sections of the mag, focused on the pretty side of being a homosexual consumer, while the venerable **Shout Magazine** entered its third year of fabulous arts and events coverage for Texas gay folk. A little light reading for those a little light in the loafers? Oh, and **The Austin Chronicle** launched the **Gay Place** blog.

5) While the gays were less visible on TV in general, three of the most interesting characters on TV were one form of trans or another: **Rebecca Romijn** as **Alexis Meade** on **ABC's Ugly Betty** (inciting an apology from the dorky **Jimmy Kimmel** after some insensitive stupidity in an interview on his show); young **Aidan Mitchell** (holy crap, keep your eyes on this kid's career) portraying **Sam Malloy**, a boy who finds comfort wearing girls' clothing on **FX's The Riches**; and, of course, **Daniela Sea** as **Moir** (**Max**) on Showtime's **The L Word**.

6) Not all **closets** explode as loud and proud as **Ellen's** on-air declaration (10 years ago, can you believe it?!), but this year, some pleasant fuses were lit, as well as some no-duhs. **Jodie Foster**, thank you. Refreshing! Your style, your wit, your grace. Soaking up the spotlight, handling sexual orientation with ease – because it's really just no big deal. **John Amaechi**, **Suze Orman**, thank you. The duhs included the guy who played **Niles** on **Frasier**, **Siegfried & Roy** (who were they kidding? **Liberace**? Their lions?), **Anderson Cooper** (OK, not quite yet, but if we just keep saying it over and over ...), and even little **T.R. Knight** from **Grey's Anatomy** after co-star **Isaiah Washington** dropped the F-bomb and was banished to **Bionic Woman**. How about **Marcia** from the **Brady Bunch**? Or **Lindsay Lohan** and that hot DJ? Or **Ricky Martin's** hairdresser who outs the She Banger with every trim? Or that butchy personal trainer photographed next to **Queen Latifah** nearly every week? The best one, by far? **Dumbledore**. **Harry Potter** topped. **Dumbledore** bottomed. *Smashing!*

7) **University of Texas' Queer Student Alliance** busted hump all last year to host the first ever **Queer Texas Conference**. Featuring **Kate Bornstein** as keynote, the weekend event offered intelligent forums, discussions, and panels, bringing together LGBT leaders from across the state. QSA also produced a 200-page report about the state of homosexuals on campus. The results: gender-neutral restrooms, HIV testing, health-center forms that no longer assume heterosexuality, and some much-needed review of married-student housing policy. Tweaks to the system. College kids did it. We believe the children are our future.

8) It's hard to believe that ol' **G-Dub** is just about out of office (not soon enough). But it's easy to remember the tricks used to get him there. The latest straw polls seem to indicate that the latest straw men may look a little less gay and married and a little more south of the border, as **immigration eclipses gay marriage** as the hot-button detonator. Either device is divisively heinous, and hopefully the tactics will be the last straw in a long line of right vs. left sleaziness. We shall see come November.

9) For lezzies in Austin, the livin' is pretty easy, except for the fact that there remains no dyke bar. **Ladies nights** sprung up like ironic faux-hawks this year. The **Cock Pit** morphed into **CP**, humping out **Wanted Wednesdays**, which came and went, making way for **De'or**, which changed its name to **KISS**. *Phew!* **The Peacock** and **Foodies'** Miss **Kitty** hosted **Coochie Coo**, the **Rainbow Cattle Co.** roped 'em in, **Nueva Onda** challenged with **Trivia Night**, the **Light Bar** offered **Candy Bar**, and many of the nonprofits began hosting regular women's events. Finally, calendars filled with dance parties, karaoke, and places to mingle in all our glorious lez-ness.

10) No python. No hot homoerotic kiss. Just listless, bikini- and boot-clad Brit and, like, 99 dancers. Was it just us, or did **Britney Spears** on **MTV's Video Music Awards** look more sedated than usual? Not sedate. Sedated. She's was markedly thicker, too. (Personally, we are down with Britney's rears, so bring it on. Keep eating, sister.) But she looked so sad. Like circus-pony sad. Like circus pony with a broken leg whom they rolled out way before she properly healed sad. Like her pal the docile, caged tiger dosed with THC sad. We blogged live about La Brit's MTV comeback as the opener for this annual awards orgy. And so did just about every gay male in America. **Here's to a grrr-8 2008!**

Ongoing Events

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS is a 12-step program for people interested in overcoming codependence and developing healthy relationships. *Tuesdays, 7pm: Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 263-1037. Wednesdays, 7pm: Garden Terrace Residence, 1015 W. William Cannon, 243-0884. Fridays, 6:30pm: Shoal Creek Hospital, 3501 Mills, 243-0884. sunny55@austin.rr.com.*

REVEALING CAPITOL TREASURES The Capitol Visitors Center's newest exhibit features artifacts found during archaeological digs on the Capitol grounds, historic artwork and photos of the building, the original tools used to place the Goddess of Liberty atop the dome, and other Capitol curiosities. *Through Jan. 27. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.*

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST You could be the one who decides what 5,000 runners will be wearing in Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K this spring – and win \$1,000 while you're at it. You may submit up to three designs; you must be at least 13 years old to participate. Mail entries to: *Schlotzsky's 2008 Bun Run T-Shirt Design Contest, 301 Congress #100, Austin, TX 78701. Deadline: Jan. 15. www.bunrun.com.*

FREE COUNSELING FOR VETERANS Samaritan Counseling Center offers free counseling services to those who've served in Afghanistan or Iraq, as well as to the parents, children, siblings, spouses, and partners of servicemen and women. Call or e-mail for details. *Samaritan Counseling Center, 5425-A Burnet Rd., 451-7337. hopeforheroes@samaritan-center.org, www.samaritan-center.org.*

WINE & FOOD FOUNDATION GRANT Any Texas business, resident, or organization involved with an educational project or program dealing with the culinary and viticulture arts is eligible to apply

for \$25,000 in grant money through the Wine & Food Foundation. Past winners have included the Sustainable Food Center and KLRU-TV. See www.winefoodfoundation.org for application and details. *Deadline: Feb. 15.*

★ **VALLEY LAND FUND WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST** With 98% of Texas' lands privately owned, the future of the state's wildlife lies, for better or worse, in the hands of property owners. This annual photography competition rewards these environmental stewards for good behavior by pairing them with talented photographers who will capture on film the natural beauty of their wildlife-friendly properties. Participants are eligible to win \$130,000 in prizes for their work. See www.valleylandfund.com for details. *Registration: through Feb. 29.*

SPANISH A TU GUSTO Sign up now for these adult conversational Spanish classes beginning mid-January. *Intermediate: Fridays, 5:30-7:30pm, Jan. 18-March 28; beginners: Saturdays, Jan. 19-March 29, noon-2pm. Downtown, private residence. \$275. june@spanishatugusto.com, www.spanishatugusto.com.*

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION SUMMER CAMP is seeking volunteer camp counselors interested in working this summer with youth (ages 6-21) who have neuromuscular diseases. Call 800/572-1717 or see www.mda.org/clinics/camp for application details.

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT ... EN ESPAÑOL! The Yellow Bike Project – which, among other things, holds bike-repair workshops, donates bicycles to area kids, and releases free yellow bikes into the wild for anyone who needs them – has launched a new Spanish-language version of their website, which you should check out, here: www.austinyellowbike.org/home_esp.htm. You should also drop in on their new bilingual bike-repair shop on Mondays, 6-10pm, at the Main Shop, 2013 E. 51st.

CANCER CONNECTION seeks cancer survivors and their loved ones who can provide emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. The next

orientation session is *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 25-26. See www.thecancerconnection.org* for details. 342-0233.

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 CALENDARS It's here. It's hot. And it's for a good cause. Let Austin's firefighters keep you on schedule this year as they grace the pages of two 2008 calendars (one with Austin's female firefighters in it, the other with the men) benefiting the **Austin Firefighters' Fund**. 441-7572. \$15. austinfoirefightersfund@yahoo.com, www.austinfoirefighterscalendar.com.

SIMS VOLUNTEERS ROCK! This new program needs dedicated volunteers to help get the word out about the SIMS Foundation's work providing mental-health services to Austin musicians. You'll be going to music events or working in the office. Call or e-mail if you're interested. 791-4929. volunteerinfo@simsfoundation.org, www.simsfoundation.org.

★ **CHARTER REVISION SURVEY** The city of Austin Charter Revision Committee seeks your input regarding possible revisions of how City Council elections are conducted. Go to www.cityofaustin.org/charter to let the committee know which system you'd prefer. *Deadline: Jan. 23.*

★ **LOCKS OF LOVE HAIR DRIVE** Every Tuesday through Thursday at Avant Salon this month, you may donate your hair to kids in need. Your hair will be made into a wig for a child who has lost hair due to illness, and in exchange, you'll get your hair shampooed, cut, and styled for free. Call to make your appointment. *Through Jan. 31. Avant: 318 Colorado, 472-6357; 9901 Capital of TX Hwy., 502-8268.*

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY convenes its annual meeting in Austin this year, featuring five days of exhibits, seminars, and presentations about all that sparkly stuff we see in the sky every night and all of our efforts to get a little bit closer to it. See www.aas.org. *Mon.-Fri., Jan. 7-11. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461.*

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT is seeking Crisis Response Team volunteers

to work with Victim Services counselors in responding to distress calls from people involved in crisis situations. Volunteers should have some background in crisis intervention or counseling; training begins *Fri., Jan. 18*. Applications are available at www.ci.austin.tx.us/police. 974-4286.

THIS WEEK ONLY

★ **RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!** Pay-as-You-Throw customers may leave your trees (minus the stand and ornaments) curbside on your yard-trimming/recycling pickup days. Those who are not Pay-as-You-Throw customers may still recycle your trees: Just drop them off at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields); *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 10am-4pm*. All trees will be ground into mulch, which will be given away free later this month. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm for details.

★ **IN CITIZEN'S GARB: SOUTHERN PLAINS NATIVE AMERICANS, 1889-1891** explores how life changed in the late 1800s for the Kiowa and Comanche tribes that were forced by the U.S. government to adopt Euro-American lifestyles. Don't miss this exhibit's closing-day activities featuring Comanche powwow dancer **Jhane Myers-Noisecat**, who'll be sharing with you her award-winning traditional beadworking techniques. *Through Jan. 6. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. \$5.50 (\$4.50, seniors/military; \$3, kids ages 5-18). www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

★ **STAR OF TEXAS TATTOO ART REVIVAL** features three days of art shows, clinics, exhibits, and special guest-artist appearances. Festivities start early with Thursday's prep work and Gary Martin Art Show at River City Tattoo, 718½ Congress. See www.golivefast.com/contentsaus.php for details. *Jan. 4-6. Fri.-Sat., noon-10pm; Sun., noon-7pm (preparty: Thu., Jan. 3, 4-9pm). Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. \$40, weekend (\$15, single day).*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

2007 was the year that was. It came in as a lamb and went out as a tired, old goat. It's hard to complain about a year that didn't have a Katrina or a 9/11.

For day-trippers, good news came from the 80th Texas Legislature. Texas state and local parks finally received a boost in funding. After years of neglect and a \$125 million backlog in repairs, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department received a \$5 million boost to their \$20.6 million budget. Besides money for operating the park, the Lege budgeted \$25 million for repairs to the battleship *Texas* and \$27 million for major infrastructure repairs at state parks.

Kudos to state Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, for finally ushering the spending through the House. The bill also includes \$36.3 million for local park grants and \$52 million in bonding authority.

But the Lege gives and the Lege takes away. The bill transfers 18 state historic sites from TPWD to the Texas Historical Commission. The list includes the Landmark Inn in Castroville, the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Casa Navarro in San Antonio, and the Starr Family Home in Marshall.

And then Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick showed again that he can't play nice with other members by blocking the \$2 million to save the Texas State Railroad. The beleaguered historical railroad between Rusk and Palestine has been on the verge of closure for the last few years. Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, got lawmakers to approve a Texas State Railroad Authority, but Craddick refused to let the money be spent. We'll have to wait and see if the trains will actually run in time to see the dogwood blooms.

At Lake Tawakoni State Park, 50 miles east of Dallas, it was the spiders that were making news. Scientists believe that thousands of spiders from different species worked together to make a web that stretched nearly 200 yards. Twelve kinds of spiders worked on the communal web that caught countless bugs and national attention.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water, a Nacogdoches man was in critical but stable condition after being infected with flesh-eating bacteria during a swim, July 8 at Crystal Beach in Galveston County. The 58-year-old man was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis, a tissue-destroying disease caused by the *Vibrio* bacterium. Doctors said healthy swimmers probably had nothing to fear but those with open wounds or chronic illnesses shouldn't wade into the Gulf of Mexico during the summer months.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

Mother Neff State Park

In Lubbock, the divide between the city and Buddy Holly's estate got a little wider this year. The City Council rescinded a 1995 resolution creating the Buddy Holly Walk of Fame and Buddy Holly Terrace, after Maria Elena Holly asked for \$10,000 in annual licensing fees. The locations will now be known as the West Texas Walk of Fame and the West Texas Terrace.

Previously, the city changed the name of the Buddy Holly Music Festival after Ms. Holly increased the fee for the event held around the musician's Sept. 7 birthday. The concert is now known as the Lubbock Music Festival. Ms. Holly still gets a percentage of the Buddy Holly Museum's gift-shop sales.

This past year, everyone from farmers to swimmers was happy with one of the wettest springs in recent memory. West Texas and the Panhandle enjoyed a March with more than 4 inches of moisture in an area that normally gets less than 2 inches.

But the long-term outlook isn't that rosy. Researchers at Columbia University said that Texas and the Southwest will see a trend of drier and hotter weather over the next two decades. Computer models conclude that the region will face serious drought conditions as early as 2021. While the droughts of the Dust Bowl and the 1950s were driven by natural temperature variations, the forecasted water shortage is the result of higher global temperatures.

And finally, what is hosting a Super Bowl worth? The Dallas City Council's bid for Super Bowl XLV in 2011 included an exemption from all local taxes. At the same time Dallas law enforcement, fire, and medical services will provide free game-related services.

861st 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

EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO THE COLORADO RIVER TRAIL highlights attractions, parks, entertainment, museums, recreation, and events along a 500-mile-plus section of Central Texas. *San Saba to Matagorda, 800/776-5272 x3399. Free. ecodex@lcra.org, www.lcra.org.*

GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL showcases numerous groups from around the nation and the area, including Rockport's Gospel Force, the Melody Boys, Crimson River, and comedian David Fountain. *Fri.-Sun., Jan. 4-6. Martha Luigi Auditorium at Rockport-Fulton High School and First Baptist Church, Rockport, 361/790-1105. www.gospelforce.org.*

LO AND BEHOLD showcases the art of folk artists Mike Miller, Tom Sale, the Rev. Johnnie Swearingen, and L.T. Thomas. The gallery is a depository for folk art collected from around the South. *Through Feb. 17. Saturdays & Sundays. Webb Art Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085. Free. www.webbartgallery.com.*

BALD EAGLE TOURS goes in search of the American Bald Eagles that winter along the upper Colorado River on a triple-decker boat. Winery tour and sunset cruises also available. Reservations required. *Saturdays, 9am. Vanishing River Cruises, Canyon of the Eagles, Lake Buchanan, 512/756-6986. \$33. www.vtrc.com.*

FORT BEND COUNTY ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE MARKET takes over three entire buildings out at the county fairgrounds, making it one of the largest antique markets in the Houston area. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6. County Fairgrounds, Rosenberg, 877/840-3829. \$5. www.cwgs.com.*

ROBOTIC BUGS takes a look at common insects in proportions of 40 to 120 times their actual size to illustrate the complexity of insect eyes, mouths, and sensory organs. *Jan. 7-Feb. 22. Killeen Civic & conference Center, Killeen, 254/501-3888. www.kokorodinosaurus.com.*

WINDOWS ON TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL includes live music, conferences, musician showcases, and films. *Thu.-Sun., Jan. 10-13. Various locations, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2197. Free. www.texasrebelradio.com.*

Monday 07

AUSTIN AREA QUILT GUILD MEETING features a talk-and-trunk show of Civil War quilts, presented by Denise Lipscomb. 10am & 7pm. Faith Lutheran Church, 6600 Woodrow. Free. www.aaqg.org.

AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING First and third Mondays, 7pm. Austin International Youth Hostel, 2200 Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle.

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS (See Thursday, 1/3.)

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

Tuesday 08

CHICAS VERDES Are you an eco-minded lady looking for other green girls to hang out with? Check out Chicas Verdes' monthly meeting, which today features special guest Effie Brunson, who works with **Rays of Hope** to provide solar energy systems (and their financial savings) to low-income homeowners. First Tuesdays, 11:45am (January's meeting falls on the second Tuesday of the month). Mekong River, 215 E. Sixth, 236-8878.

FIRST TUESDAY BENEFIT If you eat at Fish City Grill today, 15% of your proceeds will benefit Austin's **Ronald McDonald House**. Fish City Grill, 4200 S. Lamar #300, 442-FISH.

LONESTAR MENSA gathers for the annual **Mensa Soap-Box** today, wherein various Mensa members will treat you to their views on random topics of their choosing. All are welcome. 7-8:45pm. North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson, 491-9881. Free. www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

SIERRA CLUB This month's general meeting brings you Public Citizen's Tom "Smitty" Smith, SEED's Karen Hadden, and the Sierra Club's Cyrus Reed and Donna Hoffman with **What's a Nuke-Free Texas?**, the

first of a series of discussions planned for this year on the future of electricity generation in Texas. 7pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

SINGLE VOLUNTEERS OF AUSTIN Wanna meet with other philanthropic singles just like you? Check out tonight's monthly meeting of Austin's only club for single volunteers. Second Tuesdays, 6:30-8pm. Dave & Buster's, 9333 Research Ste. A-600, 346-8015. Free. www.singlevolunteers.org/austin.

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS (See Friday.)

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week, Part 2 *Emo's*
Alejandro Escovedo *Continental Club*

Wednesday 09

UNWINE WEDNESDAYS feature wine-tastings and educational sessions spotlighting a new wine or cocktail every week. Your membership fee buys you your own personalized wine glass kept at the Belmont for your use. Wednesdays, 6-8pm. The Belmont, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300. \$25 one-time membership fee. www.thebelmontaustin.com.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week, Part 2 *Emo's*
Flatcar Rattlers, Rogue River String Band, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, Lonesome Heroes *Hole in the Wall*

Thursday 10

THE 90S ONE-HIT WONDERS SING-ALONG: VOL. 2 (See Thursday, 1/3.)

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS (See Thursday, 1/3.)

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week, Part 2 *Emo's*
The DeWayn Brothers *Mohawk*
The Word Association *Red 7*
George Strait *Frank Erwin Center*

Sports BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY See **Take a Kid to the Game Night** (below) for more. **Men's Basketball** Vs. Hustin-Tillotson: *Thu., Jan. 3, 7:30pm.* Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10, 8pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10, 6pm.* St. Edward's RCC. \$5 (\$3 seniors/students; \$1, under 12). www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

AUSTIN TOROS For more on the Toros see austinchronicle.com/sports. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 4-5, 7pm.* Vs. Albuquerque: *Thu., Jan. 10, 7pm.* Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. East Texas Baptist University: *Thu., Jan. 3, 7:30pm.* Vs. LeTourneau University: *Sat., Jan. 5, 3pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. East Texas Baptist University: *Thu., Jan. 3, 5:30pm.* Vs. LeTourneau: *Sat., Jan. 5, 1pm.* athletics.concordia.edu.

AUSTIN ICE BATS Vs. Mississippi: *Fri., Jan. 4, 7:35pm.* Vs. Corpus Christi: *Sat., Jan. 5, 7:35pm.* Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 927-7825. \$9-35. www.icebats.com.

TAKE A KID TO THE GAME NIGHT St. Edward's University is inviting all area youth 14 and younger to check out some NCAA basketball and receive a free ticket with the purchase of one full-priced adult ticket. The official NCAA basketball mascot, J.J. Jumper, will be in attendance and is certain to get the joint rockin'. Vs. Newman: *Thu., Jan. 10, 6 (women) & 8pm (men).* Recreation and Convocation Center, 233-1637. athletics.concordia.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Saint Mary's (Calif.): *Sat., Jan. 5, 5pm.* Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. **Women's Basketball** Vs. UT-Pan American: *Fri., Jan. 4, 7pm.* Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. **Men's and Women's Swimming** Vs. Auburn: *Thu., Jan. 10, 3pm.* Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. www.texasports.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN RIDGE RIDERS Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at various bike trails throughout Austin. Check website for details. *Wed., Jan. 9, 6pm.* www.austinridgeriders.com.

ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION The Austin Recreation Center invites all to come out and have a good

time kickin' the ball around. Registration is for teams only. Eight games. Registration period: *Jan. 3-Feb. 5.* Season begins the week of Feb. 11. Games played Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. Gillis Park, 2526 Durwood St., 476-5662. \$195/team. www.leaguelineup.com/cityofaustinkickball.

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE will include lots of new and used golf equipment, plus putting and closest-to-the-pin contests, and free 30-minute golf lessons. *Sat., Jan. 5, 8am.* Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

ARA 30K RUN HARD LIVE EASY Runners will find themselves enjoying the lovely neighborhood while being challenged by this 30K through the hills of Lost Creek and Barton Creek. Hosted by the **Austin Radiological Association**. **ARA Lost Creek Loop 10 Miller** Can't handle the 30K? Try this half-as-long-ish version. *Sun., Jan. 6, 8am.* St. Michael's High School, 3000 Barton Creek Blvd., 472-3254. www.ara30k.com.

Soccer WATCH

world. Maybe next year he'll even play.

2) England fails to qualify for Euro 2008. On paper, they're still one of the best teams in the world. On the pitch, they struggle to beat Andorra.

3) Dynamo dynasty? Houston won its second straight MLS title and had some international success, as well. If this very likable team stays together, it could easily make it three.

4) We're No. 1! Longhorn women got their first top ranking ever and, for the second straight year, won the Big 12 tournament and advanced to the NCAA third round.

5) St. Edward's can play a little, too. The Hilltopper women flirted with high national rankings all year, while the men came within a game of an NCAA bid, as well.

SPORTS TOP 10s

BY MARK FAGAN

In a year that was full of loss and disappointment (the tragic deaths of **Mike Coolbaugh** and **Dennis Johnson**, the Mitchell Report), there was never a shortage of sports stories and events to remind us of why we love these childish games so much. The numbers on the scoreboard are meaningful, but the tales and people surrounding them are often of greater importance and have a remarkable impact upon our lives. What follows is a list of 10 notable sports happenings of the last year that may have caught the attention of Austin-area sports lovers. Enjoy, and good luck in '08.



1) In January the Austin Toros mascot, **Da Bull**, had his 15 minutes of fame, appearing on ESPN's *Cold Pizza* after being suspended for two games and assessed 50 hours of community service for running onto the court with 0.4 seconds remaining in a game against Colorado and hanging from the rim, colliding with a 14ers player in the process. The Toros also inked a deal with the San Antonio Spurs later in the year, becoming their sole minor-league affiliate.

2) Director **Bob Ray** and producer **Werner Campbell** debuted their feature-length Roller Derby documentary, *Hell on Wheels*, at the Paramount Theatre during South by Southwest Film 07 in March, bringing the two local feuding leagues (Texas Rollergirls, Lonestar Rollergirls) together to share in their accomplishments and success. Austin is truly the birthplace of a new era for Roller Derby.

3) University of Texas women's basketball coach **Jody Conradt** retired in March after 31 years with the program, 900 wins, and a national championship in 1986. Duke's **Gail Goostenkors** scored Conradt's old gig.

4) **Kevin Durant** made it official in April, by declaring for the NBA's '07 draft. He goes on to be picked No. 2 overall by the Seattle Supersonics.

5) On June 28, **Craig Biggio** became the 27th big-league ballplayer to reach the 3,000-hit plateau. He was the ninth to do it all with one team (the Houston Astros). Biggio ended his career with 3,060 hits, good for 20th all-time. Thanks for the memories, Bidge.

6) The critically acclaimed and locally shot TV series **Friday Night Lights** debuted its second season on Friday, Oct. 5. If you have not given this show a chance, run out and pick up season one on DVD and enjoy one of the finest sports dramas ever.

7) On Oct. 12 the **Austin Wranglers** announced that they were moving from the Arena Football League proper to the minor-league ArenaFootball2.

8) Causing consternation citywide, the **Packers vs. Cowboys** game on Nov. 29 was broadcast exclusively on the NFL Network, thereby excluding local Time Warner customers. Cowboys fans freaked out, and area sports bars celebrated Christmas early.

9) On Dec. 13, in front of a national TV audience (the NFL Network again), the Houston Texans' **Mario Williams** had his official coming-out party, sacking the Broncos' **Jay Cutler** 3.5 times and quieting the "bust" talk that has been surrounding his career.

10) UT's football squad defeated Arizona State handily on Dec. 27 in the **Holiday Bowl**, 52-34, extending their bowl-game winning streak to four.

6) Bye bye Austin Lightning; hello Austin Stampede. New management for Austin's Premier Development League franchise had big plans for 2007 that got washed away in the heavy spring rains. Now they've dissolved the Lightning altogether and will be reborn in 2008 as Austin FC, aka the Austin Stampede. One of the first orders of business: a real home stadium.

7) Bob Bradley takes over the U.S. Men's National Team. After a months-long search, the head job went to the obvious choice after all. He's delivered so far, and it doesn't hurt that his son's a 20-year-old, world-class striker.

8) Germany wins Women's World Cup – again. They don't have the charm of Brazil, or even the U.S., but they make every-one they play look totally useless. Six games, no goals allowed. **Hope Solo** and the U.S. goalie controversy deserve mention, too.

9) Milan and Kakà win it all. Led by their consensus world player of the year, the Italian club won the Champions League and the Club World Cup – so what if they're in the bottom half in Italy?

10) Italian fan violence continues. Policeman killed by fans; fan killed by policeman; team official kicked to death on the field; English fans stabbed outside the stadium ... the list goes on. – *Nick Barbaro*

The Women Printmakers of Austin’s current show at the Dougherty Arts Center features beautiful works like this one: ‘Bird on a Ball,’ by Cathy Savage.

Theatre

OPENING

A TUNA CHRISTMAS Yes, the Tuna crowd’s been on Broadway and performed at the nation’s Capitol, but you know they’ll shine brightest when bringing the “third smallest town in Texas” to life on the hometown Paramount stage. Stars Joe Sears and Jaston Williams will give you a manic eyeful of what Southern-fried busybodies, wacky reprobates, desperate housewives, good ol’ boys, and just plain folks can turn Christmas into. Jan. 8-13. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$22.50-52.50. www.austintheatre.org.

BEIRUT Alan Bowne’s compelling drama, set in a near future where people are imprisoned for contracting a sexually transmitted (and potentially fatal) disease, returns to the Vortex stage after many years, starring the (newlywed) husband-and-wife team of Matthew Patterson and Melissa Vogt-Patterson. Directed by Bonnie Cullum. Nudity and explicit material. Thu.-Sun., Jan. 10-16, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (two-for-one with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace, Thursdays). www.vortexrep.org.

DESEMONA, A PLAY ABOUT A HANDKERCHIEF Paula Vogel’s comic deconstruction of Shakespeare’s *Othello* is a story of sexual and political intrigue, staged here by Rory Gene Productions with direction by Bridget Farias. Jan. 4-6. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. \$12. www.rorygene.com.

THE FA LA LA FABULOUSLY FUN SEASONAL SPECTACULAR is a rockin’ variety show from your friends at the City Theatre Company, with music, comedy, surprise guests, and Nick Litterski on piano. Drinks and munchies, too. Jan. 3-6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$20. www.citytheatreaustin.org.

CLOSING

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris’ ascerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with **Martin Burke** bringing his sharp wit and timing to the role of Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy’s elf. Also featuring the excellent **Meredith McCall** and pianist **Jason Connor**. Directed by Dave “What the hell, I’ll go ahead and open three shows at once!” Steakley. Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.

ONGOING

MACBETH Holiday season not bloodied enough for you? The Velvet Rut Theatre Company, under the direction of Japhy Fernandes (who also plays the title role), provides a, we reckon, unique look at one of Shakespeare’s darkest creations. Fri.-Sat., Jan 4-12, 8pm. Velvet Rut, 1612 E. Seventh, 236-1092. Donations accepted.

WHEN MORE PIGS FLY is a sequin-bedecked and thoroughly fabulous musical revue featuring more than 120 costumes in 90 minutes and starring some of Austin’s favorite performers. Through Jan. 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2788. \$33 (\$25, in advance). www.naughtyaustin.com.

AUDITIONS

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW The City Theatre Company is casting for all roles in this Shakespeare comedy. Call for appointment, bring headshot and résumé. Sun.-Mon., Jan. 13-14, 6:30-10:30pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. www.citytheatreaustin.org.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Robert Mac He’s on tour from Arizona, he’s won a Comedy Central competition, so we reckon this fellow might be a decent start to your comedy new year. Arizona, right? Yes! And **Jeremy Neal** opens. Jan. 3-5. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.

Steve Trevino Relentlessly on the road with Carlos Mencia after having opened for the Three Amigos Comedy Tour, this Texas native’s built up a storehouse of funny that he’s eager to unload on Austin. He’d better bring his best stuff, we reckon, if he hopes to outshine his own opener, the hilarious **David Huntsberger**. Jan. 8-12. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. www.coldtowne.com.

Now This Is Improv! Features some of Austin’s best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallel-ogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, fold improv duo **Jacklyn** into their saucy mix for a night of spicy comedy. Thursday, 8pm. **Jacklyn** Jill Morris and Kelly Hudson do their improv thang for your entertainment, abetted by **Look Cookie** and other talented pals. Thursday, 10pm. **UpTowne** is Coldtowne’s foray into the scripted world of sketch comedy, searing like old-school SNL when they’re really cookin’. Friday, 8pm. **That Other Paper** presents **Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. Friday, 10pm. **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the she-nanigans that ensue. Saturday, 8pm. **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it, with **The Frank Mills** this nightly night. Saturday, 10pm.

ESTHER’S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 895-9580. www.estersfollies.com.

Banana Puddin’ Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther’s Pool: a mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin’s most entertaining talents are promised, and you’ll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. Thursdays, 9:30pm. \$9.95.

The Latino Comedy Project returns with iLoco Año Nuevo!, a stage and video extravaganza about immigration, politics, and culture, featuring favorites from their newest full-length original sketch show, *AlienNation*. You’ve seen the Project’s 300 parody on YouTube, at the very least, now come see how

Alan Bowne’s provocative *Beirut* plays at the Vortex to add some sexual heat to the new year’s beginning.



funny they really are. Thu.-Sat., Jan. 3-5, 8pm. \$20 (\$18, students, seniors, military).

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y’might say – is one of them. It’s totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe’s convenience:

Friday: It’s **Threefer Madness** time, in which a trio of troupes battle for supremacy. 8pm. \$10. Then you’ve got a **Double Barrel** waiting for you, featuring two – count ‘em: two – improv teams on creative fire. 10pm. \$10.

Saturday: Andy Crouch doesn’t work for Avon, no, but he’s making up for it by presenting a riotous group of comedians in a show of **Improvised Shakespeare** – likely to be one hell of a Bardic hoot. 8pm. \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended*. 10pm. \$10.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them, fear them. This week’s host: **Andy Heald**. Thursdays, 10pm.

Jimmie Roulette Strange to see this man, who’s usually playing bigger venues or dazzling TV audiences, headlining Downtown’s Palace o’ Cheese. Still, here he is, keeping it real, briefly back on the small stage where he started out, with **Norman Wilkerson** and **Andy Heald** opening for a night of solid laughs. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 4-5, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

BUT WAIT – THERE’S MORE!

EGO’SSTRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup handpicked by the Frank Mills’ own **Dave Buckman**. They’ll amaze you with longform work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city’s favorite watering holes. Huzzah! Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm. Ego’s, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. \$5.

Dance

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: DANCE AUDITIONS Entry-level dance apprentices are invited to audition for this exciting troupe. The company is especially interested in men who like to dance (any level – dancers will receive training), as well as entry-level females possessing outstanding dance talent and vibrant stage presence. Previous knowledge of a Latin-folkloric dance style and acting skills a plus. Call for appointment. Through Jan. 31. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org/auditions.htm.

BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL: CALL FOR ENTRIES A contemporary dance festival facilitated by Spank Dance is seeking choreographers to present new dance works at AustinVentures StudioTheater, Salvage Vanguard 2nd Stage, and the Off Center in June. Application and event details available online; applications also available at the venues. Deadline: Feb. 15. www.spankdance.com.

DIVINITY DANCE THEATER: AUDITIONS Prepare a dance to one song and wear jazz shoes to audition for this Praise Dance Company project. Thu., Jan. 10, 5-6pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 803-6091. www.ci.austin.tx.us.

1,001 NIGHTS

DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER This month's smoke-free event features an assortment of dancers: MiLai, Desert Flowers, Lori, EvaTennessee, Stacey-Lizette, Najla & Class, and, of course, Drakon and the Desert Passion ME Dance Company. Middle Eastern refreshments available. Sat., Jan. 5, 8pm. The Eternal Way, 1122 S. Lamar. 750-7037. \$10 (free, kids). www.desertpassion.com.

TWO LEFT FEET

FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Live music by the Lost and Nameless Orchestra; dances called by Dale Rempert. Fri., Jan. 4, 7:30pm (beginners lesson), 8-11pm (main dance). Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members and first-timers).

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: SPRING CLASSES Study dance with some of Austin's finest choreographers and dancers offering challenging and

affordable classes in modern, improvisation, and choreography, as well as ballet, jazz, anatomy for dancers, and dance history. Classes start Jan. 14. Registration deadline: Jan. 9. 223-3384. www.austince.edu/dance.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 512/971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. 512/750-7037. \$13 per class; \$66 for six classes. www.desertpassion.com.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively

jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed but couples welcome. Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.

TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY: WINTER, SPRING CLASSES Registration for Tapestry Dance Company's winter and spring Academy classes is ongoing. Sign up for ballet, rhythm tap, jazz, modern, hip-hop, ballroom, dance theatre, and yoga, as well as new classes in Bharata Natyam (traditional Indian), character/folk dance, and more. Classes for children age 3 and older, teens, and adults of all ages and experience. Check the website for even more offerings in 2008. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. 474-9864. www.tapestry.org.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location to boot. Call for times; private lessons available. 2801 W 45th. 382-1366. \$10 per class. www.estudioflamenco.com.



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AUSTIN'S FAVORITE COMEDY OPENS TUESDAY!

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Showtimes: Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 2 & 8pm, Sun 2 & 7:30pm

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE

With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered, energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class, discounts available. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa.*

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

Classical Music

OPENING

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY AUSTIN MUSIC AUDITIONS The Oklahoma City University Summer Music Programs will be coming to Austin to hold admission auditions for its renowned summer training programs. Ninth grade through graduating seniors are invited to audition for high school musical theatre, opera, technical theatre, or drama pre-college training intensives. Audition registration is required and can be found at the school's website. Scholarships and financial aid consideration are available. *Fri., Jan. 18. McCallum Fine Arts Academy, 5600 Sunshine. 405/208-5410. www.okcu.edu/music/academy/summerprg.aspx.*

RIVER CITY POPS: NOW AND THEN Lift your spirits with another high-energy performance by the Pops as the show chorus sings music of all types, including Latin, jazz, pop, swing, and rock & roll. *Jan. 10-13. Thu-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4pm & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Reagan High School, Highway 290 East & Berkman. 350-7677. \$15 (\$10, seniors, students; \$7, ages 11 and younger). www.rivercitypops.org.*

NOTES & ENCORES

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: MUSICIAN AUDITIONS Professional musicians are invited to audition for PRFD's lively orchestra. The company is especially interested in singers and percussionists. Also: acoustic guitar players and performers of other stringed, wind, or brass instruments. As segments of Puerto Rico's traditional music are not in written form, musicians should have a proficiency for playing written music and playing by ear. Call for appointment. *Through Jan. 31. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: SPRING SEMESTER STRING AUDITIONS AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to all interested orchestra students who are members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Students should prepare a solo piece or étude of their choice that demonstrates a maximum level of ability. Scales and sight-reading may also be required. There is a \$75 fee per semester for tuition, which includes instruction and several performances throughout the year. For details, see the group's website. *Mon., Jan. 7, 6pm (registration), 6:30pm (auditions). Stephen F. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

CHORUS AUSTIN: AUDITIONS Chorus Austin is the umbrella for two of the area's finer vocal outfits: the Austin Civic Chorus and the Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble. Call for appointment. *Sat., Jan. 12, 10am-6pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 719-3300. www.chorusaustin.org.*

Visual Arts

EVENTS

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: REAHANNA PARKER Local teacher Reahanna Parker displays her latest figurative paintings and drawings. *Sat., Jan. 5, 7-11pm. 301 Chicon Unit F, 296-6624. www.austinfoigativegallery.com.*

CLOSING

BOLM STUDIOS: ANDY ST. MARTIN St. Martin ends a busy year of exhibits with new paintings and a large suite of expressive pencil drawings, a perfectly proportioned installation, and the Dog Room: three paintings in homage to certain dogs who shall remain nameless. *Through Jan. 7. 5305 Bolm #10, 385-1670.*

DOUGHERTY ART CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN 12th annual exhibition of multiple originals! *Through Jan. 7. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.womenprintmakers.com.*

STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: IN CITIZEN'S GARB features an exhibition on Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891. *Through Jan. 6. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY: DOUBLE VISION New work by Austin painters David Ohlerking and Chris Chappell. Many of the works are each painter's unique view of the same landscape scenes. Recommended. *Through Jan. 5. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

MASS GALLERY: HYPERPERSPECTIVE is an optically and physically immersive installation that "places viewers in a world somewhere between two and three dimensions." Call for appt. *Through Jan. 5. 916 Springdale, 627-4133. www.massgallery.org.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: PATTERN PATTERN Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen have curated an excellent group show for the holiday season. Featured artists include Amanda Barr, Rosemarie Fiore, Germaine Keller, Laura Paulini, Lisa Soloman, Jana Swec, and Shea Little. *Through Jan. 5. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: GREECE ON FIRE New work by the Painterly Handsomes (Troy Allen, Chris Holloway, Cody Scrogum, and Fred Tabares). *Through Jan. 6. 411 Brazos #99. www.elsemadsen.com.*

SVT GALLERY: 11.07 WORKS In collaboration with their audiences, Peter Tucker and Leona Scull-Hons will stimulate a set of experiences, often at unplanned times with unplanned outcomes. *Through Jan. 5. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ALICE IN WONDERLAND New works from 45 artists, inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. *Through Jan. 6. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eycontactart.com.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth.*

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, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest PrismaColor works. *2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667. www.gallerypollock.com.*

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it's as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN + PUMP PROJECT In its second show, Art Alliance Austin has teamed up with Pump Project Art Complex to display the works of local artists at this new location. *315 Congress #100, 610-4211. www.artallianceaustin.org.*

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.pablataboadastudio.com.*

ARTHOUSE: ONE AFTER THE OTHER Florian Slotawa is a Berlin-based conceptual artist who utilizes everyday items and spaces to create temporary sculptural assemblages and installations. *Through Jan. 13. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

AVENUE GALLERY: THE MANY FACES OF DUNCAN features photographs of the popular Scottish Fold cat belonging to photographer Kip Holm. *1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600. www.avenuegallerysoco.com.*

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Jorge Macchi: The Anatomy of Melancholy *Through March 16. Workspace: Paul Ramirez Jonas Through Feb. 3. Jacques Callot Through April 27. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

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 a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepeaustinweird.com.*

★ **D BERMAN GALLERY: HILLEVI BAAR AND STEVE WIMAN** Baar's expertly designed pencil renderings on Mylar and Wiman's stunning arrangements of found objects are lovely and sufficient to drive the cold winter away. *Through Jan. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

DIAZ GALLERY: MIGRATIONS & INTEGRATIONS Scenes with fabric by Stephanie Friedman and mixed-media photography by Heather Harris. *Through Jan. 13. 3507 S. First, 444-0013. www.diazgallery.com.*

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Recommended for excellent shopping. *Through Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

BROCCA GALLERY *1103 E. Sixth. www.broccagallery.com.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: ROY MCMAKIN "A Breadbox and a Mug, Each Depicted in Sculpture and Photography." Deceptively simple, simply gorgeous, well worth seeing. *Through Jan. 12. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. *6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.*

★ **THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS** Take a curator-led tour of "The Orbs of Ghost Road," Pepper's Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php.*



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◀ Sculpture by Sheri Tornatore, inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*, now at Wally Workman Gallery

OPEN MICS

NEW YEAR NEW VOICE Welcome 2008 at Expressions with Chris the Future, Diasporic, Element 615, Robin Cravey (launching his chapbook *I Am a Comet*), Dave Thornberry, Laura Stevenson, and others. Music by Chris Van Loan. All ages reading. Pot luck, and bring canned goods for the Poets Pantry. *Sat., Jan. 5, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880. www.austinbahai.org.*

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new day. *Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.southaustinstudios.com.*

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.*

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.*

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, po-mo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.nps2007.com.*

UNCENSORED OPEN MIC is hosted by Ed of Poetry Karaoke. All ages welcome. Musicians, artists, dancers, all open living and free! *Wednesdays, 8pm. Sticky Fingers Boutique, 2201 S. First, 693-9570. www.myspace.com.*

VENTANA DEL SOL with Element 615. Reincarnate a word. *Sundays, 7-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. www.ventanadelsoul.org.*

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.*

WORD/JAZZ returns with its low stars. Freeform music and poetry. *Thu., Jan. 3, 8pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF DIVERSE YOUTH Austin International Poetry Festival's Diverse Youth is accepting poetry submissions from students in grades K-12. Deadline: Jan. 31. www.aipf.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *seeds climb to the tip of the stalk – dry, waiting to be carried – the stretch of leather in the bag slung over her left shoulder. he hears of birds that fly in pairs only to die in the snows of late spring or how hollow to say i cannot take a single year & want the fullness claimed in her distance – beauty closes its mouth if you fall without reaching past the first cut. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

In just a matter of moments
the hawk left without lunch
the telephone stopped
ringing
and just sunlight and I
sat on old wooden steps
with a squirrel barking at
my tabby cat in the yard
– Judith, “There are those days”



NEW EAST ARTS 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. 221 W. Second, 322-9961. www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

FLIPNOTICS: THE VISUAL WOLFY Todd V. Wolfson, photog extraordinaire, presents 13 new works of “musicians, artists, people: beyond candid.” *Flipnotics @ the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. www.flipnotics.com.*

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT Paintings by some of Austin's best. 102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CYPRESS GRILL The Creative Arts Society of Austin brings this neighborhood restaurant alive with year-round exhibitions. 4404 W. William Cannon Ste. L, 358-7474. www.creativeartsociety.org.

THE GREEN MUSE The works of J. Lowry Doile. 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.

LAMBERTS: JOAN MCGUIRE New abstract works on paper. 401 W. Second, 494-1500. www.lambertsaustin.com.

★ **LOVEJOYS: BART FARAR** This is an exhibition of new work by Bart Farar and highly recommended. Come see what brilliance the man's rendered in watercolor and ink on wood and other surfaces. 604 Neches, 477-1268.

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE This annual exhibition and sale is one of the most intriguing shows in the Austin. *Through Jan. 15. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178. www.quattrogallery.com.*

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

SHORELINE GRILL Mixed-media constructions by Joseph Hammer and Randall Reid, with sculpture by George McFarland. *Through Jan. 5. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300. www.shorelinegrill.com.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

THE CREATIVE SIDE ACADEMY offers workshops and art classes for students ages 12 and older. Beginners and experienced artists are welcome. New semester starts Jan. 5. 628 Allen, 799-0589. www.creativeside.org.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL FOR WORKS National call for public arts projects for the Mexican American Cultural Center with a budget set for \$200,000, including design fees, fabrication, installation, engineer sealed drawings, insurance requirements, and travel. Review complete



instructions and application for the RFQ at www.cityofaustin.org/aipp. Deadline: *Fri., Jan. 4. 301 W. Second, 974-9314.*

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: *Feb. 29. 301 Chicon Unit F, 296-6624. www.austinfigurativegallery.com.*

IDEA CLASSES Kid's Collage Club is a wonderful way to practice skills in color, shape, and composition, for ages 5-10. All materials provided, along with a healthy snack. *Sat., Jan. 5, 10am-noon & 1-3:30pm. \$25. Women's Collage Jam* provides a community of women an opportunity to explore creative possibilities with a fun and accessible art medium. Includes all materials and refreshments. *Sat. Jan. 12, 10am-1pm. \$30. 701 Tillery, 921-7744. elementsart@sbcglobal.net.*

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to school children, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish and, once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: *Sun., Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.*

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

HAL BRANDS bumbles through with Team Bush et al. on their banal bungled foreign-policy debacles, in *From Berlin to Baghdad*. *Sat., Jan. 5, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

PEOPLE UNITED features New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, author of *The Conscience of a Liberal*, on movement conservatism, the legacy of the New Deal, and the prospect of political change in this country. Allan Campbell hosts, with commentary from Rahul Mahajan. *Fri., Jan. 4, 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. *Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

PLAN B POETRY Austin formalist-leaning poet seeks to organize a workshop with a stable and small membership, to begin meeting in January. Dana Gioia's term “postmodern classicism” captures the spirit for which she aims. Serious poets with a nonexclusive commitment to form, especially those on the non- or recovering-MFA track, are invited to send inquiries via e-mail. obliquus@aol.com.

SHAKES ALOUD! is a fun exploration of the Bard. People of all ages are welcome to this



ongoing weekly reading group offered by Austin Shakespeare and moderated by Melinda Hall. *Sundays, 5-7pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery. \$5 each night. www.austinishakespeare.org.*

LAW OF ATTRACTION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks, and other such books. *Saturdays, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

TELL ME A TALE STORYTELLING CIRCLE invites you to listen to yarns spun by storytellers or tell your own story to a friendly audience. *Tue., Jan. 8, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

THE MYSTERY BOOK GROUP delves into the murky depths of life and death every month. *Wed., Jan. 9, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

7% SOLUTION BOOK CLUB battles with the eternally corrupt in the *Red Harvest* by Dashiell Hammett. *Mon., Jan. 7, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

REWRITTEN HISTORY BOOK CLUB log cabins with *Lincoln* by Gore Vidal. *Wed., Jan. 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

UTTER READING SERIES continues its fine tradition of offering up the freshest cream from Austin's literary farm. This time up are screenwriters with their wares on hold due to the strike. See what local screenwriters Diego McGreevy and Lee Shipman, Alex Smith, and Stephen Harrigan have to say about the wondrous world of Hollywood accounting magic. *Tue., Jan. 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK A mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. *Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872. www.austinwritersblock.com.*

MILWOOD BRANCH BOOK CLUB purrs on about *The Cat Who Came for Christmas* by Cleveland Amory. *Tue., Jan. 8, 7:30-8:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst.*

OLD QUARRY BRANCH CLUB dies of love with *Daisy Miller* by Henry James. *Tue., Jan. 8, 7-8:30pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center.*

POETRY IN THE ARTS features poet Winifred Schramm, honored U.S. nurse, teacher, playwright, and author of several poetry books. Open mic follows. *Sat., Jan. 5, 2-4:30pm. Twin Oaks Library, 2301 S. Congress, 442-4664. www.ci.austin.tx.us.*

WINDSOR PARK CLUB has a go at *The Story of English* by McCrumb, MacNeil, and Cran. *Tue., Jan. 8, 7-8:30pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP for screenwriters is open to new members to read, discuss, and critique one another's work. The group meets every other Monday. *Mon., Jan. 7, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

film listings

New Reviews

ONE MISSED CALL

D: Eric Valette; with Ed Burns, Shannyn Sossamon, Ana Claudia Talancón, Ray Wise, Azura Skye. (PG-13, 87 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this American remake of Takashi Miike's eponymous Japanese original. It's a high-concept horror story about a group of young people who receive eerie calls from the future that provide ultimately accurate audio records of their deaths several days hence.

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

REDACTED

D: Brian De Palma; with Izzy Diaz, Daniel Stewart Sherman, Patrick Carroll, Mike Figueroa, Ty Jones, Rob Devaney, Kel O'Neill. (R, 90 min.)

In the opening and closing credits of this film, De Palma provides a visual explanation of the meaning of the word "redacted" by blacking out or otherwise editing words and/or images on the screen. During the opening credits, the choice to edit the material was his; in the moving closing credits (which is a series of photos of Iraqi war dead) the choice was not the director's but his distribution company's in an attempt to protect the anonymity of the victims. The issue of the director's work ironically becoming a subject for redaction pales in contrast to the passion De Palma brings to this movie. The fate of *Redacted* is small potatoes compared with what De Palma regards as the U.S. government's wholesale obscuring of the truth about the war in Iraq. His film is as stylistically raw as his emotions. The story is a fictional account of the events in Samarra before, during, and after the actual rape and mur-

der of a 15-year-old girl and her family by American soldiers. De Palma uses documentary techniques in order to tell his fictionalized tale. In many aspects, *Redacted* echoes De Palma's 1989 Vietnam War film, *Casualties of War*, in which Michael J. Fox plays a soldier whose conscience won't permit him to go along with his unit's cover-up of a rape and accompanying atrocity. In the new film, De Palma uses various camera truths to piece together the narrative. The bulk of the film is seen through the lens of the camera wielded by Angel Salazar (Diaz), a grunt who hopes to use the film he makes of his buddies in Iraq as his entrance portfolio into film school. The cutaways from Salazar's video are to images caught through a variety of means: the base's security cameras, a website created by jihadists and another by a military wife, a film being made by French journalists that just happens to focus on Salazar's unit, footage from embedded journalists, and even the video of Salazar's psych evaluation. The impression De Palma leaves is that the more images we have to look at, the less we see and comprehend. Yet De Palma too falls victim to the shorthand of images. The use of stereotypes is prevalent throughout *Redacted*, whether it is the racism and primitivism of the American soldiers, the arty pretensions of the French, or ultimately, the perfidy of the American government. Also, the dramatic skills of the movie's group of unknown actors are not well enough honed to express narrative nuances. Despite its shortcomings, *Redacted* is nevertheless a film brimming with spontaneity and fury, and in a season of often-ambiguous films about the war in Iraq, there is a lot to be said for this kind of combustible energy. (Ends Monday.)

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Alamo Ritz

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

D: Greg Strause, Colin Strause; with Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, John Ortiz, Johnny Lewis, Ariel Gade. (R, 86 min.)

This sequel to the much-maligned (though, to be fair, probably just misunderstood) *Aliens vs. Predator* is an orgy of mindless violence, a random collection of bloody bodies, alien misanthropy, and slobbering carnage designed to bore straight into the pleasure centers of 13-year-old boys and leave the rest of us wondering when the movies got so damn loud. I won't go too deeply into the film's plot because I don't want to ruin it for you, but I can tell you that a UFO carrying a pack of salivating aliens like those that tormented Sigourney Weaver back in the Eighties crash-lands in the woods outside a small town in Colorado, followed by the arrival of a predator (of the dreadlocked variety that tormented Jesse "the Body" Ventura back in the Eighties), who's hunting down the aliens one by one. Needless to say, it isn't long before the first human being gets caught in the cross fire. (12/28/2007)

– *Josh Rosenblatt*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



One Missed Call

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

D: Tim Hill; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney. (PG, 92 min.)

What's it all about, Alvin? Apparently it's about rebranding a musty old comic conceit for a whole new generation of proto-Willards. The adenoidal animated vermin of Ross Bagdasarian Sr. and Jr. have arrived via CGI in this live-action updating/companion to the Bagdasarian family's lengthy *rodentia comicus*-related history, the pinnacle of which remains 1958's holiday novelty tune "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)." Hill's Chipmunk tale is a strictly by-the-numbers affair, aimed in the most generic direction conceivable. Lee plays Dave, a well-intentioned but bumbling songwriter aided and abetted in life and love (and icky-sweet pop music) by My Three Chipmunks. *Mr. Show's* Cross is a duplicitous record mogul, who plays nice with Dave while conniving behind his back (boo!), and Richardson is the mutant-model-photographer-chick-thing Dave's all gooeey on. Will true love prevail? Will Dave grow a backbone (and some real songwriting talent)? They shoot rodents, don't they? (12/14/2007)

– *Marc Savlov*
★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ ATONEMENT

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Vanessa Redgrave, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brenda Blethyn, Juno Temple, Daniel Mays. (R, 130 min.)

Imagination typically should be encouraged in children, but an excess of it leads to tragedy in this more than worthy adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel. Thirteen-year-old Briony (the wonderfully unnerving novice Ronan) is indulged, but also largely ignored, by her family, which includes her headstrong 19-year-old sister, Cecilia (Knightley, seductively husky, wincingly angular). One day in 1935, Briony witnesses a bewildering act that involves Cecilia and the housekeeper's son, Robbie (McAvoy). Only later does she realize how one person's vantage, one person's *truth*, doesn't always square with another's. But that epiphany doesn't arrive until the film's second of three sections, when a now-18-year-old Briony (Garai) attempts to write a novelization of that day in 1935. (The film's epilogue takes place in modern times.) *Atonement* is a work consumed with the nature of storytelling and the moral responsibility of the storyteller. The film is not quite as brutalizing as McEwan's brilliant source novel, but it ravishes nonetheless in its grand exploration of the sins of the daughter and a lifetime spent making reparations. (12/14/2007)

– *Kimberley Jones*
★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North

BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of beedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. (11/02/2007)

– *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Movies 8

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan. (R, 116 min.)

Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry store to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. (11/09/2007)

– *Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Dobie

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief:



Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is cracker-jack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. (11/16/2007) — Marc Savlov
★★★ Metropolitan

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

D: Mike Nichols; with Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Denis O'Hare. (R, 97 min.)
Accents by way of *Hee Haw* aside, not once in this would-be political romp do we forget that the man and woman before us, embodying such outré real-life characters as a hard-partying congressman and a born-again Houston socialite, are anyone other than the beloved institutions of Tom and Julia. Based on George Crile's book, *Charlie Wilson's War* tells the true-life story of how Texan Rep. Wilson (Hanks), best known for boozing and keeping company with *Playboy* Playmates, managed to raise \$1 billion with the help of socialite Joanne Herring (Roberts) to secretly fund Afghanistan's mujahideen in their fight against the invading Soviet Union in the early Eighties. Sounds a little wonky, I know, but, as adapted by *The West Wing*'s Aaron Sorkin, the historical context and current affairs are laid out clearly and engagingly. That said, there's a hokeyness afoot. Same goes with Nichols' flat direction. This is a visually and emotionally soft affair, and the material calls for something with far sharper edges. (12/21/2007) — Kimberley Jones
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DAN IN REAL LIFE

D: Peter Hedges; with Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche, Dane Cook, Alison Pill, Brittany Robertson, Marlene Lawston, Dianne Wiest, John Mahoney, Emily Blunt, Norbert Leo Butz. (PG-13, 99 min.)
If this is "real life," then count me out. It's not that there's anything terribly awful with it; it's just that what passes for real life here is as genially inoffensive and predictable as the average TV sitcom. More had been hoped for in this second writer/director project from Hedges. His previous effort, *Pieces of April*, followed a similar trajectory of family entanglement, though the characters had more edge and personality than they do in *Dan in Real Life*. Hedges also wrote the screenplays for *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?*

and *About a Boy*, other works whose distinctive characters stand apart from mediocrity. This new film will garner Hedges his biggest audience, and let's hope that it allows him to return to his more quickly crafted characterizations. Carell is in his subdued, *Little Miss Sunshine* serio-comic mode here as a widower who falls in love with the girlfriend (Binoche) of his brother (Cook). (10/26/2007) — Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Movies 8

THE DARJEELING LIMITED

D: Wes Anderson; with Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason Schwartzman, Anjelica Huston, Amara Karan, Wally Wolodarsky, Bill Murray, Irfan Khan. (R, 91 min.)
With his fifth feature film, Anderson boards another train of ironic whimsy, although this time the train is quite literal. An aura of preciousness remains as the filmmaker again pairs his stylized images and storytelling with characters and a plot that resist neat categorizations, twin narrative events with telling pieces of music, and searches for emotional connections among ironically detached characters. Brothers Francis (Wilson), Peter (Brody), and Jack (Schwartzman) Whitman, who have been apart since their father's death a year ago, embark on a train ride through India as something of a reunion tour and spiritual journey. Somewhere near the end of the journey is their aloof mother (Huston), a nun in a Himalayan outpost. Like the Whitman Sampler they are, each brother is marked by a unique bundle of quirky traits. In large measure, the film is a basic road picture, enhanced by compelling characters and atmosphere but reluctant to really go anywhere. (10/12/2007) — Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Dobie

★ ENCHANTED

D: Kevin Lima; with Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Timothy Spall, Rachel Covey, Idina Menzel. (PG, 107 min.)
It's difficult to describe the mixture of romance, dry satire, and musical comedy that is the new Disney film *Enchanted*. But one thing's for certain: Adams (*Junebug*) is its heart and soul. Her ability to play wild-eyed innocence with a biting comic edge never disappoints. And as Giselle, she's perfectly cast as an amalgam of every fairy-tale maiden. The film begins in an all-too-familiar animated wonderland. Giselle is an innocent forest-dwelling babe who sings with animals and dreams of finding her true love before she is cast out by a jealous queen (Sarandon) and lands in the center of Times Square. What's more, she's no longer animated. Though writer Bill Kelly's script takes extreme liberties with plot development and never really leaves you guessing about who will get the girl, the jokes rarely miss, and the result is a refreshingly sardonic fairy tale. (11/23/2007) — Toddy Burton
★★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate



Openings

One Missed Call (PG-13)

Redacted (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

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Mon–Thur: 7:00, 9:50

JUNO
Fri: (4:20) 7:20, 10:10; Sat, Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:20, 10:10;
Mon–Thur: 7:20, 10:10

INTO THE WILD
Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:40; Sat, Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:40;
Mon–Thurs: 6:50, 9:40

THE DARJEELING LIMITED
Fri–Sun: (4:10) 10:00; Mon–Thur: 10:00

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD
Fri, Mon–Thurs: 7:10; Sat/Sun: (1:30) 7:10

SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, JAN. 4 – THUR, JAN. 10
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- Weds, Jan 9 at the Ritz -

ALAMO RITZ THEATRE - 320 E 6TH ST					
THU, JAN 3	I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE LARS & THE REAL GIRL 90s ONE-HIT SING-ALONG: VOL 2 • TERROR THURS: TOURIST TRAP	215 445 945	445 720 945	720 930 945	930 945 MIDNIGHT
FRI, JAN 4	I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE REDACTED (GOOD) FRIDAY		430	700 930	405 945
SAT, JAN 5	REDACTED I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE DARK SIDE OF THE RAINBOW		200	430 700 930	405 945
SUN, JAN 6	REDACTED I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE		145 200	720 430 700	945 930 405
MON, JAN 7	I'M NOT THERE I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE MUSIC MONDAY: HOLY MODAL ROUNDERS		430	700 930	405 945 1000
TUES, JAN 8	AFS: EVANGELINE I AM LEGEND ELVIS PRESLEY'S BIRTHDAY SING-ALONG I'M NOT THERE		430 700	930 945	350 700 405
WEDS, JAN 9	I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE THE REAL GENIUS QUOTE-ALONG THE DIONYSIUM NAPOLEON DYNAMITE w/ JON GRIES • FREE WEIRD WEDS: TERRORVISION		430	700 930	405 700 945 MIDNIGHT
THU, JAN 10	I AM LEGEND I'M NOT THERE THE REAL GENIUS QUOTE-ALONG 90s ONE-HIT SING-ALONG: VOL 2 • TERROR THURS: GALAXY OF TERROR		430	700 930	405 700 945 MIDNIGHT

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD

JUNO •	1100*	120	350	640	910
JUNO •			1135p (Fri & Sat)		
NATIONAL TREASURE •	1200*		315*	735	1040
NO COUNTRY OLD MEN	1110*	150	445	745	1035
SWEENEY TODD •	1105*	140	420	705	940
THE KITE RUNNER •	1255*		355	730	1030
THE ORPHANAGE •	1115*	145*	420	700	935
THE ORPHANAGE •			1150p (Fri & Sat)		

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR •	110*	410	720	1000
THE GOLDEN COMPASS	1250*	350	700	955
WALK HARD •	115*	405	705	945
I AM LEGEND •	120*	415	730	1015
ROCKY HORROR	MIDNIGHT		(Sat)	

\$6.00 MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM, \$6.00 STUDENTS, SENIORS, KIDS OVER 6 w/ PARENTS
SHOWS WITH * SAT, SUN, TUES ONLY • NO PASSES - GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

ALL 3 LOCATIONS NOW BOOKING HOLIDAY PARTIES
DOWNTOWN, VILLAGE & SOUTH LAMAR 437-9531

HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
SUN 23rd - FRI 28th - RITZ
476-1320 - WWW.ORIGINALALAMO.COM - NO INFANTS
18 & UP ALL SHOWS - BEST THEATER IN AUSTIN!

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.
The 90s One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Vol. 2: Thu (1/10), 9:45, 12mid
Elvis Presley's Birthday Sing-Along: Tue, 7:00, 9:45
AFS: *Evangeline*: Tue, 7:00pm
Terror Thursday: *Galaxy of Terror*: Thu (1/10), 12mid
High for the Holidays: (Good) *Friday*: Fri, 9:45pm
Music Monday: *The Holy Modal Rounders: Bound to Lose*: Mon, 10:00pm
I Am Legend: Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Mon, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Tue-Wed, 4:30, 9:30; Thu (1/10), 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
I'm Not There: 4:05pm
Napoleon Dynamite: Wed, 9:45pm
Real Genius Quote-Along: Wed-Thu (1/10), 7:00pm
Redacted: Fri, 7:20pm; Sat, 1:45, 7:20; Sun, 1:45, 7:20, 9:45; Mon, 7:20pm
Weird Wednesday: *Terrorvision*: Wed, 12mid
High for the Holidays: *The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon*: Sat, 9:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-8135.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: 12:15, 3:25, 7:25, 10:30
Tromatic Thursday: Beg!: Thu (1/10), 10:00pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Wed, 12:30, 3:40, 7:35, 10:15pm; Thu (1/10), 12:30, 3:40, 7:35
The Great Debaters: 11:50am, 3:05, 7:10, 10:15pm
I Am Legend: 12:10, 3:00, 7:15, 10:00
No Country for Old Men: 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:30, 7:30, 10:10; Mon, 12:45, 3:30; Tue-Wed, 12:45, 3:30, 7:30, 10:10; Thu (1/10), 12:45, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.
**Juno*: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10, 11:35pm; Mon-Tue, 11:00am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10pm; Wed-Thu (1/10), 3:50, 6:40, 9:10
The Kite Runner: Fri-Tue, 12:55, 3:55, 7:30, 10:30; Wed-Thu (1/10), 3:55, 7:30, 10:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Tue, 12:00, 3:15, 7:35, 10:40; Wed-Thu (1/10), 3:15, 7:35, 10:40
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Tue, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35pm; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
**The Orphanage*: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35, 11:50pm; Mon-Tue, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40, 11:55pm; Mon-Tue, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40pm; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Tue, 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
The Golden Compass: Fri-Tue, 12:50, 3:50, 7:00, 9:55; Wed-Thu (1/10), 3:50, 7:00, 9:55
I Am Legend: Fri-Tue, 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:15, 7:30, 10:15
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Tue, 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 9:45; Wed-Thu (1/10), 4:05, 7:05, 9:45

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Atonement: 11:45am, 1:00, 2:20, 4:40, 5:10, 6:50, 8:00, 9:50pm
Juno: 12:00, 12:40, 2:30, 3:00, 4:45, 5:20, 7:10, 7:40, 9:30, 10:00
The Kite Runner: Fri-Mon, 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40; Tue, 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 9:40; Wed-Thu (1/10), 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40
No Country for Old Men: 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
The Savages: 12:20, 3:30, 7:20, 9:55

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 1:40, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40pm; Sun-Thu (1/10), 1:40, 3:55, 6:10, 8:25, 10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30; Tue, 2:45, 5:00; Wed-Thu (1/10), 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:55, 10:10
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
Juno: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
The Kite Runner: Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30pm; Sun-Thu (1/10), 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sat, 1:55, 4:45, 7:30; Sun-Tue, 4:45, 7:30; Wed, 4:30pm; Thu (1/10), 4:45, 7:30
**One Missed Call*: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:30, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:50
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Sat, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45pm; Sun-Thu (1/10), 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 2:30, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/10), 2:30, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Sat, 10:55am, 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:35pm; Sun-Thu (1/10), 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:35
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep (closed captioned): Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 9:45

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
**Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem*: Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:00, 8:10, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:00, 8:10, 9:15
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 12:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:50pm
The Golden Compass: 10:30pm
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:25
**Juno*: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:35; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:35
**One Missed Call*: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:50, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Sun, 12:05, 3:15, 6:15, 9:30; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:15, 6:15, 9:30
**The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 12800 Hwy. 71, 800/FANDANGO.
**Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem*: Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:50
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 12:25, 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:05, 7:55, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:10, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:05, 7:55, 9:40
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:35
Enchanted: Fri-Sun, 11:35am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:25, 5:10, 7:50
The Golden Compass: 10:25pm
**The Great Debaters*: Fri-Sun, 12:40, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:55, 6:55, 10:00
I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:15, 2:15, 3:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:15, 3:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10
**Juno*: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:05, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:15, 9:35, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:15, 9:35, 10:20
No Country for Old Men: 10:15pm
**One Missed Call*: Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20
P.S. I Love You: 2:00, 7:30
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 4:55, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 4:55, 10:30
**The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
Bee Movie: Fri, 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 9:00
**Dan in Real Life*: Fri, 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05
**Fred Claus*: Fri, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
**The Game Plan*: Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
**Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*: Fri, 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40
Rush Hour 3: Fri, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:15
**Saw IV*: Fri, 1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:30
Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?: 7:25, 10:00

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
**Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem*: Fri-Mon, 11:50am, 2:40, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 2:40, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Mon, 10:05am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 10:00
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Mon, 10:55am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
Enchanted: Fri-Mon, 12:00, 6:40; Tue-Thu (1/10), 6:40pm
**The Great Debaters*: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15
I Am Legend: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 11:40, 1:20, 2:30, 4:05, 5:10, 6:50, 7:55, 9:30, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:20, 2:30, 4:05, 5:10, 6:50, 7:55, 9:30, 10:25
Juno: Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 10:40, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:50, 9:20, 10:05
**One Missed Call*: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:20
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Mon, 9:55am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 9:15pm
**The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*: Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
**Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem*: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 12:55, 2:00, 3:45, 4:35, 6:35, 7:10, 9:45, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:55, 2:00, 3:45, 4:35, 6:35, 7:10, 9:45, 10:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Mon, 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40
Enchanted: Fri-Mon, 10:10am, 12:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:50pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sat, 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:45, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
**The Great Debaters*: Fri-Mon, 10:40am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
I Am Legend: Fri-Mon, 9:55am, 12:40, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:40, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35, 10:10
**Juno*: Fri-Mon, 10:05am, 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:15, 3:55, 7:05, 9:50
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:25pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:25
**One Missed Call*: Fri-Mon, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:35, 10:00pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:30, 4:05, 7:35, 10:00
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Mon, 10:20am, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20
**The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep*: Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/10), 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Fri, 7:10pm; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 7:10pm
The Darjeeling Limited: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/10), 10:00pm
Into the Wild: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Mon-Thu (1/10), 6:50, 9:40
Juno: Fri, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/10), 7:20, 10:10
No Country for Old Men: Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (1/10), 7:00, 9:50

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
The Great Debaters: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
I Am Legend: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:59pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 3:30, 4:40, 4:35, 7:15, 7:45, 10:10, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 3:30, 4:30, 4:35, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:45, 3:30, 4:30, 4:35, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00
One Missed Call: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:50pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
P.S. I Love You: Fri-Sun, 10:00am, 12:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 12:45, 10:15
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri-Sat, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50, 11:59pm; Sun, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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Alvin and the Chipmunks (open captioned): Fri, 12:10pm; Sat, 2:30pm; Sun, 12:10, 9:45; Mon, 12:10, 7:10
Charlie Wilson's War: 11:45am, 12:45, 2:10, 3:20, 4:35, 6:45, 7:30, 9:25, 10:15pm
Enchanted: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 10:10pm
The Golden Compass: 12:15, 2:50
The Great Debaters: 11:55am, 2:40, 6:40, 9:30pm
I Am Legend: 11:50am, 12:20, 2:15, 2:45, 4:40, 5:10, 7:25, 7:55, 10:05, 10:35pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 12:25, 12:55, 3:30, 4:40, 7:05, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30; Mon, 12:25, 12:55, 3:30, 4:00, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30; Tue, 12:25, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 7:35, 10:30; Wed, 12:55, 3:30, 4:00, 7:35, 10:00, 10:30; Thu (1/10), 12:25, 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 7:35, 10:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (in DLP digital): 11:55am, 2:55, 6:35, 9:30pm
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (open captioned): Tue, 3:30, 10:00; Wed, 12:25, 7:05; Thu (1/10), 3:30, 10:00
One Missed Call: 12:05, 2:25, 5:50, 7:50, 10:20
P.S. I Love You: 12:15, 3:05, 7:00, 9:50
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: 12:40, 3:25, 6:50, 9:35
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 7:45, 10:25
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 12:30, 3:10, 7:00, 9:50

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Wildfire: Feel the Heat: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 6:00; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/10), 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

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FRED CLAUS

D: David Dobkin; with Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz, Kathy Bates, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elizabeth Banks, Kevin Spacey. (PG, 115 min.)

How many laughs can one movie try to squeeze out of Vaughn being attacked by elves? Sadly, it's an awful lot. Vaughn plays Fred, the embittered older brother of the sainted (literally) Nicholas "Santa" Claus (Giamatti). Trading in jolly for neurotic, Giamatti's Santa possesses a self-deprecating everyman demeanor that makes him a brilliant actor. Meanwhile, Vaughn exploits a schtick that plays well with an ensemble (*Old School*) or in a supporting role (*Mr. & Mrs. Smith*) but cannot carry the comedy of an entire movie. Awash with amazingly talented actors, including Spacey as an efficiency expert, Higgins as a lovelorn elf, Richardson as Mrs. Claus, and Bates as Fred and Santa's mom, *Fred Claus* is sadly just an early lump of coal under the tree. (11/09/2007) – Todd Burton

★ Movies 8

THE GAME PLAN

D: Andy Fickman; with Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson, Madison Pettis, Kyra Sedgwick, Roselyn Sanchez, Morris Chestnut, Brian J. White, Hayes MacArthur, Jamal Duff. (PG, 110 min.)

How's this for a movie slogan: "The Rock Cries!" Maybe it doesn't have the same ring to it that "Garbo Laughs!" did when *Ninotchka* was first released in 1939, but dammit if it isn't something remarkable seeing a professional wrestler put away his muscles and turn on the waterworks. It's like watching middle-American machismo itself wilt in your hand. The reason the Rock is crying is because he's playing a self-centered superstar football quarterback whose perfectly empty, materialistic little life is being turned upside down by an 8-year-old daughter (the absurdly doe-eyed Pettis) he didn't know he had. *The Game Plan* was written by two women, Nichole Millard and Kathryn Price, and their female take on the world of professional football – though ridiculous – gives their movie a comic flavor that is refreshingly free of the masculine chest-bumping that defines other football films (and football in general). (09/28/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Movies 8

THE GOLDEN COMPASS

D: Chris Weitz; with Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards, Ben Walker, Eva Green, Jim Carter, Tom Courtenay, Sam Elliott, Christopher Lee, Simon McBurney; with the voices of Freddie Highmore, Ian McKellen, Ian McShane, Kristin Scott Thomas, Kathy Bates. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Although *The Golden Compass* rejects the anti-organized-religion bent of the source material, British children's author Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy, the film interprets the novels' evil Magisterium – a society-controlling organization meant to stand in for the church (any church,



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ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) Fri. & Sat. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20 11:30
Sun. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20

I AM LEGEND (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:59
Sun. 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) Fri. - Sun. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. 10:00 12:45 10:15
Mon. - Thu. 12:45 10:15

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:00 1:45 3:30 4:30 4:35 7:15 7:45 10:00 11:45
Sun. 11:00 1:45 3:30 4:30 4:35 7:15 7:45 10:00
Mon. - Thu. 1:45 3:30 4:30 4:35 7:15 7:45 10:00

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Sun. 10:30 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) Fri. & Sat. 11:40 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sun. 11:40 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13) Fri. - Sun. 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
Mon. - Thu. 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) Fri. & Sat. 10:50 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
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really) – as something just as evil but more Nazi-inspired. The film charts the coming of age of Lyra Belacqua (Richards, a dirtied delight), a 12-year-old orphan living in a steampunk universe parallel to Oxford, England, whose fate – which has something to do with a holy, multiverse war yet to come – was long ago predicted by witches. Yup, it's that kind of world: witches, gypsians (seafaring gypsies), and, most delightfully, daemons, which are the animal manifestations of human souls. This is a terrifying world, in which trouble is visited regularly on small children. Writer/director Weitz far exceeds here, in vision and ambition, the perfectly passable entertainments of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. The special effects are mostly spectacular. (12/07/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE GREAT DEBATERS

D: Denzel Washington; with Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Kimberly Elise, John Heard. (PG-13, 123 min.)

In his second outing as a director, Washington chooses an inspirational story, yet even though *The Great Debaters* is a historical story worth telling, the film is hobbled by the narrative predictability that inevitably governs this type of drama. Like his first directorial effort, *Antwone Fisher*, *The Great Debaters* is based on a true story in which Washington casts himself in the role of the elder leading man, the guiding figure who helps characters from the younger generation overcome the damage of their past and grab hold of the opportunities for their future. Although Washington is perfectly fine in his performance here as the professor and coach of Wiley College's national-championship-winning debate team in 1935, the role calls for no special showmanship on the part of the dependably brilliant actor. So, too, as the director, Washington brings no special stylistic flourish to the film, instead placing himself at the straightforward service of the Oprah Winfrey-produced story. (12/21/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it's also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel's moribund XXX character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited director Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas

The Holy Modal Rounders: Bound to Lose

The Holy Modal Rounders: Bound to Lose (2006) *D: Sam Wainwright Douglas and Paul C. Lovelace.*

(NR, 87 min.) **Music Monday.** Steve Weber and Peter Stampfel formed the nucleus of this quintessential folkie-psychedelic music group that has been coming together and breaking up ever since the Sixties. Some records and a colorful and checkered history marked by drugs, strong personalities, and an almost inherent failure to succeed is the group's legacy – now documented on film. @Alamo Ritz, Monday, 10pm.



De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as “What the hell?” since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko's generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. (11/23/2007) – Marc Savlov

★ Metropolitan

I AM LEGEND

D: Francis Lawrence; with Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, Salli Richardson, Willow Smith, Dash Mihok, Darrell Foster, April Grace, Joanna Numata. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Smith plays Robert Neville, a military immunologist who is the only real human left in New York. By day he wanders the city's empty avenues with his German shepherd, scavenging for food and gasoline; by night he barricades himself in his apartment with his rifle to wait for the living dead to break down the door. All this happens during the film's first 10 minutes, so initially I was optimistic. First of all, Lawrence's desolate Manhattan is a wonder to behold. And secondly, Smith's Neville is no unblinking model of action-film courage; he is terrified, lonely, and racked with guilt over his inability to save the lives of ... well, anyone – a guilt he tries to assuage by working on a vaccine to save humanity, not to mention his own soul. Unfortunately, after the first 10 minutes it's all downhill for *I Am Legend*, as the film descends into a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters. (12/14/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

I'M NOT THERE

D: Todd Haynes; with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Bruce Greenwood, Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore. (R, 135 min.)

“I don't belong to anybody,” goes a verse from the titular song, which may very well be the point, or at least one of them, in a film that was “inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan.” Nobody here's named Bob, per se, but we get six incarnations that represent cycles in the life of the artist formally known as Robert Zimmerman. Physically, Blanchett bears the closest resemblance to Dylan, and she's great, of course, but the emotional guts of *I'm Not There* belong to Ledger and Gainsbourg. The only interlude that, if not fails, certainly flags, is Gere's sad-clown Billy the Kid. Haynes' piece doesn't always make sense (and goes on too long by 20 minutes), but, damn, it looks good – and feels good. After the Oscar “legitimacy” of *Far From Heaven*, Haynes could've burrowed deeper underground or sold out entirely; instead, he's created a dazzling hybrid. There's an undeniable thrill to watching something so experimental and yet totally accessible to those of us who speak only layman's Dylanese, and it's Haynes' warmest film yet. (11/23/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Ritz

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately,

an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. (10/19/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Dobie

JUNO

D: Jason Reitman; with Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 92 min.)

When 16-year-old Juno (Page) pays for her pregnancy test with the stick still in hand, the cashier wisecracks, “This is one diddle that can't be undid, home skillet.” That quip, care of screenwriter and freshly minted Hot New Thing Diablo Cody, almost had me audibly groaning: So it's gonna be like that, is it? Well, yes and no. The quips keep coming, but they slow, and *Juno* settles into a sharp, winning relationship comedy. But, like everything else in the winsome *Juno*, what plays for laughs has an undeniable ring of real emotion. Spend enough time with Juno's deadpan and her irony, and you learn how to read between the lines, to the scared, confused, and royally pissed teenager underneath the brazen, Buddha-bellied exterior (a “cautionary whale,” she calls herself). Page (*Hard Candy*) is marvelous, especially considering what a balancing act the role is between bitchy and twee, and she's backed by a terrific ensemble cast. (12/21/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE KITE RUNNER

D: Marc Forster; with Khalid Abdalla, Homayoun Ershadi, Shaun Toub, Atossa Leoni, Said Tashimaoui, Ahmad Khan Mahmizada. (PG-13, 122 min.)

The screen version of Khaled Hosseini's phenomenally successful novel about friendship, betrayal, and redemption, set against the turmoil in Afghanistan during the last 30 years, is a disappointment. Screenwriter David Benioff and director Forster are faithful to the novel to a fault, retaining a level of narrative detail that bogs down the principal storyline about a haunted Afghan-American man who is blessed with the chance “to be good again” and rectify a wrong he committed years ago. The film's early scenes set up the tragic turn of events that forever separate the two childhood friends. But as the film progresses, the narrative focus gets diluted and never really recovers. Some of the improbabilities in the third act of Hosseini's book seem even more unlikely on the screen – the villain is a sadistic pedophile high in the ranks of the Taliban – and the thematic essence of the film



Into the Wild



I'm Not There

is equally marred by the heightened melodramatics. Still, the kite-fighting sequences here are magnificent. (12/21/2007) — Steve Davis

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical, as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for child-like eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he's come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy; 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills); and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning

he's lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and jiggling and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film's one saving grace is Bateman. (11/16/2007) — Josh Rosenblatt
★► Movies 8

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Helen Mirren, Justin Bartha, Diane Kruger, Harvey Keitel, Bruce Greenwood. (PG, 124 min.)

Less twisty than its 2004 predecessor and yet somehow more incoherent, *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* plays like a duplicate schematic of the first. Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates (Cage) lights on a noble cause; enlists a plucky cast of fellow hunters, code crackers, and danger enthusiasts (including the unsung Bartha, as Gates' geekboy Friday); then goes on a globe-hopping quest that amounts to a cinematic series of Russian nesting dolls — crack one clue, and you're awarded with another, equally inscrutable one. I

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Evangeline

Evangeline (1929) *D: Edwin Carewe; with Dolores del Rio, Roland Drew, Alec B. Francis, Donald Reed. (NR, 87 min.)* **Austin Film Society: 3 Mexicanas en Hollywood.** The silent film is based on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1847 poem about the loss of love and home. It's directed by the man who invited del Rio to Hollywood. See austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?old=old:575556 for more on series. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free.

don't mean to sound like a sourpuss: There's certainly a place for this kind of entertainment, and the first outing – same director, same screenwriters (husband-and-wife team, Cormac and Marianne Wibberley), same cast – was pleasantly rompy and even sweetly patriotic in its history-buff bent. *Book of Secrets*, however, isn't so much a romp as a long trudge through American history factoids and conspiracy-theory gobbledygook. Cool car chase, though. (12/28/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre con-fusions, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laure-ate of the Southern gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen

No Country for Old Men becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre master-pieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with \$2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps into the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. (11/16/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Dobie, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE ORPHANAGE

D: Juan Antonio Bayona; with Belén Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, Mabel Rivera, Edgar Vivar, Geraldine Chaplin, Monserrat Carulla. (R, 100 min., subtitled)

At the risk of ticking off producer Guillermo del Toro, the Spanish shocker *The Orphanage* is no *Devil's Backbone*. It's hardly spineless, but neither is it on par with several of the other scary mov-ies from which it borrows heavily, either in tone or tale, chief among them *The Omen*, Alejandro Amenábar's *The Others*, Mario Bava's *Kill, Baby ... Kill!*, and at least a deuce of Dario Argento *gialli*. It has neo-Gothic style to spare and a dense, suf-focating atmosphere. It strives mightily to have a heart in the midst of all the miasmatic, ghostly goings-on. Bayona and his cast pull out all the stops, and for a while, you're immersed in the increasingly creepy story of married couple Laura (Rueda) and Carlos (Cayo) and their adopted son Simón (Princep). Sergio Sánchez's lyrical, occa-sionally poetic script is played out in a tragic key that feels far too minor, and ultimately the com-position comes off as both overplayed and under-done. (12/28/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

P.S. I LOVE YOU

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Gina Gershon, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy Bates, Harry Connick Jr., Jeffrey Dean Morgan, James Marsters. (PG-13, 126 min.)

LaGravenese is usually a terrific screenwriter, but this adaptation (with Steve Rogers) of Cecelia Ahern's novel is almost insufferably sufferable. It's a chick flick of the tallest order, with schmaltz galore and the sort of ongoing romantic hubris that practically screams, "This is codswallop, right?" Swank, as the grieving widow, Holly, is all knees and elbows and cheekbones and denial. Until, that is, her 30th birthday, when she receives a letter from her dead spouse, who has thoughtfully seen fit to keep the love – and by extension, the heal-ing – flowing from beyond the grave. Together with mother-in-law Bates (doing a canny impression

of Shirley MacLaine), possible new love Connick Jr. (doing an uncanny impression of Michael Cera in *Junio*), and BFFs Gershon and Kudrow, Swank embarks on a teary journey of Lifetime proportions. Hope floats all over the place in *PS. I Love You*, but it's Connick Jr.'s goofy, lovesick bartender who makes it all tolerable. (12/21/2007) – Marc Savlov

★ Bartons Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

RUSH HOUR 3

D: Brett Ratner; with Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Vinnie Jones, Max von Sydow, Noémie Lenoir, Hiroyuki Sanada, Youki Kudoh. (PG-13, 91 min.)

It says something that the most inspired comedic performance in *Rush Hour 3* comes from director-cum-fugitive Roman Polanski, whose turn as the head of the Parisian police arrives mid-way through the film: He and his flunkies torture returning intercontinental buddy cops Los Angeles Detective Carter (Tucker) and Hong Kong Inspector Lee (Chan). It's either the most inspired *Chinatown* gag ever or a sure sign the diminutive Oscar win-ner has gone 'round the bend. Either way, this third outing in the series falls flat faster than most of Chan's goofy line readings. The film is *The Bourne Ultimatum*'s evil twin, relying, as it repeatedly does, on tired, cookie-cutter, cliché action set-pieces (Chan no longer has the sinewy grace of his young-er *Police Story*-era self, nor is Tucker's pop-eyed, horn-dog cop schtick anywhere nearly as funny as he thinks it is) and a by-the-numbers script. As it is, it just signals a series that's plainly out of gas. (08/10/2007) – Marc Savlov

★ Movies 8

★ THE SAVAGES

D: Tamara Jenkins; with Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Philip Bosco, Peter Friedman, Gbenga Akinnagbe. (R, 113 min.)

Don't pay any attention to the synopsis of this film. It'll make it sound like something for non-masochists to sidestep, and nothing could be fur-ther from the truth of this smart, funny, thoughtful, and exquisitely realized film. Jenkins' movie is a deft blend of realism and playful touches of structural whimsy and Brechtian distancing. Jon (Hoffman) and Wendy (Linney) are the grown and distant children of Lenny Savage (Bosco), who is showing the first signs of senile dementia. The subtlety of the interplay between siblings is one of the joys of *The Savages*. The film is likely to play differently to people of different age groups, maybe even sexes. To what extent one identifies with, recognizes, and fears each of the characters may govern the viewer's disposition toward the subject matter. Younger viewers may have to wait awhile before they're able to locate their inner Savage. (12/28/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor



Napoleon Dynamite

Napoleon Dynamite (2004) *D: Jared Hess; with Jon Heder, Efrén Ramirez, Jon Gries, Aaron Ruell, Tina Majorino, Diedrich Bader, Sandy Martin. (PG, 86 min.)* **Jon Gries Live.** Indie film about teen-age dork celebrates the youthful underdog. Uncle Rico (Gries) will be in attendance. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Wednesday, 9:45pm.

SAW IV

D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Scott Patterson, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell, Lyriq Bent, Athena Karkanis. (R, 108 min.)

The series' increasingly outlandish forays into the mindset of Rube Goldberg's evil twin Jigsaw (Bell) coupled with the ante-upping characterization of amoral madness in the service of moral redemption – corkscrew logic but always sensibly lunatic – have made for some downright existential bloodbathing. Jigsaw died in *Saw III*, and here we get to witness his autopsy, stem to stern, thus giving him not only the last gasp and laugh, but Being and Nothingness, as well. More than most, the Saw films have held fast to an internal logic that only gets more complex – yet never entirely lapses into outright inanity – with each successive episodic outrage. *Saw IV* finally offers Jigsaw's horrific backstory in flashback, an unnecessary denuding that absolves no one, least of all this fleshless engineer and his hellbound heart. Redemption, absolution, morality: The Saw films speak truth to horror. Torture, you may recall, used to be an unparseable, unpardonable sin. Now it's porn. (11/02/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

D: Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jamie Campbell Bower, Laura Michelle Kelly, Jayne Wisener. (R, 117 min.)

Like some religious fanatic, Sweeney Todd (Depp) plays the same note over and over again: "Revenge, revenge, revenge," he crows. Watching



Sweeney Todd:
The Demon Barber
of Fleet Street

Burton's adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's 1979 stage musical, I was struck by just how dull violent retribution can be when it's all someone ever talks (or, in this case, sings) about. Burton's gorgeously grim film (his sixth with Depp) is loyal to Sondheim's original, both in spirit and structure; it's dark and gothic and drenched in blood, and it forgoes excessive dialogue in the name of getting quickly to the next murky, malevolent, yet strangely forgettable tune. Poor Depp, though, isn't up to the challenge of a musical. So by the time he gets that long-wished-for shot at restitution, I didn't care anymore if he succeeded or not so long as he stopped singing about it. By that point I'd already decided life would be better inside a quiet meat pie. (12/21/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

D: Aamir Khan; with Khan, Darsheel Safary.

(NR, 162 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this new Bollywood picture, the director also plays the leading role in a story about the teacher of a dyslexic child. (12/21/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

THIS CHRISTMAS

D: Preston A. Whitmore II; with Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Chris Brown, Columbus Short, Keith Robinson, Laz Alonso, Regina King, Mekhi Phifer, Sharon Leal, Lauren London. (PG-13, 117 min.)

I have to ask: What could possibly explain the presence of two first-rate actors like Lindo and Elba in a movie as bland as *This Christmas*? They star in this glorified TV movie about an estranged family reuniting after four years to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Elba plays the Whitfield family's prodigal son, who decides it would be best to go home for Christmas after a run-in with two impatient bookies forces him to leave town with little more than the leather cap on his head. He arrives home to find most of his family members living lives of not-so-quiet desperation. Add to the mix a couple of extended all-family dance sequences in the living room and a soundtrack composed of jazzed-up Christmas carols that will make you feel like you're trapped in a shopping mall, and you've got the perfect formula for holiday cheer: It's redemption through sentimentality, salvation through schmaltz. (11/23/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★ Millennium, Tinseltown South

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED?

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Jill Scott, Richard T. Jones, Tasha Smith, Michael Jai White, Denise Boutte, Lamman Rucker. (PG-13, 118 min.)

In this latest effort, Perry characteristically presents himself in quadruple-threat-style as writer, director, producer, and actor. While his last film (Tyler Perry's *Daddy's Little Girls*) focused on one couple, this one branches out into four. Jackson plays a psychologist who vacations every winter with a group of close friends, all married couples and all dealing with much drama. As the couples vacation together, emotions run amok, dirt gets thrown, and purportedly, we all learn a little bit more about the true meaning of marriage. But



frankly, I think I learned more about the true meaning of contrived melodrama. Take one abusive relationship, add some infidelity, a dead child, a mountain of guilt, several fur coats, a cat fight or two, and you've got yourself one hell of a melodramatic throwdown. And Perry follows these rules to the letter. (10/19/2007) – Toddy Burton

★ Movies 8

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY

D: Jake Kasdan; with John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, Kristen Wiig, Tim Meadows, Chris Parnell, Matt Besser, David Krumholtz, Jack Black, Paul Rudd, Jason Schwartzman, Harold Ramis, Martin Starr. (R, 96 min.)

The creative forces behind *Walk Hard* adhere to one simple rule: If it's funny once, it'll be funny 10 times over. And throughout this absurdist spin on musical biopics, the good news is that sometimes they're right. Taking cues very specifically from *Ray* and *Walk the Line*, this film spans 70 years in the life of its hero, the fictional music legend Dewey Cox (Reilly). The story follows a rise-fall-and-rise-again structure as Dewey meets the love of his life (Fischer), develops multiple drug addictions, loses his love, finds her again, and along the way falls prey to every generational music trend in the book. Whether traveling to India with the Beatles, writing protest songs, or hosting a variety show, Dewey manages to enact all the rock & roll clichés. Simultaneously dumb and enjoyable, the silliness manages at times to be both wonderful and cringe-worthy. In the end, Reilly's oblivious swagger successfully carries much of the film. (12/21/2007) – Toddy Burton

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

D: Jay Russell; with Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka Xi, Marshall Napier, Brian Cox. (PG, 111 min.)

A family film in the best sense, *Water Horse* plays like a cross between a World War II-era *Boy's Own* adventure and *Baby: Secret of the Lost Legend*, minus the soppy treacle of the latter but with just the right amount of RAF fighter flybys to qualify it as a rather ripping yarn, indeed. Set on the coast of Scotland, the ingratiatingly plucky Etel plays Angus, a young dreamer whose mother and sister tend to Lord Something or Other's sprawling

country estate, while he skitters around the tide pools digging up neat stuff. The discovery of a barnacle-encrusted egg reveals the titular "water horse," aka the Loch Ness beastie, and coincides with the arrival of a pair of dueling surrogate afather figures for Angus. With its *Shrek* ears and newborn, puggy snufflings, the water horse is extremely – and unthreateningly, to younger members – well designed, via CGI and more tactile effects work. Despite the title, however, this is Etel's film all the way. (12/21/2007) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

WELCOME

D: Anees Bazmee; with Akshay Kumar, Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor, Feroz Khan. (NR, 158 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. This new Bollywood film is a comedy about a gangster family who is looking for a groom for their daughter. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

RESTORED • REMASTERED • REMARKABLE

★★★★★! Not to be missed!
– Jack Matthews, New York Daily News

"Blade Runner is back and looking great.
Well worth another look."
– Lou Lumenick, New York Post

BLADE RUNNER
THE FINAL CUT

PARAMOUNT PRESENTS
A FILM BY RIDLEY SCOTT
BLADE RUNNER
THE FINAL CUT
CASTING BY JUDY ABERNETHY
COSTUME DESIGNER JANE ROBERTSON
EDITED BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES W. HENSON, JAMES W. HENSON JR., JAMES W. HENSON III
PRODUCED BY JAMES W. HENSON, JAMES W. HENSON JR., JAMES W. HENSON III
SCREENPLAY BY JAMES W. HENSON, JAMES W. HENSON JR., JAMES W. HENSON III
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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



Blade Runner:
The Final Cut

THURSDAY 03

The 90s One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Vol. 2 @Alamo Ritz, 9:45, 12mid.

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007) *D: Ridley Scott; with Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Edward James Olmos, M. Emmet Walsh, William Sanderson, Joanna Cassidy, Brion James. (R, 117 min.)* Recut more times than a plastic-surgery junkie, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* promises to be exactly what its title promises: director Scott's last word on the subject. Cops and androids fight it out in 21st century L.A. in this Philip K. Dick film adaptation with fabulous art direction. This remastered and subtly rejiggered print is most notable for its inclusion of the "scene with the unicorn," which makes abundantly clear that Ford's blade runner is indeed an android and not a human. The film remains a landmark spectacle. @Paramount, 7:30pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors.

Superstarlet A.D. (2000) *D: John Michael McCarthy; with Kerine Elkins, Gina Velour, Michèle Carr, Rita D'Albert. (NR, 70 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** Big-haired bad girls rule in this film's postapocalyptic world. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Tourist Trap (1979) *D: David Schmoeller; with Chuck Connors, Jocelyn Jones, Jon Van Ness, Robin Sherwood, Tanya Roberts. (PG, 90 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** The mannequins in a shut-in's mansion are animated by telekinetic powers and go crazy when some people come looking for their missing friend. Director Schmoeller attended UT before making this film. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) *D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 04

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007) @Paramount, 7:30pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors. (See Thu., 1/3.)

(Good) Friday (1995) *D: F. Gary Gray; with Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Anna Maria Horsford, Regina King, Bernie Mac, John Witherspoon. (R, 91 min.)* This is a cleaned-up version of the urban comedy with all the profanity stripped out and ridiculous voices dubbed in by Foleyvision's Buzz Moran. It's comedy on a whole other level. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

SATURDAY 05

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007) @Paramount, 4:30, 7, 9:30; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors. (See Thu., 1/3.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon *D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Charley Grapewin, Munchkins. (G, 101 min.)* Find out whether there's really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

SUNDAY 06

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007) @Paramount, 2, 4:30, 7; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors. (See Thu., 1/3.)

MONDAY 07

The Holy Modal Rounders: Bound to Lose (2006) See p.70.

TUESDAY 08

Elvis Presley's Birthday Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7, 9:45.

Evangeline (1929) See p.72.

SPACES

South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999) *D: Trey Parker; with the voices of Parker, Matt Stone, Mary Kay Bergman, Isaac Hayes, George Clooney, Eric Idle, Minnie Driver, Mike Judge. (R, 80 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 09

Napoleon Dynamite (2004) See p.72.

Real Genius Quote-Along (1985) *D: Martha Coolidge; with Val Kilmer, Gabriel Jarret, Michelle Meyrink, William Atherton, Jon Gries, Patti D'Arbanville, Stacy Peralta. (PG, 108 min.)* Jon Gries will be in attendance at the Wednesday event. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Terrorvision (1986) *D: Ted Nicolaou; with Diane Franklin, Gerrit Graham, Mary Woronov, Chad Allen, Jon Gries. (R, 83 min.)* **Weird Wednesday/Jon Gries Live.** This Charles Band production mixes horror and comedy with cheesy special effects. Jon Gries will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; \$4.50 advance reserved seats.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 18 issue is Monday, Jan. 7.** 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.

SPACES

James and the Giant Peach (1996)

D: Henry Selick; with the voices of Simon Callow, Joanna Lumley, Miriam Margoyles, Pete Postlethwaite, Richard Dreyfuss, Jane Leeves, Susan Sarandon, David Thewlis. (PG, 80 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

THURSDAY 10

The 90s One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Vol. 2 @Alamo Ritz, 9:45, 12mid. (See Thu., 1/3.)

Beg! (1994) *D: Robert Golden; with Peta Lily, Philip Pellew, Julian Bleach, Olegar Fedoro, Jeremy Wilkin. (NR, 108 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** A murderer is loose in a hospital in England. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Galaxy of Terror (1981) *D: Bruce D. Clark; with Edward Albert, Erin Moran, Ray Walston, Bernard Behrens, Zalman King, Robert Englund. (R, 81 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** The fears of interstellar space travelers are made manifest by their imaginations in this science-fiction suspenser. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Real Genius Quote-Along (1985) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Wed., 1/9.)

SPACES

The Simpsons Movie (2007) *D: David Silverman; with the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner, Nancy Cartwright, Yeardley Smith, Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, Marcia Wallace. (PG-13, 87 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com.

African Adventure 3D: Safari in the Okavango (2007) *D: Ben Stassen. (NR, 40 min.)* Come face-to-face with hippos, crocodiles, elephants, lions, and many types of antelopes and bird species. Closes Friday. (*) Mon.-Thu. (1/10), noon, 4pm

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (2007) *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* National Geographic uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*) Thu. (1/3)Sat., 10am, 1, 5pm; Sun., 4pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/10), 11am, 2, 6, 8pm

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (1/3)Sat., 11am, 4pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/10), 10am, 1pm

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004) *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolar, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent returns to the big screen in all its dimensions. *Ends Jan. 6.* (*) Thu. (1/3), 2, 7; Sun., 2, 5, 7

Wildfire: Feel the Heat (1999) *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.)* Crews put out really big fires around the world. Thu. (1/3)Sat., noon, 6pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/10), 3, 5, 7

Offscreen

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' historic soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for pre-mieres, wrap parties, and concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen. thomasallen@501studios.com.

Reel Women: First Monday Mix Here's 2008's first monthly gathering to mix, mingle, eat, drink, brag, and commiserate with Reel Women members and their media-savvy friends. *Mon., Jan. 7, 6-8pm. Opal Divine's, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308.* Free. www.opaldivines.com.

Rewind Kindly: A Filmmaking Competition Inspired by the upcoming Michel Gondry feature, *Be Kind Rewind*, this competition challenges you to remake (in a five-minute version of low-budget glory) any popular Hollywood film. Entries will be screened at the Alamo Drafthouse, and the winning films will get cash and AMD/Dell hardware. See website for details. Deadline: *Jan. 18.* www.filmmakingfrenzy.com.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they've opened it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been

thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, rest-rooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

See Film Afresh: Women Who Kill In this four-class series, UT's Richard Cutler introduces and leads discussions on *Thelma & Louise*, *La Femme Nikita*, and two other films, exploring the themes and cinematic techniques that portray women as killers. *Jan. 8-29. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458.* \$60. www.doughertyartscenter.org.

The Network Austin Mixer Mingle with local film and media talents at these casual events, rubbing like-minded elbows and getting a load of who's filming who and what's up in the industry. The featured speaker this week is Entertainment Attorney **Deena Kalai**. *Wed., Jan. 9, 7pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747.* www.networkaustinxmixer.com.

The Screenplay Workshop: Classes Forming Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is registering students for classes that begin on Jan. 14: feature-film screenwriting (*Mondays, 7-10pm, or Saturdays, 1-4pm*) and screenwriting according to the masters (*Tuesdays, 7-9pm*). Classes comprise lectures, film-clip viewing, and in-class writing exercises. All classes taught by professional screenwriters. See their website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Acid Tomb

BEERLAND, FRIDAY 4

Acid Tomb, the 13th Floor Elevators tribute band featuring members of locals the Alice Rose and the Jungle Rockers – electric jug included – descends for a return drone engagement after its Halloween Ruta Maya debut. The evening begins with a screening of Scott Conn's *A Dirt Road to Psychedelia*, a 70-minute documentary surveying the musical counterculture in Austin during the 1960s, with DJs Mike Hooker and Shorty Stump and the Ready Steady Go-Go Girls shaking things up before and after.



– Austin Powell

Low Red Center/Night Viking

THE OPERA HOUSE,
FRIDAY 4/SATURDAY 5

This quirky South First vintage shop that shares walls with End of an Ear starts '08 off with a weekend of psychic twin-speak. Friday, locals Low Red Center headline with their minimal mutant disco thump, along with Athens, Ga.'s like-minded Cosmic Disciple. Saturday, local artist Palfloat, aka Chad Hopper, displays his own mutants in an exhibit entitled "Stuffed and Starving Animals," stroked by the skree-fall of local trio the Plutonium Farmers and the art-school improv explosion of four-piece Night Viking. Bring a helmet. Visit www.theoperahousestore.com.

– Audra Schroeder

Sister Carol

FLAMINGO CANTINA, SATURDAY 5

Charismatic and eloquent, Sister Carol is that rare reggae performer who brings culture and consciousness to the dance hall while generating the excitement of her more slack colleagues. Nicknamed "Mother Culture," she sings and toasts of social concerns and matters of Rasta from a woman's point of view. She hasn't been to Austin since a sterling performance back in the Liberty Lunch days, so this return is an event for the masses. Don Chani opens.



– Jay Trachtenberg

Jacuzzi Boys

BEERLAND, SUNDAY 6

Sure, Florida's dying – or maybe it's already dead – but Sunshine State threepiece Jacuzzi Boys are reviving the corpse with an exquisite blend of dirty psych from the bedroom and a shot of scuzzy adrenaline from the jets. Their ambling debut 7-inch, *Ghost Ghost* (Florida's Dying), sounds like the Velvet Underground passed out under the boardwalk. The Martin Luther Kings go last, and the Gospel Truth testifies first.

– Audra Schroeder

Bluegrass Night

HOLE IN THE WALL, WEDNESDAY 9



Expect banjos a-plinkin' and mandolins a-strummin' as Hole in the Wall's Wednesday night gathering celebrates the local acoustic scene with four bands under new weird America's radar: Wade through some rough yet right harmonies and a murder ballad or two from the Flatcar Rattlers, Rogue River String Band, the Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, and the Lonesome Heroes.

– Jim Caligiuri

George Strait

FRANK ERWIN CENTER, THURSDAY 10

No artist has more consistently ridden the bucking trends in country music over the past quarter-century than George Strait, remaining as dominant on the charts as he is true to his Texas roots. This year Strait registered his record-setting 55th No. 1 single with the Charlie Robison penned "Wrapped," furthering a legacy of classics like "Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind," "Ocean Front Property," and, of course, "All My Ex's Live in Texas."

– Doug Freeman



Strange Boys

Emo's Free Week, Part 2

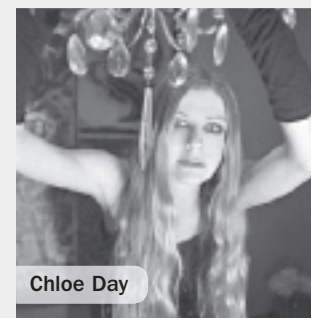
EMO'S, FRIDAY 4-THURSDAY 10

Emo's notorious Free Week continues with every type of rock & roll known to Austin. Friday, the Lounge tests chaos theory with punks **Hex Dispensers**, the **Ape-Shits**, the **Teeners**, and **Scrabble Robot**. Outside introduces the rawk of **Lions** to the SoCal sunshine of **Brothers & Sisters**, and inside gets vintage rock/garage/gritty R&B respectively with **Those Peabodys**, the **Ugly Beats**, and **Black Joe Lewis**. Saturday, **Cruiserweight** pop-punks inside with the **Applicators**, **Car Stereo (Wars)** throw a dance party with **Mothfight** and friends in the Lounge, and the **Strange Boys** throw down with the **Crack Pipes** (featuring the return of guitarist Billy Steve), **Zykos**, and **Brazos** outside. **Ume** thrashes Sunday with **Red Leaves** and the grrrls of **Follow That Bird!** inside, while **Til We're Blue or Destroy** follows suit in the Lounge.

If you survive the weekend, Monday leaves a trail of blown speakers in the wake of 1970s revivalists **Scorpion Child** and **Big Black Smoke** inside, buffered by the softer sounds of **Pleasant Grove**, the **Easies**, and **Single Frame** Loungeside. Tuesday turns it up with hardcore heroes **Pack of Wolves** and **Warwolf** inside, the fist-pumping sing-alongs of **At All Cost** and **Rory & the Artificial Heart** outside, and the Lounge pop-top of **Kissinger** and the **Midgetmen**. Wednesday's heavy-hitter is the Australian Cattle God showcase: Outside, **Gorch Fock** shares stage and trombone with **When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth**, and **Lick Lick** gets dirty with **Cat Scientist**; inside, the **Snake Trap** merges with **Megazilla** while **Good Times Crisis Band** and Attack Formation personality **A Formatik Ontact** hold their own. **Ringo Deathstarr**, **My Education**, and **Horse + Donkey** come down easy Thursday in the Lounge while **Rubble** and **Cavedweller** trip inside, and **Crash Gallery** breaks outside to close out the week. Handsome Joel would be proud. See www.emosaustin.com for full lineup.

– Darcie Stevens

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



LOW LINE CALLER *Stubb's, Friday 4*

Space out with Denton balladeer Doug Burr and Dallas' plucky Flat People.

MARCIA BALL *Antone's, Friday 4*

Honky-tonk and blues, Ball's to the wall.

SOILENT GREEN *Red 7, Saturday 5*

It's not people – it's thrash from the bayou.

TERRORISTIC *Room 710, Saturday 5*

Foot Patrol's hardcore side callouses 710, with added noise from Hit by a Car, Crapulence, Obnosticon, Psychics, and Jazzus Lizard.

CAPRICORN CHILLOUT 2

Beauty Bar, Saturday 5

L.A. woman Chloe Day pours some *Sugar*; the beats of locals Shuttle Debris and Rage Ranger add more glitch.

TED RODDY'S 22ND ANNUAL ELVIS TRIBUTE

Continental Club, Saturday 5 & Broken Spoke, Sunday 6

Roddy gets rowdy for the King with two shows Saturday and hound-dogs for the kids Sunday, 3pm.

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO, DAVID GARZA

Continental Club, Tuesday 8

Al scoots into a rockin' Tuesday night residency.

THE WORD ASSOCIATION

Red 7, Thursday 10

San Marcos' hip-hop enclave hooks and snaps, with Heroes and Agents of Change outside.

THE DEWAYN BROTHERS

Mohawk, Thursday 10

A Kansas-style beatdown of banjo pickin' and whiskey drinkin', with singer-songwriters Danny Malone and Ryan Perrey.

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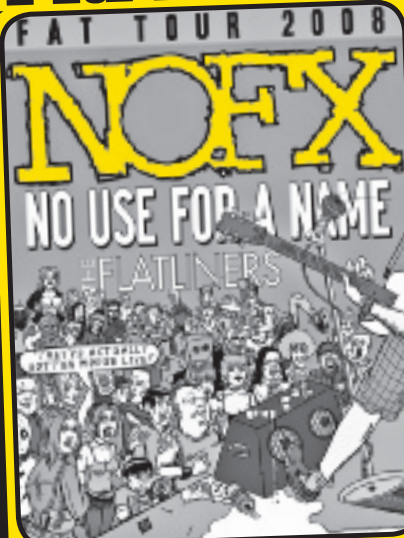
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SAT FEB 23



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SAT MAR 1



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LOWLINECALLER
WITH **FLATPEOPLE**
AND **DOUG BURR**
SUN JAN 6

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH
THE BELLS OF JOY

THU JAN 10
LANGUAGE ROOM
WITH **ELIOT FITZGERALD**

FRI JAN 11
DREMN'T THE END
WITH **SPACE CADET**
AND **EMBER**

SAT JAN 12
COLOR AND LIGHT
WITH **HOMER HICCOLM**
& **THEROCKETBOYS**

THU JAN 17
COREY SMITH

FRI JAN 18
BACKDOOR SLAM
WITH **THE ELECTRIC TOUCH**

TUE JAN 22
FIVE TIMES AUGUST
WITH **STEPHENS SPEAKS**

WED JAN 23
GRACE POTTER
AND **THE NOCTURNALS**

FRI FEB 8
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RIVAL CITY
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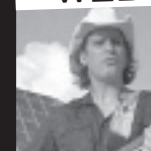
SATURDAY 1/5

MT. SKRILLA
10PM-2AM

MONDAY 1/7

BLUE MONDAY
FEATURING
THE ALTAR BOYZ

WEDNESDAY 1/9



PATRICK FLEMING
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Start your new year right by turning onto Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's online community for hooking up with real people from the Austin area. On Lovers Lane you can read profiles, look at pictures, and listen to voice greetings from people right here in Austin – absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, and record a voice greeting for free. You could be meeting new, interesting people right now. Check out Lovers Lane at austinchronicle.com/loverslane. Plus, if you place a profile with a picture before 5pm Monday, Feb. 4, you could win a \$150 gift certificate to TABU!

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austinchronicle.com/loverslane

live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL,
3001 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/388-7353
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2103 E.M. Franklin, 926-0043
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888
B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101,
335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3, 5610 N. I-35, 302-1366
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake,
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BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK
THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300
BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902
BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar,
206-1000
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar,
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San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones,
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CLUB 115, 115 San Jacinto, 480-0254
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger,
512/859-0700
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth,
472-1860
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe,
380-0097
FRANK ERWIN CENTER, 1701 Red River, 471-7744
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434
Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels,
830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress,
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HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville,
512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress,
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HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
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#114, 251-5554
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LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
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SUNDAY, JAN 6
SECRET SIDESHOW 11:30P
RYAN ANDERSON 10:30P
LEATHERBAG 9:30P

MONDAY, JAN 7
THE KOREANS 11:30P
FOLLOWED BY STATIC 10:30P

TUESDAY, JAN 8
THE BREAD 10P

WEDNESDAY, JAN 9
BLUEGRASS NIGHT
LONESOME HEROES 12:30A
ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN ROTTEN
APPLE GANG 11:30P
ROGUE RIVER STRING BAND 10:30P
THE FLATCAR RATTLERS 9:30P

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PARIS '49
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
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EPHRAIM OWENS
WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

THURS JAN 3
HAPPY HOUR
IZZY COX 12AM

BLACK JOE LEWIS
10PM
TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
FRIDAY JAN 4
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS

Bill Carter 12AM
AND THE BLAME
WITH
DENNY FREEMAN
AND
CHARLIE SEXTON 10PM
SETH WALKER 10PM

DALE WATSON
AND HIS LONESTARS'S
Elvis Tribute
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BENEFITS ABUNDANT LIFE NETWORK
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PLANET CASPER PRESENTS
SCRAPPY JUDD NEWCOMB & DAVID GRISSOM
DAVID GARZA 11:30PM
Alejandra Escovedo
WEDNESDAY JAN 9
H.H. **ELANA JAMES**
JAMES McMURTRY 10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM 9:30M
KATHLEEN EDWARDS 12AM
THURSDAY JAN 10
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM
ONION CREEK CRAWDADDIES
12AM
BARFIELD
FRIDAY JAN 11
THE MONSTAS
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
BLUES SPECIALISTS
12AM
THE DERAILERS
SATURDAY JAN 12
REDD VOLKAERT
MATINEE 3-7PM
THE IGUANAS 10PM
MARIO MATTEOLI 12AM

TRIBUTE TO THE KING!
TED RODDY
AND KING CONJURE
ORCHESTRA PLUS
Shaun Young and His
New Blue Moon Boys 10PM

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AND **EARL POOLE**
BALL
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Shepherd's Dog
- 2) SPOON
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga
- 3) LYLE LOVETT
& HIS LARGE BAND
It's Not Big, It's Large
- 4) STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
Solos, Sessions
& Encores
- 5) OCTOPUS PROJECT
Hello Avalanche
- 6) TONI PRICE
Talk Memphis
- 7) OMAR KENT DYKES
& JIMMIE VAUGHAN
On the Jimmy Reed
Highway
- 8) GHOSTLAND
OBSERVATORY
Paparazzi Lightning
- 9) OCTOPUS PROJECT
Hello Avalanche
- 10) STORYVILLE
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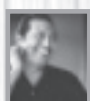
ADRIAN LEGG

fri. jan 18



CHRIS SMITHER

sat. jan 19



ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO

wed. jan 23



musician/actor 8:30pm

JEFF DANIELS

fri. jan 25



legendary bluesman

JOHN HAMMOND

mon. feb 4



scottish songwriter

DOUGIE MACLEAN

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Erwin Center Box Office
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thur. & fri. feb 7&8



OVER THE RHINE

tix @ HEBs, Erwin Center Box Office
477-6060 or texasboxoffice.com

tue. feb 19



TIM FINN

tix @ HEBs, Erwin Center Box Office
477-6060 or texasboxoffice.com

www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus

1.15 JONATHAN BYRD

JESS KLEIN

1.16 TENLON'S FURT

BROTHER WILL

1.22 GEORGE HARRISON

TRIBUTE

1.24 MALCOMBE HOLCOMBE

1.27 WHEATFIELD

1.29 REX FOSTER

1.31 BELLVILLE OUTFIT

2.2 JIMMY LAFAYE

2.6 CORY MORROW



The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union.
Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the
door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
23rd & Guadalupe. 475-6515.
www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus

club listings

Thu 03

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle
(8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine
(8:30)

ANTONE'S Much Love
(11:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Chris
Gage & Michael Austin

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE
NO. 1735 Homer
Henderson (9:00)

THE BELMONT
Dysfunkshun Junkshun
(8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall
(7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn
Nelson

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse
Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Shad
Blair

CEDAR STREET Kent
Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
Combo Mahalo (6:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Topaz
(11:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB
Gallery: Paris 49
(10:00); In the Club:
Nathan Singleton & His
Side-Show Tragedy, O.A.,
Dustin Welch (6:30)

COOL RIVER CAFE The
Pictures (9:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa
Lessons w/ Tony, the
Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-
Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn &
the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER
GRILLE Mark Goodwin
Trio (7:30)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mary
Welch y los Curanderos
(7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Asylum
Street Spankers, Bruce
Saunders Quintet (6:00)

EMO'S Inside: Attack
Formation, Camp X-Ray,
Horn of Africa, Poor
People, the Bill Jeffereys;
Lounge: the Score, Fall
Collection, the Drawing
Board, the Bubbles;
Outside: Prom Nite,
Faceless Werewolves,
Jersusalem, AM Syndicate,
Magnet School

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz
Morphis (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Oak
Is Keeping

FLIPNOTICS AT THE
TRIANGLE Matt the
Electrician & Southpaw
Jones (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/
Roy & Ted (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE
LONGHORN SALOON
Dale Watson (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jeff
Plankenhorn (1:00),
Dedringers (6:00)

Acts are chronologically
listed. Schedules are subject to
change, so please call clubs to
confirm lineup. Times are given
where known and are PM unless
otherwise noted.

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.

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Ruben
Ramos w/ Los Flames
(6:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/
Dan the Man

HEADHUNTERS Mercy

THE HIDEOUT
COFFEEHOUSE Brian
Kremer (9:15)

HILL'S CAFE Brent Allen
(7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL David
Newbould, Dave Madden,
Jade Day, Suzanna
Choffel (9:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL
Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band
(8:00)

LAMBERTS Glover Tango
(6:30), Bee's Knees
Revue (10:30)

roadshows

THU 3

Horn of Africa, Emo's
Cut It Out, Red 7

FRI 4

Thanatos, Elysium
Jenifer Jackson, Jovita's
Michael Thomas, Momo's
Dibbs Preston & the
Detonators, the Oaks
Cosmic Disciple, the Opera
House
El Guapo, Falling Down
Hurts, Red 7
Casuiet, Cain Was Abel,
Xapharon, Room 710
Flat People, Doug Burr,
Stubb's

SAT 5

Chloe Day, Beauty Bar
The Kickback, Club 115
Sister Carol, Flamingo
Cantina
Uptown Bums, Louis Tully,
Mad Swirl, Headhunters
The Urgency & the
Exit, Zap Em Dead,
Bartholemew, Red 7

Soilent Green, Sacrolytic,
Red 7
Mostly Dead, Red Eyed Fly
Ruta Maya

SUN 6

Jacuzzi Boys, Beerland
Tre Orsi, Sharks &
Sailors, Emo's
Stranded Between, the
Hideout Coffeehouse
Frenetica, Jovita's

MON 7

Pleasant Grove, Emo's
The Koreans, Hole in the
Wall
Bill Isles, Momo's
11th Day, Red 7

TUE 8

The Pillow Queens, the
Nasty Rumors, Beerland
Disgruntled I Hate You
Face, Emo's
Steve Carter, Saxon Pub

WED 9

Izzy Cox, Botticelli's
Boxcar Bandits, Club 115
Translations, Nectarine,
Emo's
Zenith Fuzzbomb, Room
710
Elroy, Going Nowhere
Fast, Trophy's

THU 10

Bridges & Blinking Lights,
Emo's
George Strait, Little Big
Town, Sarah Johns, Frank
Erwin Center
DeWayn Brothers, Mohawk
Agents of Change,
Hoodlum Circus, Red 7
Rusty Sheriff's Badge,
Room 710
Poorman's Sharp Knives,
Trophy's

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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SUN JAN 6 THE BROKEN SPOKE 3pm ALL AGES FAMILY MATINEE

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INSIDE: **THE ATAK (IN)FORMATION**
CAMP X RAY • THE HORN OF AFRICA
POOR PEOPLE • THE BILL JEFFERYS

LOUNGE: THE SCORE • FALL COLLECTION
PAPER SOUTH • THE DRAWING BOARD • THE BUBBLES

OUTSIDE: **PROM NITE**
FACELESS WEREWOLVES • JERUSALEM
AM SYNDICATE • MAGNET SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 FREE WEEK!

LOUNGE: HEX DISPENSERS • APE SHITS
THE TEENERS • PARTY GARBAGE • SCRABBLE ROBOT

OUTSIDE: LIONS • BROTHERS AND SISTERS
A FEW NICE THINGS • STRANGE ATTRACTORS
ALRIGHT TONIGHT

INSIDE: THOSE PEABODYS • UGLY BEATS
BLACK JOE LEWIS • TRANSMOGRAPHY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: CRUISERWEIGHT • THE APPLICATORS
THE LITTLE BICYCLES • MASONIC • THE ANCHOR

LOUNGE: CAR STEREO (WARS) • MOTH! FIGHT!
QUIET, LOVELY LA SNACKS SPONGEBOB 31 PARTY ENDS.COM

OUTSIDE: STRANGE BOYS • **The CRACK PIPES**
ZYKOS • BRAZOS • LALALAND

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: UME • RED LEAVES • TRE ORSI
SHARKS AND SAILORS • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!

LOUNGE: TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY
BEE VS. MOTH • FRANK SMITH • BENKO
NOISE REVIVAL ORCHESTRA

MONDAY, JANUARY 7 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: SCORPION CHILD • BIG BLACK SMOKE
CONSIDER THE SOURCE • PANTHER ZORA • COBRETTI

LOUNGE: PLEASANT GROVE
HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP • THE EASIES
MANY BIRTHDAYS • HISTORY AT OUR DISPOSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: PACK OF WOLVES
WARWOLF • THE ROLLER
DISORIENTED I HATE YOUR FACE • CONFUZATRON

LOUNGE: KISSINGER • THE MIDGETMEN
NATHAN SINGLETON AND HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY
THE BLIND PETS

OUTSIDE: **AT ALL COST**
RORY AND THE ARTIFICIAL HEART
RADIOLAND MURDERS • AUX • MONUMENTS

COMING SOON: 1/18 TWO TON BOA (DUETS)* • 1/19 CRIMINAL DAMAGE, THE MARKED MED (IN) • 1/20 NASHVILLE PUSSEY
• 1/21 HOWL, ST. JUDE, EUGENE ROBINSON (OF OXBOW) • 1/25 SOLE • 1/31 WHITE WILLIAMS (IN, ON SALE NOW)
• 2/1 BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH, WESTBOUND TRAIN, BEAT UNION (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 2/10 DEAD MEADOW (IN, ON SALE NOW)
• 2/14 SHERWOOD, THE MARCHES, THE HIGHER, WE SHOT THE MOON (IN, ON SALE NOW) • 2/16 METEORS
• 2/22 COBRA STARSHER METRO STATION, WE THE KINGS, THE CAB (ONVOD OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/23 AIDEN
• 2/23 BLACK LIPS, WHITE BEHIM (OUT, ON SALE NOW) • 2/27 BRACH HOUSE, PAPERDOLLS (ONVOD, ON SALE NOW) • 2/27 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN, ON SALE NOW)

***ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records, end of an ear records, & sound on sound records**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 FREE WEEK!

LOUNGE: **TRANSLATIONS**
PEEL • P.D. WILDER • NECTARINE

INSIDE: **SNAKE TRAP • MEGAZILLA**
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND • A FORMATIK ON TACT
RED X RED M • MANIKIN

OUTSIDE: **GORCH FOCK**
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH
TIA CARRERA • LICK LICK • CAT SCIENTIST • MIGAS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10 FREE WEEK!

LOUNGE: RINGO DEATHSTARR • MY EDUCATION
THE BOXING LESSON • HORSE + DONKEY • THE STORY

INSIDE: RUBBLE • DAZZLING KING SOLOMON
CAVEDWELLER • BRIDGES AND BLINKING LIGHTS

OUTSIDE: **CRASH GALLERY • LAX**
THE LAUGHING • DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE • SNAFU KITTIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

INSIDE:  **DAN DEACON**
ULTIMATE REALITY
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

 **THE SWORD**

TRIGGER RENEGADE • THE ROLLER
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

 **GALLOWS**
THIS IS HELL
CANCER BATS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

 **LES SAVY FAV**

OUTSIDE: **LUPE FIASCO** 

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

INSIDE: YEASAYER • MGMT

OUTSIDE: HOT 93.3 PRESENTS
LUPE FIASCO

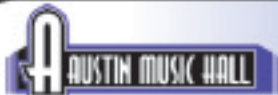
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

OUTSIDE: **SUPER FURRY ANIMALS**
HOLY FUCK TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

OUTSIDE: **THE BRAVERY**
SWITCHES TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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 FRI MAR 7

AS I LAY DYING AUGUST BURNS RED
 STILL REMAINS
 TUE JAN 15 10P

DJ SHADOW EYE OF THE BEAST
 HARD SELL
 FRI JAN 18 10P

THE GREYBOY ALLSTARS
 FRI JAN 25 10P

KELLER WILLIAMS WMD'S
 SAT JAN 26 10P

ROBIN TROWER
 SUN JAN 27 10P

The Bangles In Concert
 THU JAN 31 10P

UPCOMING SHOWS

BAND OF HORSES BY GASS WICKERSS + THE MIDDLE CLASS, TYLER RAMSEY
 FEB 03

MOLDTOV
 FEB 13

RODRIGO Y GABRIELA
 FEB 16

MINISTRY W/ WESLEYAN AND NEWBORN
 APR 15

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club listings ◀ ◀ FROM THURSDAY

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy**LOUIE'S 106** Mac Bynum (6:30)**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Afrofreque (6:00)**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)**MOMO'S** Amy Cook, Suzanna Choffel, James Speer, James Bullard, Josh Halverson (8:00)**NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Jim Bryant**THE OAKS** Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, Clepper George (7:00)**ONE 2 ONE BAR** AJ Valleso & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)**THE PARLOR** Horse + Donkey, Magic Jewels CD Release**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Weldon Henson (8:00)**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Stop the Truck**RED 7** Cut It Out, My Luck, Coptic Times**RED FEZ** Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)**THE ROCK ROOM** Karaoke w/ DJ Trip**ROOM 710** Service Industry, the Ideals, Comanche Abortion**RUTA MAYA** Meagan Tubb & Shady People (6:30)**SAXON PUB** Midlife Crisis, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Ramsey Midwood (6:00)**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D.**SPEAKEASY** Blacktooth, Bustamoovalators, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Tin Can Phone**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Lucky Strikes (7:30)**TRIPLE CROWN** Eric Hisaw, Pat Roberts, Perseph 1**TROPHY'S** Rin Fletcher, Ted Hadji & the Wholly Ghosts**VICTORY GRILL** Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)**Z'TEJAS** Kat's Meow (6:00)

Fri 0 4

AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)**ANTONE'S** Early: Marcia Ball; Later: Eric Tessmer (9:00)**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** George Enslé**BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3** Jonas Alvarez (8:00)**BEERLAND** 13th Floor Elevators Tribute w/ Acid Tomb**THE BELMONT** Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (9:00), Jack Roe Combo (9:00)**BOTTICELLI'S** Aaron Franz 'BOUT TIME DJ Element**BROKEN SPOKE** James Hand**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mike & the Moonpies (6:30), Mad Cowboys (9:00)**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Ephraim Owens (6:30)**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Tribute to the King w/ Ted Roddy & the King Conjure Orchestra, Shaun Young's New Blue Moon Boys (9:00)**CLUB 115** Bryce Clifford, Matt Giles, the Johns, Grub Dog & the Modestos (8:00)**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Little Mikey & the Sodajerks, White Ghost Shivers (10:00)**COOL RIVER CAFE** London Calling (9:15)**COTTON CLUB** Just Add Water (8:30)**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters**ELYSIUM** Gabbar, Exit, Thanatos**EMO'S** Lounge: Scrabble Robot, Party Garbage, Teeners, the Ape Shits, Hex Dispensers; Outside: The Alright Tonight, Strange Attractors, A Few Nice Things, Brothers and Sisters, Lions; Inside: Transmography, Black Joe Lewis, Ugly Beats, Those Peabodys**EVANGELINE CAFE** Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights (10:00)**GRUENE HALL** Ed Jurdi (1:00), Guzman Fox & Hardin (8:00)**GUERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoi Brothers (6:30)**HEADHUNTERS** Total Faggots, Streetlight Suzy**HILL'S CAFE** K'Cee Edwards (7:30)**HOLE IN THE WALL** David Israel, Dark Water Hymnal, the Esasies (10:00)**HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian**JOVITA'S** Jenifer Jackson, Dickie Lee Erwin**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)**LAMBERTS** Greg Williams Quartet (10:30)**LUCKY LOUNGE** Cellus & the Loose Grip (9:00)**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)**MOHAWK** The Van Buren Boys**MOMO'S** Charlie Faye, Nathan Singleton, Michael Thomas, Underdriven**NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Too Blue**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Nutty Karaoke w/ Bruce Newman**THE OAKS** Dibbs Preston & the Detonators (8:00)**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Derrick Davis (10:00)**THE OPERA HOUSE** Low Red Center, Gary Barfitts & Eric Craggsdale, V.C. Childcraft, (7:00)**THE PARLOR** Unsurpassed Profit, Furley, Micah Omega, Candi & the Cavities**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Jon Emery (8:00)**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Adam Raven, Band of Heathens**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)**RED 7** Falling Down Hurts, El Guapo, Driver F, the Applicators**RED EYED FLY** Exit the Sun, Devola, Duke**RED FEZ** An Arabian Night, DJ Inverse (8:00)**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)**ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield**ROOM 710** Dead Haven, Havoc Dose, Xapharon, Cain Was Abel, Whore of Babylon, Casuist**RUTA MAYA** Ryan Davis, LED (8:00)**SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Stephen Bruton, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Swank (9:00)**STUBB'S** Doug Burr, Flat People, Low Line Caller**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Tin Can Phone**TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Ernesto Marquez Sextet (7:30)**TRIPLE CROWN** Buck Jones & the Haggards, Manifesto, Lug**THE WATER-HOLE SALOON** Karaoke w/ JonnSee austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

RED FEZ
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THURSDAY Twilight Broadcast 8:30-10:30
 The Weekend Warm-Up 10:30-2:00

FRIDAY DJ In/Verse 10:30-2:00

SATURDAY DJ Kurv 10:00-2:00

SUNDAY DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00

MONDAY DJ Jeff Jupiter 10:00-2:00

TUESDAY Bruce James Quartet 8:30-10:30
 Twist Up w/DJ Manny 10:30-2:00

WEDNESDAY Atash 8:00-10:00
 DJ Eye-One 10:00-2:00

WEDNESDAY 8-10PM

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THU, JAN 3 **JESSE DAYTON** 9PM
DANCE LESSON 8-9PM

FRI, JAN 4 **JAMES HAND**

SAT, JAN 5 **CORNELL HURD**

SUN, JAN 6 **ELVIS PRESLEY**

TUE, JAN 8 **DEBRA PETERS** NO COVER

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JAN 8: Blue Tuesday
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THEN: BLUE TUESDAY BAND FEAT. **DEREK & MALFORD**

WEDNESDAY JAN 9
THE MONSTAS
GRAMMY NOMINATED BRIAN MITCHELL

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FRIDAY JAN 11
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SATURDAY JAN 12
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FRIDAY JAN 18
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SATURDAY JAN 19
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WILL HOGE
W/ JEREMY FISHER
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FRIDAY JAN 25
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SATURDAY JAN 26
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WITH THE IVAN MILEV BAND
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SATURDAY JANUARY 5 • 3PM

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MONDAY JANUARY 7 • 6:30PM

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LSU TIGERS
CHAMPIONSHIP ON TV

TUESDAY JANUARY 8

BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM

KEVIN GALLAGHER &

GREG ANDERSON 8PM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9 • 7PM

CLEVE & SWEET

MARY HATTERSLEY



MUSIC BLOG

Schadenfreude
reflects on the good
parts of 2007 music:

*"It felt like maybe this year
wouldn't be eclipsed by the
skin-numbing feel-goodness
of that fucking Feist song."*

- Audra Shroeder



austinchronicle.com/musicblog

Sat 05

ARTZ RIB HOUSE CTBA

Night w/ the Stringbeans

BEAUTY BAR Capricorn

Chillout w/ Rage Ranger,

Shuttle Debris, Chloe Day

BEERLAND The Jungle

Rockers, Flametrick Subs

THE BELMONT Cienfuegos

(9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Suzanna

Choffel

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

(9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Cornell

Hurd Band

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

THE CANARY ROOST

Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The

Lennings

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH

Seth Walker (6:30)

CLUB 115 The Sanguinistas,

the Kickback, Abigail

& Hansel, Devil Bat,

Triplewide (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB

Gallery: Mike Flanigin's

B-3 Trio (10:00); Tribute

to the King w/ Ted Roddy

& the King Conjure

Orchestra, Shaun Young &

the New Blue Moon Boys

(7:00, 11:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE

Newsboyz (9:15)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa

Lesson w/ Cesar &

Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)

COTTON CLUB Ricky

Calmbach (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Albert &

Gage

EL SOL Y LA LUNA

Cerronato (7:30)

ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void,

the Gothfather (10:30)

EMO'S Inside: Masonic, the

Anchor, Little Bicycles,

Cruiserweight; Lounge:

La Snacks, Quiet Lovely,

Moth! Fight!, Car Stereo

(Wars); Outside: LalaLand,

Brazos, Zykos, Strange

Boys, the Crack Pipes

EVANGELINE CAFE Sunset

Valley Boys (3:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Don

Chani, Sister Carol

GRUENE HALL Michael

Hearne (1:00), Seth

James (9:30)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los

Killa Hawks (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Mad Swirl,

Buckeye, Louis Tully,

Uptown Bums, Sex Advice

THE HIDEOUT

COFFEEHOUSE Joseph

Lewis (6:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL JWW

& the Prospectors, the

Moonhangers (10:00)

JOVITA'S Mo Pair & the Ugly

Mooks, Slowtrain, Mo Pair,

Slowtrain

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big

Jim (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Mike

Maven & the Goodlife

(9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick

Harvey's Blues Happy

Hour (6:00)

MOHAWK The Party

MOMO'S La Tampiquena,

Michael Dart, South

Austin Jug Band (8:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST

Stephen Doster & Will

Sexton

NUTTY BROWN CAFE

Basil's Band

THE OAKS Mike & the

Moonpies, Johnny Falstaff,

Whiskey River Revival,

Deadend Cowboys (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR This Life

Electric (10:00)

THE OPERA HOUSE Palfloat

Opening w/ Night Viking,

Plutonium Farmers (7:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE

Jim Stringer (8:00)

PLUSH Table Manners Crew

(10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &

GRILL Dickie Lee Erwin,

Carolyn Wonderland

RED 7 Early: Zap Em Dead,

Bartholemew; Sea Dogs;

Sons of the Martyr; the

Urgency & the Exit; Later:

Condemned Unit, Blood

of Ronin, Disfigured,

Sacrolytic, Soilent Green

RED EYED FLY Charlie

Railroad, Evildoers, Mostly

Dead, Heartbreak in

Action, For Sake of Ruins

RED FEZ Alton Rex, DJ Kurv

(8:00)

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Th 3	Eric Hisaw 6pm Perseph 1, Pat Roberts 10pm
Fr 4	Buck Jones & the Haggards 6pm Lug, Manifesto 10pm
Sa 5	Word Association, Jaysin w/ Melody Murder 10pm
Su 6	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 7	Gerry's Kids 6pm
Tu 8	Robbie Doyen 6pm
We 9	Bruce Curtis Band 6pm Scotty & the Metaphysics 9pm
Th 10	RC Banks 6pm Móchate - Salsa Night 9pm
Fr 11	Los Gallos 6pm Rogers Porn Collection, Free To Kill Again, Flash Boys 9pm
Sa 12	Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five, Winter Dance Party, Black Water Revival 10pm



ALL SHOWS NOW INSIDE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 • 7PM
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 • 8PM
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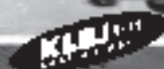
HAPPY HOUR 6-8		HEADLINERS 9:30
THU 3	KENT MAYHEW	RADIOSTAR
FRI 4	PATTY DAVIS	ROTEL & THE HOT TOMATOES
SAT 5		LC ROCKS
SUN 6		suede
MON 7	HIGHLY LIKELY	THE ACTIVATES
TUE 8	TRAVIS DAMRON	MIKE MAVEN <small>ALTHEA</small> GOOD LIFE
WED 9	TRENT DAVE	SPAZMATICS



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IMAGINE

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 W/ THE LOST PINES
 NEW BLOOD FRIDAZE 2008 8PM 2AM
 3PM RYAN DAVIS
 10:15 L.E.D.
 12:15 IZZY COX

SAT 1/5
 SAT 1/5 4PM THE GROUNDWORK MUSIC
 PROJECT HOUR W/ SPECIAL GUESTS
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 Candace Moore, Amy Glen

MON 1/07
TUESDAYS ARE OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
 6 PM Poetry Open Mic
 9 PM Music Open Mic
 8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

TUE 1/08
CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
 FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
 Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

WED 1/09
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TUESDAYS 7PM
WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAYS 7PM
PTARMIGAN

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

RENAISSANCE HOTEL
 Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN
 Kirk Hale (6:30)

ROOM 710 Foot Patrol, Jazzus Lizard, Psychics, Obnosticon, Crapulence, Hit by a Car, MC Terroristic

RUTA MAYA Rickey Caesar's Birthday BlowOut w/ D-Madness, the Greyhounds, Dr. Zog Caesar Brothers' Funkbox Flyjack Big Chief Kevin Goodman

SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)

SAXON PUB Jon Dee Graham, PorterDavis (8:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL
 Brandon Raines, Carson Alexander

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Melody Murder, Jaysin, Word Association

TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod (7:00)

TROPHY'S Sweet Skull, Hi-Watt Cruxifixers, More Fire

Sun 06

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB
 Irish Tune Session (8:00)

BEERLAND The Gospel Truth, Jacuzzi Boys, Martin Luther Kings

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

BROKEN SPOKE Tribute to the King w/ Ted Roddy & the King Conjure Orchestra, Shaun Young's New Blue Moon Boys (3:00)

THE CANARY ROOST
 Karaoke w/ Brian

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
 Belleville Outfit (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH
 Steve Schwelling Trio (12:30)

CLUB 115 Shut Up & Sing (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB
 Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00); In the Club: Heybale! (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Inside: Follow That Bird!, Sharks & Sailors, Tre Orsi, Red Leaves, Ume; Lounge: Benko, Bee vs. Moth, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Noise Revival Orchestra

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
 Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Tim & David Holt (Noon), PorterDavis (4:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Tex Thomas (3:00)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Austin Sketch Group (1:30), Stranded Between (8:00)

HILL'S CAFE Shad Blair (7:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL
 Leatherbag, Ryan Anderson, Secret Sideshow (9:30)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL
 Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Frenetica (7:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)

MANUEL'S Alex Coke (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS
 Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)

MOMO'S Michael Dart, Belleville Outfit, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Marshall Ford Swing Band (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Strong Medicine (noon)

NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

THE OASIS The Brew

THE PARLOR Silas

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Layne (5:30)

RED FEZ DJ Krupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Natalie Zoe, Jeff Plankenhorn (7:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (noon)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL
 Karaoke w/ Michelle

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Gospel Brunch w/ Brennen Leigh (11:00am)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

TROPHY'S Azoustin

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE
 Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 07

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (6:30)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB
 Gallery: Crybear (10:00); In the Club: Dale Watson's Birthday Extravaganza, Abundant Life Network Benefit (9:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective, Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (6:00)

EMO'S Inside: Cobretti, Panther Zora, Consider the Source, Big Black Smoke, Scorpion Child; Lounge: Single Frame, Many Birthdays, the Easies, Hollywood Gossip, Pleasant Grove

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading

HOLE IN THE WALL
 Followed by Static, the Koreans (10:30)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL
 Karaoke w/ Brian

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

MOMO'S Bill Isles, Jon Napier, Bukka Allen, Dustin Welch (5:45)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (10:30)

THE PARLOR Ralph White

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RABBIT'S LOUNGE
 Blue Monday w/ Willie Sampson (8:00)

RED 7 The Decay Company, Back at Goliad, 11th Day

RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

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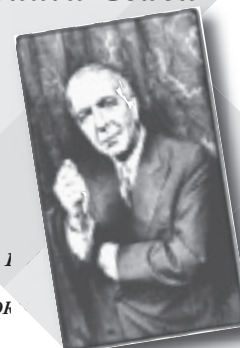
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FRIDAY, JAN 4

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9:30PM

SATURDAY, JAN 5

**JOHELL AND
THE RED ROOSTERS**
9:30PM

MONDAY, JAN 7

**S.I.N.
JONATHAN TERRELL
ON TERRACE 59**

TUESDAY, JAN 8

BLACKTOOTH

WEDNESDAY, JAN 9

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THE BREW** 9:30PM
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BRUCE SMITH 7:30PM
BLACKFEET 10PM
MIDDLEGROUND 11PM

SAT 1/5
KING ONUS 7:30PM
PRIDE AND JOY 10PM

SUN 1/6
FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

TUE 1/8
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MONTE MONTGOMERY,
JAMES SPEER, BRIAN
LEE & PHIL BASS

WED 1/9
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CHIEF BURNING HANDS

Saturday 01.05.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
SISTER CAROL
DON CHANI & WINSTON'S COOKING!

Thursday 01.10.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
CHICAGO TYPWRITER
FATBACK CIRCUS

Friday 01.11.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
HMS FOOLHARDY

Saturday 1.12.08 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
RIVAL CITY
BOMBASTA
JOJO'S BAD APPLES

UPCOMING SHOWS:
01.16: Indofin, Bocostris, Tri Opus, Benny Vs. The Boats
01.17: Dimick's Ascent, Sleep&ZellyRock, Meridian Prime, DJ Sheestrings
01.18: Felipe Galvan y Sus Skamales (Ex-Los Skamales), Boca Abajo, Subrosa Union
01.19: Mr. Brown, Full Service, Little Brian
01.20: Grimy Styles Dubz & Sunday!
01.21: Ari Hoenig, Snarky Puppy

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club listings < FROM MONDAY

SAM'S TOWN POINT

Breck's Open Blues Jam
(8:30)

SAXON PUB

Matt the Electrician, Rodney Pyeatt, Owen Temple, Tara Graham (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN

Gerry's Kids (6:00)

Tue 08

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (11:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BEERLAND The Nasty Rumors, the Pillow Queens, Poor People

THE BELMONT Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Cincinnati Joe

BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup

CLUB 115 Red Line Riot, Spoiled Royals

CONTINENTAL CLUB

Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); In the Club: Casper Rawls' Planet Casper w/ David Grissom, Warren Hood (6:30), Alejandro Escovedo, David Garza (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELYSIUM 90's Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Lounge: Blind Pets, Nathan Singleton & His Sideshow Tragedy, Midgetmen, Kissinger; Inside: Confuzatron, Disgruntled I Hate You Face, the Roller, Warwulf, Pack of Wolves; Outside: Monuments, AUX, Radioland Murders, Rory & the Artificial Heart, At All Cost

EVANGELINE CAFE

Brennen Leigh, Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (6:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits (7:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roots Day w/ Miss Lauren Marie (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HANOVER'S Kevin Havron, Jay Dirks (7:30)

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE SingerSlashSongwriter Open Mic Night w/ Chase Holbrook (8:00)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Jim Wyly, the Love Band, Mo Pair

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MOMO'S Nathan Hubble, Sahara Smith, La Tampiquena, Leeann Atherton, Charlie Faye, Dana Falconberry

THE PARLOR The Esies, Rice Morehead

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

RED FEZ Bruce James Quartet, Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

ROOM 710 Jo Hell & the Red Roosters, Unsurpassed Profit

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

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THURSDAY JANUARY 10
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SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3pm

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Sat 1.5
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PSYCHICS

Sun 1.6
OPEN
FEELING A LITTLE NEEDY

Mon 1.7
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Tue 1.8
UNSURPASSED PROFIT
ENEMY OF MANKIND
JO HELL at the RED ROOSTERS

Wed 1.9
ZENITH FUZZBOMB
RAGE AGAINST THE DOO
+ TBA 8pm: Hancock Drive

UPCOMING SHOWS
1.10 Zero Skills, Shootin' Pinks, Rusty Sheriff's Badges, 10 Foot Rooster
1.11 Opposite Day, Murchie Badollet, 1.12 Will the Clerk, Pretty Little Flower

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You're Done For

Fri 1/4
Driver F, The El Guapos
Falling Down Hurts, Eastern Sea
Last Crush

Sat 1/5
SILENT GREEN
w/ Sarcolytic, Iron Age
Disfigured, Blood Off Robin, Condemned Unit

Sun 1/6
Ruiner, Killing The Dream
Surroundings, Falsetta

Mon 1/7
Back At Goliad, 11th Day, Decay Co.

Wed 1/9
Krum Bums, Career Criminal
Sleezeus Fist & The Latter Day Taints
Marked

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su 6 The Martin Luther Kings, Jacuzzi Boys,
Shitty Beach Boys, Gospel Truth

mo 7 Karaoke @9pm
John Chapman hosting
over 1000 songs! no cover

tu 8 Poor People, The Pillow Queens,
School Police, Nasty Rumors

we 9 Red River Round Robin 2

th 10 The Dirty Sound, and friends

fr 11 basic, Faceles Werewolves,
Diagonals, Shapes Have Fangs

sa 12 Ruby & Trixi's 70th Birthday Party

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THU 1/3 > HERCYY & more... FRI 1/4 > STREET LIGHT SUSIE, TOTAL FAGGOTS "Woody's Welcome Return to Red River", THE GUSTO
SAT 1/5 > The Party's Over Presents: LOUIS TULLY, THE UPTOWN BUMS, SEX ADVICE, BUCKEYE, MAD SWIRL
SUN 1/6 > Texas Psychobilly Presents: KLUUB SIM, W/ DESTINY & Friends spinning PSYCHOBILLY, PSY-CORE,
THE STRIKERS (San Diego), PICKLED PUNKS (members of BARNYARD BRAWL) \$4 Cover - Starts @ 9:30 PM
MON 1/7 > WESTERN LEGEND - TUE 1/8 > NO POINES SHOW, NICK KRAUSS & HIS AUSTIN TORPEDOS, LONESOME DAVE
WED 1/9 > EVERY OTHER FATE, D.J.H.V.F.

THU 1/10 - REASON TO BELIEVE, MEAN MONSIEUR, HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY FRI 1/11 - HOMECOMES, BENEY OF MANKIND, HEAD PAIR, BIG BAD LOVE
SAT 1/12 - SOFAKINGDOM, THE PARTY'S OVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: RADIOLAND MURDERS, COBBETTI, WRITTEN OFF
SUN 1/13 - THE PARTY'S OVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: O PIONEERS, THE CAPITALIST KIDS, ANDREW JACKSON BRAD, PARKWAY WRETCH, SAW WHIRL

***** PARTY CATERING : LIQUOR & FOOD EVENTS (825-5600) *****

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FRIDAY JANUARY 4 **DUKE**
DEVOLA
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FULL STRIDE
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SATURDAY JANUARY 5 **FOR SAKES OF THE RUINS**
HEARTBREAK IN ACTION
MOSTLY DEAD
THE EVILDOERS
CHARLIE RAILROAD

SUNDAY JANUARY 6 **KANKO**
LOS HISPANOS D.N.
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MONDAY JANUARY 7 **RAGE AGAINST THE DOO**
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TUESDAY JANUARY 8 **BALANCE ACT**
PLUS 2 MORE BANDS TBA

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9 **VELVET BRICK**
ADAM DONOVAN & NAUGHTY BITS

THURSDAY JANUARY 10 **BIONIC GORILLA PROJECT**
DESTINATION REDDOY
PLUS TWO MORE BANDS

FRIDAY JANUARY 11 **BROKEN TEETH**
BIG BALLS
HUGGERMONSTER
LOVE HATE LOVE

SATURDAY JANUARY 12 **MARK & COREY'S BIRTHDAY BASH**
ODOS
THANKS FOR THE WARNING
DISTANT LIGHTS
THE METEOR STREET MASSIVE
JUNE MISTAKE AWAY!

UPCOMING SHOWS
01-10 SCRAPS OF LIFE/LIVE, TESTIMONY OF THE TRAILER
01-10 BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR, DAK IS KEEPING
NAKED EMPIRE, MATCHES FOR MEMORIES, HANKRIFT
& THE BORROWERS
01-25 RADIOLAND FACTOR, GENTLEMAN SOCIAL CLUB
01-26 WAR AGAINST SLEEP, SHARPER
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Friday • Jan. 4 **LIVE MUSIC!**

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Exit 11:00 PM
www.myspace.com/exitproductions
Gabbar 10:00 PM
www.myspace.com/gabbar

Saturday • Jan. 5 **HAVEN**
goth, industrial, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Jan. 6 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's RETRO 80's RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Monday • Jan. 7 **CLOSED**
closed...rest for the wicked...

Tuesday • Jan. 8 **90's NIGHT**
So LAST CENTURY... 90's Night
WITH DJs BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday • Jan. 9 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thurs. Jan. 10 • Ladies of the 80's:
Dance Party & Benefit - dance contest,
break dancing, kissing booth, prizes & more!
w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

Thurs. Jan. 17 • MENTAL ASYLUM
Friday January 18 • LIVE!
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	<p><u>SAHARA NIGHTS</u></p> <p>SABAYA BELLYDANCER & DJ AVATAR</p> <p>01/12 - 10:30PM</p>
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No Bad Days

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Thursday, January 3

STOP THE TRUCK

Friday, January 4

BAND OF HEATHENS

ADAM RAVEN OPENER

Saturday, January 5

CAROLYN WONDERLAND

DICKIE LEE ERWIN OPENER

Sunday, January 6

NATHAN'S TRAIN STAGE JAMMERS 3PM-DUSK

Monday, January 7

RU COLEMAN & TEXAS BOOGIE BLUES 6-10PM

Tuesday, January 8

THE TROUBADILLOS 8PM

Wednesday, January 9

OPEN MIC WITH FOND KISER 8PM

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SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heatherns (9:00)

SAXON PUB Steve Carter, Freddy Powers, Stop the Truck, Mau Mau Chaplains (8:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Hilary York, Aimee Bobruk (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, Bill Carter (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Robbie Doyen (6:00)

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (8:30)

CLUB 115 Green Mountain Grass, Boxcar Bandits (8:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party Caritas Benefit, Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Lounge: Nectarine, P.D. Wilder, Peel, Translations; In & Out: Australian Cattle God Showcases

EVANGELINE CAFE Cleve & Sweet Mary Hattersley

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Michael Fracasso Piano Hour, Nathan Hamilton, Kevin Carroll (6:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zach Walther & the Cronkites (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Los Flames (6:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Armadillo Action Figures

HOLE IN THE WALL Bluegrass Night w/ Flatcar Rattlers, Rogue River String Band, Electric Mountain Rotten Apple Gang, Lonesome Heroes (9:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Troy Campbell, Austin Homegrown (6:30)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)

MOMO'S Travis Damron, Dertybird, Jeff Plankenhorn, Jeremy Nail, Dan Dyer

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

THE OAKS Cade Callahan's East Side Hayride (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR James Speer (10:00)

THE PARLOR The Nematoads, Convoi!

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Andrea Marie & Magnolia (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED FEZ Atash

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 Hancock Drive, Rage Against the Doo, Zenith Fuzzbomb

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Meagan Tubb (8:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN Austin Poetry Slam (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Curtis, Scotty & the Metaphysics

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Wed 09

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)

APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove & the Roadrunners

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee

THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous & Casino Royale (7:00)


BOTTICELLI'S Izzy Cox

BROKEN SPOKE Tracie Lynn

CEDAR STREET John Pointer, the Spazmatics (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Boxcar Preachers (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)



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MON. 1/7/08 @ 8PM

NO COVER **Lee Duffy & Friends** INSIDE SHOW

TUES. 1/8/08 @ 8PM

INSIDE SHOW **Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter** NO COVER



THU 1/3 **KIMBERLY CONNOLLY**

FRI 1/4 **LONNIE KEY AND THE TEXAS CONNECTION**

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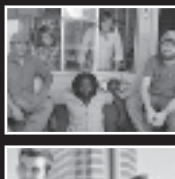
NO COVER • FREE SHOWS




THU, JAN 3, 9PM
10PM



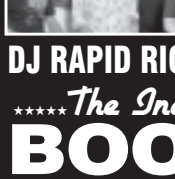
FRI, JAN 4, 9PM




SAT, JAN 5, 9PM




SAT, JAN 5, 10PM




TUE, JAN 8, 10PM




WED, JAN 9, 10PM



THU, JAN 10, 6PM



10PM



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LUCAS WADE & ANOMINISS

1/9/2008:
w/ ELBOWS DEEP (DJ Mitch & Joel Vasquez) .vs. THE NU JAX (Lonnie B. & J.A.M.O.N.)

1/23/2008:
w/ ADAN, EXCEED, & DAVEED

1/30/2008:
GRAM RABBIT & DEATH IS NOT A JOYRIDE

thursday 1/10

Funkgasmic Thawdown
w/TOPAZ & GREYHOUNDS

Saturday 1/19

BROTHERS & SISTERS

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Friday 1/25

ROUGE WAVE

Sunday 1/27

PHAROAH MONCH
w/ ORGONE & DJ ELEVEN

Saturday 2/23

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STEPHEN BRUTON

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CAROLYN WONDERLAND
11:00 \$10

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JON DEE GRAHAM
8:00 \$10

porter davis
11:00 \$10

SATURDAY JAN. 5

THE RESENTMENTS

7:00 \$5 cover
CANDILAND WITH NATALIE ZOE 10:00
JEFF PLANKENHORN 11:45

SUNDAY JAN. 6

MATT THE ELECTRICIAN
RODNEY PYEATT 8:30
OWEN TEMPLE 11:00
TARA GRAHAM 12:00

MONDAY JAN. 7 \$5 Cover

Songwriting Legend 9:30 \$5

FREDDY POWERS

8:00 Steve Carter
10:45 Stop the Truck
12:00 Mau Mau Chaplains

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with **Julieann Banks**
TUESDAY JAN. 8

monte montgomery

10:00 \$10+

PAULA NELSON 8:00 \$5
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with **The Stingrays**
WEDNESDAY JAN. 9

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THURSDAY JANUARY 3 / \$5

SUZANNA CHOFFEL 8
AMY COOK 7
JAMES SPEER 10:15
JAMES BULLARD 11:30
JOSH HALVERSON 12:45

FRIDAY JANUARY 4

UNDERDRIVEN 12:30
MICHAEL THOMAS 11
NATHAN SINGLETON
& HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY 9:45
NATHAN HUBBLE 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 5

11

SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND

MICHAEL DART 9:30
LA TAMPIQUENA 8

SUNDAY JANUARY 6

WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS Every Sunday 9:30-12
MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND 12:15
BELLEVILLE OUTFIT 8
MICHAEL DART 6:30

MONDAY JANUARY 7

DUSTIN WELCH
& THE HOUSE BAND 10:15
JEFF PLANKENHORN 11:45
BUKKA ALLEN 9
JENNY REYNOLDS 8
JON NAPIER 7
BILL ISLES HAPPY HOUR NO COVER 5:45-6:45

TUESDAY JANUARY 8

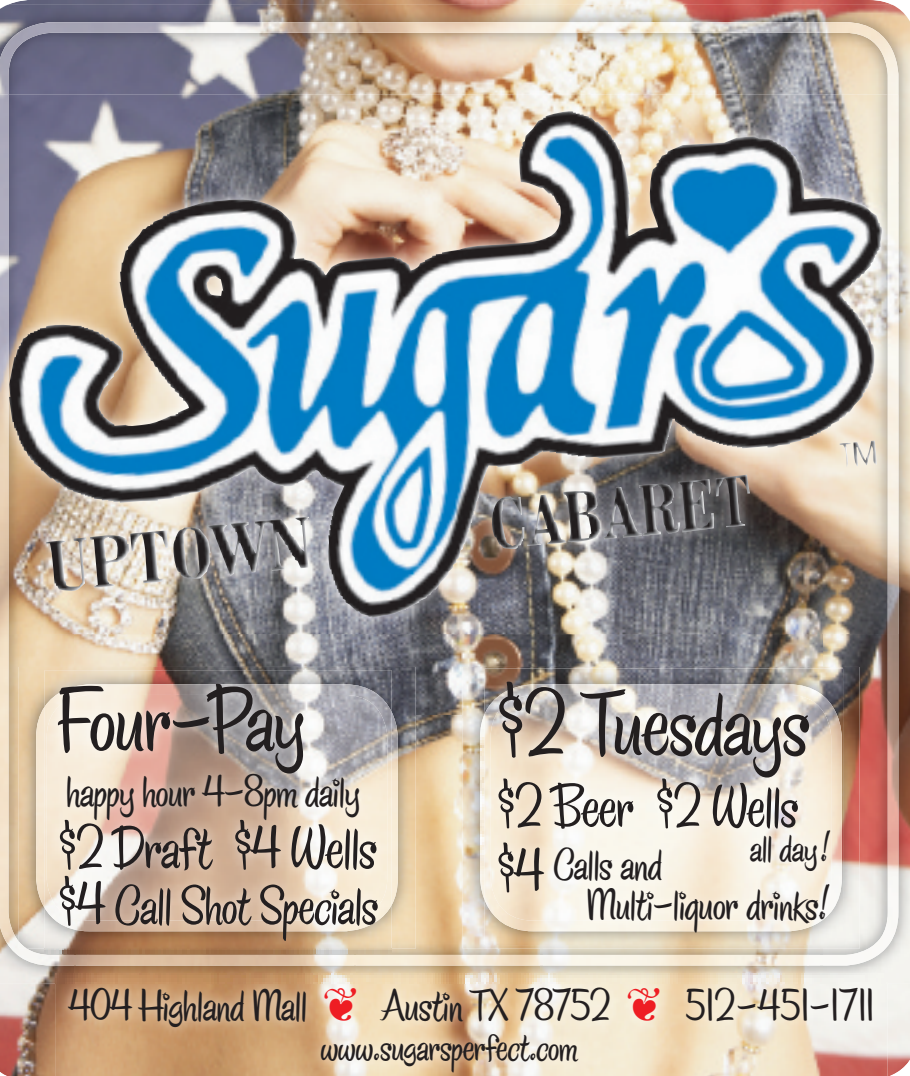
CHARLIE FAYE 10:45
DANA FALCONBERRY 12
LEEANN ATHERTON & GYPZEE HEART 9:30
LA TAMPIQUENA 8
SAHARA SMITH 7

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9 / \$5

DAN DYER 9:30
JEREMY NAIL 10:45
JEFF PLANKENHORN 8
PERTYBIRD HAPPY HOUR 6-7:30

UPCOMING SHOWS

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club listings ◀ ◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE
Ptarmigan (7:00)

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter

Thu 10

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Danny Santos

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)

THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall (7:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Joanna Barbera, Jon Napier

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CLUB 115 Mudphonic & Topaz, Eat a Peach (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB
Gallery: Paris 49; In the Club: Onion Creek Crawdaddies (6:30), Monstas, Barfield (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EMO'S Inside: Bridges & Blinking Lights, Cavedweller, Dazzling King Solomon, Rubble, Golden Boys; Lounge: The Story Of, Horse + Donkey, the Boxing Lesson, My Education, Ringo Deathstarr; Outside: Snafu Kitties, Death Is Not a Joyride, the Laughing, Lax, Crash Gallery

EVANGELINE CAFE The Monstas (10:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FRANK ERWIN CENTER
Sarah Johns, Little Big Town, George Strait (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
Dale Watson (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Adam Carroll, Owen Temple (6:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HILL'S CAFE Phil Wiseman (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Stayton Bonner, James Bullard, No Show Ponies (9:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL
Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Nuveau (10:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS
Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MOHAWK Ryan Perrey, Danny Malone, DeWayn Brothers

MOMO'S Will Sexton, 11-Fingered Charlie, Much Love

THE OAKS Sharon & Lew Andre Mathews, Jimmy Butler (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)

THE PARLOR The Bill Jeffreys

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Robbie Taylor (8:00)

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THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROOM 710 The Nematoads, Rusty Sheriff's Badge, Shootin' Pains, Zero Skills

SAXON PUB Denim, Carolyn Wonderland, Bruce Smith, Uncle Lucius (6:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

STUBB'S Eliot Fitzgerald, Language Room

T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

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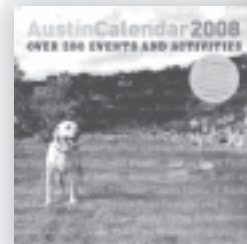
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SATURDAY 5th 8PM, MIDNIGHT

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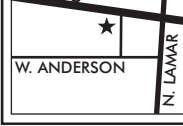
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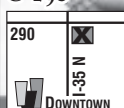
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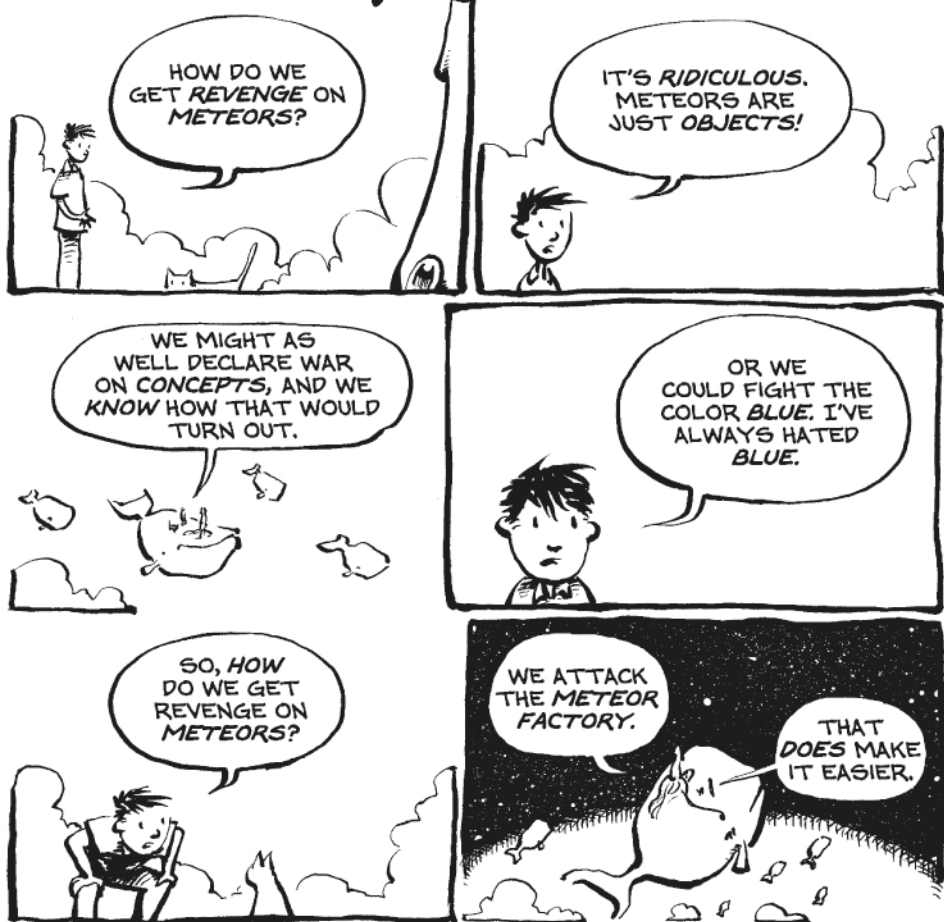
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COMICS

How to Be Happy (16 OF 8) by Shannon Wheeler



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WWW.TVMCM.COM

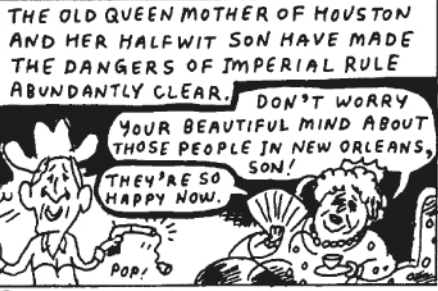
TROUBLETOWN

WE AMERICANS LIKE TO MAKE FUN OF THE BRITISH WITH THEIR TEA & CRUMPETS AND SILLY ROYAL FAMILY GOING BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

WHEN WILL THEY CATCH UP WITH THE 19TH CENTURY?!



IN FACT, OUR POLITICIANS ARE ALL BLOOD RELATIVES FROM OLDE-LINE RULING CLANS. EVEN CHENEY & OBAMA ARE COUSINS!



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BUT CONSIDER: IF HILLARY'S ELECTED PRESIDENT, ONE THIRD OF AMERICANS WILL HAVE NEVER BEEN RULED BY ANYONE NOT NAMED BUSH OR CLINTON!

AH HEREBY RELINQUISH THE CROWN. KEEP THE CHAIR WARM FOR JEB, WILL YA?



THE FOX-HUNTING, HORSE-BREEDING MEDIA AUTOMATICALLY PICKS UP ON ACCENTS AND SUBTLE NUANCES IN ORDER TO EXCLUDE NON-ARISTOCRATS.

GO ON, KUCINICH! NO COMMONERS ARE INVITED TO YE OLDE YOUTUBE DEBATE!



AND AS EVERY EUROPEAN KNOWS:



SOMETIMES THE ONLY ANTIDOTE TO TYRANNY IS A GUILLOTINE!



MUELLER

FREEBAM

ON THE "SEEN"

With All Locale
A recent excursion through our little corner of the world proved to be quite rewarding.

Several local denizens were spotted including these:

A fig trying to look cool.

Dog and robot holding hands:

A quick stop-off at Uncle Freud's farm...

And finally, a mysterious, nocturnal boating excursion. Probably better left "unsolved."

MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

During World War II, pilots ate blueberries because they believed it would improve their eyesight.

Nobody has ever positively identified a single artifact from Texas' largest battle, the 1813 Battle of the Medina, in which more than 1,000 Texans were killed. Historians think the battle was most likely fought in Bexar, Medina, or Atascosa counties.

Frank Sinatra's mom, Natalie Della ("Dolly") Garaventi, allegedly oversaw an illegal abortion service. His father was a boxer, boilermaker, and fireman.

The cost of government paper-shredding has increased 600% since President Bush took office.

Until recently, China punished all women caught with condoms by sending them to labor camps; if they had condoms, authorities thought they must be prostitutes, which is illegal.

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.

TRADE UP

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CLASSIFIEDS

100 JOBS

110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/
Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING

210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/
Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/TRADE

310 Antiques/
Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/
Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/
Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/
Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

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Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com

400 SERVICES

410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NEIGHBORHOOD

510 Activities
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

600 MOTOR

610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC

710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless
Promotion

PERSONALS

Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages



110 ART/DESIGN

ALL WIEDEN + KENNEDY SEEKING DESIGNERS, WRITERS, THINKERS, MAKERS. WK.COM/SEEKING

ART

FREE BEER.....

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For an immediate interview call 926-7300 ext.3

120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

DANCERS Actors & models needed for upcoming club promotions and holiday events. Call (512) 440-1711.

125 GENERAL

ACCOMPANIST kidsActing is looking for a reliable accompanist. Must be an adult with experience who likes children. 836-5437 kidsacting@sbcglobal.net

ALL Full-time document preparation positions available in UT area print shop. Start immediately mid Dec. late Jan. Training provided. \$8 and up based on experience. Call 478-3334.

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WK.COM/SEEKING

ALL High Speed Copier Operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 Shifts available. Call 472-5353

ALL 30 individuals needed in campus area copyshop for various temporary positions including copy clerk, binding, computer help, and cashier. From \$7.50/hr. Call 478-0871

WEBSITE Browse our classifieds section online! austinchronicle.com

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DANCE & CHEER, KARATE & SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED



We are looking for you to teach kids in the Austin area Monday-Thursday afternoons 2:30-5:30pm. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Positions starting in January.

Please call for more info
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www.centraldrivingjobs.net
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HEALTH ATTENDANT Seeking reliable, energetic, cheerful individual. Full Time weekdays Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm. Home Health Attendant, experience preferred but will train. \$12hr. Central West Austin. Call Alison for interview. No calls after 6pm please. 512-371-3036.

INSTRUCTORS

DANCE & CHEER, KARATE & SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

We are looking for you to teach kids in the Austin area Monday-Thursday afternoons 2:30-5:30pm. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Positions starting in January. Please call for more info
(210) 310-0216

MYSTERY SHOPPERS - Get paid to shop! Retail/Dining establishments need undercover clients to judge quality/customer service. Earn up to \$150 a day. Call 800-901-9370. (AAN CAN)

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PART TIME



Children are our future.
Be a positive role model working with elementary age kids in the afternoons. Work hours 2:15-6:30 p.m. M-F. Starting pay \$9.00-\$9.60/hr. EOE. Sites at 64 elementary schools. Spanish speakers needed. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids, 55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org, or call 472-9929 x408.

130

HEALTHCARE

LIVE IN ATTENDANT For fun quadriplegic 50 yr. man. Work half week, room, board, \$1600 monthly. Lifting involved. Experience helpful, but not required. Call 4pm-7pm 472-2432. Male attendant preferred.

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135

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ALL

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Open Interviews
Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm

BEAT THE HEAT!

Just don't feed the bears!!

Glacier Park, Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2008 summer season (May-Sept):

- *Tour Drivers
- *Waitstaff/Servers
- *Line / Prep Cooks
- *Retail Associates
- *Night Audit
- *Housekeeping
- *Laundry
- *Warehouse
- *Front Desk
- *Bartender

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The Landing Strip

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FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport. 385-2878.

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Apply at: Rocket's
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Beat the heat...
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- * Tour Drivers
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- * Night Audit
- * Housekeeping
- * Laundry
- * Warehouse
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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
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METACLIN

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MARKETING**

SALES



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Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

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311

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ADVERTISING SALES

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The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Online Sales experience a plus.

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.

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EOE



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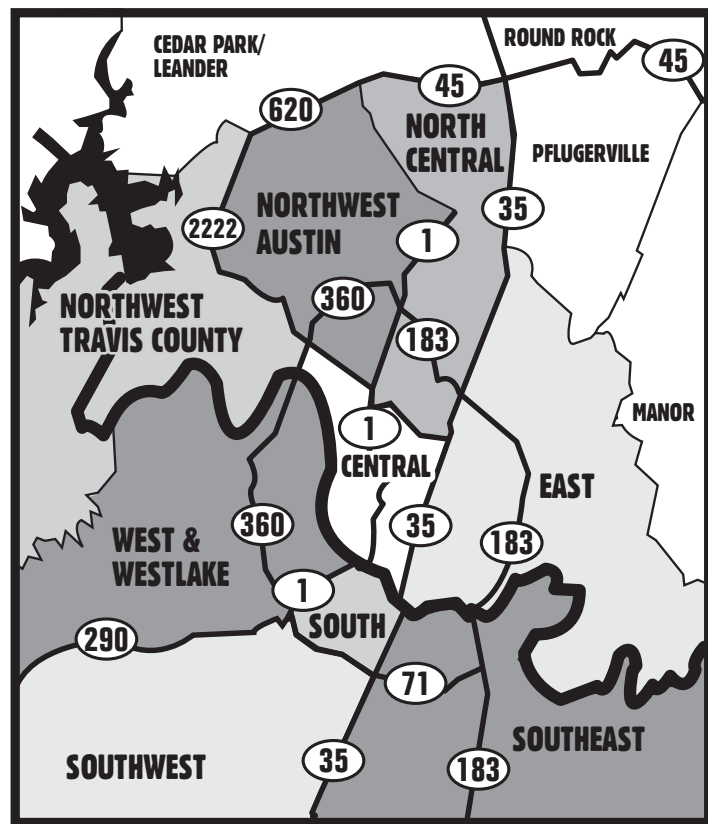
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545 LEGAL NOTICES

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-CIVIL STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-07-002351

GREEN TREE SERVING, LLC VS. DALIA LOPEZ AND SILBANO MARROQUIN

TO: DALIA LOPEZ, Defendant. GREETING: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date of service of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition at or before 10:00 AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation, which date is January 7, 2008, before the honorable 126th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, at the Courthouse in said County in Austin, Texas. Said Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition was filed on the 30th day of July, 2007 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: On or about January 15, 1998, Defendants executed a Retail Installment Contract and Security Agreement (the "Contract"), in which they promised to pay the amounts stated in the Contract for the 1997 Spirit manufactured home, Serial NO. SCAR1972840310729AB. Defendants have defaulted under the terms of the contract by failing to make the installment payments as a result of the Defendants' default, Plaintiff is also entitled to foreclosure of its security agreement and take immediate possession of the home pursuant to Texas law and terms of the Contract.

as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this the 20th day of November, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

P.O. BOX 679003

AUSTIN, TX 78767-9004

BY /s/ Amanda Marty Deputy

ATTY FOR PETITIONER OR PETITIONER

RACHEL E KHIRALLAH

3100 MONTICELLO AVE

SUITE 550

DALLAS, TX 75205

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - DIVORCE CLERK OF THE COURT LISA DAVID 405 M.L.K. ST., P.O. BOX 24

GEORGETOWN, TX 78626 PETITIONER(S) ATTORNEY BARBARA LASSO ADDRESS UNAVAILABLE THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: LUIS FERNANDO LASSO and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s), You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your Attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment for the relief demanded in the petition may be taken against you.

The ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE of Barbara Lasso, Petitioner(s), was filed in the County Court At Law #2 Court of Williamson County, Texas, on the 26TH day of APRIL, 2007, against Luis Fernando Lasso, Respondent(s), numbered 07-915-FC2 and entitled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF BARBARA LASSO AND LUIS FERNANDO LASSO IN THE INTEREST OF BARBARA S. LASSO AND LUCY LASSO, CHILDREN. The suit requests THAT THE COURT GRANT RELIEF REQUESTED WITHIN THIS PETITION.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree dissolving the marriage and providing for the division of property

which would be binding on you. Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Georgetown, Texas, this the 20th day of December A.D. 2007. Attest: LISA DAVID Clerk, of the County Court At Law #2, WILLIAMSON County, Texas. By: /s/ Brandi Spivey, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF VERONICA ALANIZ Deceased, No. 87548 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JUAN ALANIZ alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 3RD day of DECEMBER, 2007, a COMBINED APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION AND HEIRSHIP in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said VERONICA ALANIZ, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

the COMMON LAW by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

CHALLENGING A BILLING ERROR ON A CREDIT CARD BILL

I just got this month's credit card bill. I was charged for two holiday gifts I bought and then returned the next day. What is the easiest way for me to have my credit card company take care of the problem?

Your credit card company has made a "billing error." Many billing errors can be resolved if you have a basic understanding of the Fair Credit Billing Act, a federal law passed by Congress in 1975 to help consumers settle disputes with their credit card companies. Under the FCBA, a consumer may challenge credit card charges for numerous reasons, including charges for goods or services that were not accepted or that were not delivered as agreed (i.e., a defective product) and charges made by unauthorized persons.

There are, however, specific things you must do to challenge the billing error. You must send the credit card company a letter, preferably via certified mail, stating that there has been a billing error, and the letter must be sent within 60 days of the first bill you received that gave you notice of the billing error. The letter should include your name and account number, a statement that you think your bill contains an error and the actual dollar amount of that error, and the reasons why you believe the bill is incorrect. Try to include photocopies of all receipts and any documents that were relevant to the transaction.

The credit card company is required to acknowledge receipt of your letter within 30 days after receiving it and has a maximum of 90 days to investigate the claim. If there is an error on your bill, the credit card company should write to you explaining the corrections that have been made to your account. Alternatively, if the credit card company still believes there is no mistake, you will be notified with the reasons why it believes the bill is correct. Keep in mind that while you are allowed to withhold payment on the disputed item during this process, you are required to make regular payments on the rest of the items listed on your credit card bill. The good news is that your credit card company cannot threaten to damage your credit ratings while the dispute over the billing error is ongoing.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

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THE GREAT GAS DEBATE

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am having a debate with co-workers about whether filling your gas tank halfway is more or less efficient than filling your gas tank completely. What is the most efficient way to fill a tank? Does the weight of a full tank affect the mileage? Does gas evaporate more quickly when the tank is half-full? I need your help to decide this debate and to decide the most efficient way to fill a gas tank. Thank you! — Ian

RAY: I take it you're worried about the weight of the gasoline, Ian. You think that a full tank of gas weighs more and therefore reduces your mileage. And by filling up only halfway, you'll have a lighter car and get more miles per gallon.

TOM: The answer is, that's true. I mean, sure, theoretically, if your 3,000-pound car is 50 or 60 pounds lighter, you'll get slightly better mileage. In fact, manufacturers spend all kinds of money taking ounces of weight out of various car parts.

RAY: Right. And there's no fuel lost to evaporation, because the fuel system in a modern car is a closed system.

TOM: But if you fill your tank only halfway, there's another major fuel loss. That's the fuel you use driving around looking for a gas station twice as often. And that could easily wipe out any small savings you get from making your car lighter.

RAY: Plus, where do you stop? If you're really determined to reduce the weight of your vehicle, shouldn't you always relieve yourself before driving, because otherwise you'll be carrying around *that* extra weight, too?

TOM: And shouldn't you shave your head to remove the weight of your hair? And your chest and legs, too?

RAY: And don't forget your back!

TOM: Then you'd also need to always drive nude. Especially in the winter, when those heavy woolen overcoats are murder on your mpg, Ian. Think about it.

* * *

What is the most cost-effective way to buy a car? Tom and Ray hash it out in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the *Car Talk* website at www.cartalk.com.

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CONTINUED 545 LEGAL NOTICES

as.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 3rd day of December, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ Kaitanya L. Bush

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: BEATRICE DURAN Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which

JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246

COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-001550 To: ABEL CALDERON and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Tra-

vis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on AUGUST 30, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-001550 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUADALUPE CALDERON and ABEL CALDERON, ET AL. and In the Interest of DELFINO CALDERON and SIMON CALDERON, CHILDREN". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 20, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By/s/Scott Woodward, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

HILARY L RILEY
TRAVIS COUNTY ATTOR-

NEY'S OFFICE

P.O. BOX 1748
AUSTIN, TX 78767
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 854-4163

FAX: (512) 854-9316

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUCY EVERSON Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON
JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246

COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005851 To: HONG YANG and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 13, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005851 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF JUN P. TANG and HONG YANG, ET AL. and In the Interest of SIYANG TANG, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 22nd day of October, 2007.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk

Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUCY EVERSON Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254)

547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005851 To: HONG YANG and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 13, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005851 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF JUN P. TANG and HONG YANG, ET AL. and In the Interest of SIYANG TANG, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 14, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ MCGARY ASHANTI, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

ERIC MICHAEL WILLIE
3755 S. CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY, STE. 250

AUSTIN, TX 78704
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 478-0834

FAX: (512) 478-1265

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-003956 To: THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED.

You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 15, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-003956, in which DALE R. SMITH Plaintiff(s), and THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION, AND THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF NGUYEN-TH/168, INC., A DEFUNCT Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

A SUIT TO ESTABLISH THE OWNERSHIP AND LIMITATION TITLE, BY ADVERSE

POSSESSION, OF DALE R. SMITH, IN, AND TO, A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY AND ALL OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THAT PROPERTY LOCATED IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEING: LOT THREE (3), BLOCK "C", OF SPRING CREEK COMMERCIAL PARK, A SUBDIVISION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 65, PAGE 23, OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 20, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JERRY KLOSSNER
P.O. BOX 728

WIMBERLEY, TX 78676
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 573-6590

FAX: (512) 442-7123

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX.

2002 MITSUBISHI 4A3AA46G52E010619

2004 NISSAN

3N1CB51D64L830189

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 7400 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

Holt Trailer, 1463EW-Okla, 05JR211

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR ACT, THE FOLLOWING VEHICLE WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED.

GARAGEKEEPER:

TIGER TRUX TOWING

407 FM 685

PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660

512-989-9595

1. VEHICLE: 1999 WHITE DODGE NEON
PICKED UP AT: 355@ GRAND AVE

VIN: 1P3ES47COXD108502
PLATE: NO PLATE

2. VEHICLE: 1959 FORD TRUCK

PICKED UP AT: 7950 AN-
DERSON SQUARE

AUSTIN TX 78757

VIN: F25C9K29831

PLATE: YW1569

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only.

AV0117

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

JANUARY 17, 2008 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

073511350	1995	FORD	VN	N14LMZ	TX	1FTFS24H3SHB76240
073521033	1999	INFI	4DR	BNT194	TX	JNKP11A2XT013197
073540698	1987	HOND	4DR	Z91JXD	TX	JHMCAS542HC054766
075067051	1992	FORD	LL	421LLD	TX	1FMUDJ32X1NUB36313
075067384	1998	DODG	VN	603PBF	TX	2B4FP2580WR824491
075067385	1989	BUIC	4DR	196WVY	TX	1G4CW54C6K1635553
075067387	1994	PONT	4DR	F14TZ	TX	1G2NE55M7RM551777
075067389	1992	BUIC	4DR	F19ZCG	TX	1G4CU3518N1667544
075067391	1999	MERC	4DR	G90CKZ	TX	1MEFM50U2XA666696
075067392	1995	SATU	2DR	375DPH	TX	1G8ZG1276S2335596
075067393	1995	NISS	4DR	X52KCW	TX	JN1CA21D0STG631066
075067395	1994	PLYM	VN	C15RHZ	TX	2P4GH45R1RR503847
075067400	1990	PLYM	2DR	312JSD	TX	JP3CU24X2LU091399
075068070	2001	HMDE	UT	17XFLK	TX	*****
075068071	1998	DODG	VN	CMN392	NM	2B4GP4537WR721948

Uncle Bob's #285
9717 US HWY 290 E
Austin, TX 78724
512-278-1220
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
@ 9:00 AM

8829 Vanessa Spivey: household goods, furniture, appliances

2240 Ashley Canada: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

2232 Lynnikka Hunter: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

916 Jacqueline Upshaw: household goods, furniture, boxes

816 Forest C McClendon: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

805 Elsie Mata: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

706 Charla Brown: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

511 Justin Muennink: household goods, furniture, tools, office equip.

227 Jamecia Bailey: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #231
8227 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78753
512-833-0855
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
@ 10:00 AM

902 Donell Creech: household goods, furn., boxes, TV, office equip.

907 Keith Evans: household goods, boxes, furn., tools

925 Mabwai Milcah: household goods, furn., boxes, office supp.

948 Mary Walker: household goods, boxes, furniture

1019 Delia Padilla: household goods, boxes, sporting goods, appliances, furniture

1106 Tawiana Simmons: household goods, boxes, account rec., furniture

9950 Nguyen Hien: household goods, boxes, office

equipment

704 Danny Taylor: household goods, boxes, tools, account rec.

510 Emanuel Gordon: household goods, furn., boxes

606 Ivan Colbeck: household goods, boxes

718 Jesus J. Zargoza: household goods, furn., boxes, tools, appl., tv's

740 Sandra Steichert: household goods, furn., boxes, tv's or stereo equip.

755 Michael Trent Turner: household goods, furn., boxes, sporting goods

Uncle Bob's #276
2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd.
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-310-0279
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
@ 11:00 A.M.

205 Elizabeth Halbert: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, office equipment

2132 Billy J. Berry: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., landscaping equip.

2208 Gretchen A. Jackson: boxes, clothes, furniture

2411 Edith Arce: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

3126 Scott Bankson Greater Austin Moving: household goods

4219 Shannan Bell: household goods, furniture, boxes

4309 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

4406 Joe Flynn: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., motorcycle

4422 Lewie Brooks: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, office equip., landscaping equip.

6303 Paul E. Stephens: vending machines

7122 Jayme McDaniel: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip.

2309 Linda Lee: household goods, boxes

7402 Jennifer Cortinas: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods

7408 Marsha Gaston: household goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, TV's or stereo equip., office equip., office machines, construction equip., landscaping equip., account records

9580 Jamaal Jones: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #197
5547 McNeil Dr.
Austin, TX 78729
(512)336-8390
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
@ 12 noon

310 Shea Morgan: household goods, furniture, boxes

405 LanDee Mills: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

1106 Melonie Lewis: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

1208 Jason Burt: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

Uncle Bob's #287
6509 South 1st Street
Austin, TX 78745
(512) 326-9696
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
@ 1:30 P.M.

312 Willoughby Rachel: boxes

346 Kallvernea Stewart: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip

347 Juan Diharce: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

357 Sam Salazar: household goods

2333 Tracy Robinson: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, sporting goods

2408 Medina Esmeralda: household goods, furniture

3325 Savage Sr Paul: household goods, furniture, boxes, TV's or stereo equip.

3335 Caleb Lopez: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, TV's or stereo equip.

3349 Cynthia Perez: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip.

3407 Arturo P Ramirez: household goods, furniture, boxes

3502 Rick Chavana: household goods, boxes

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY
State of Texas
County of Travis
Cause: D1GN07001613 By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the District Court 345 Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, November 26, 2007, in cause numbered D1GN07001613, styled RUDOLPH WILLIAMS versus KENNETH BROOKS AND VALIANT HOMES INC, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY on a judgment rendered against KENNETH BROOKS AND VALIANT HOMES INC, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY; I did on December 04, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of VALIANT HOMES INC the following described real property:
Lot 2, Block 5, Kincheon Subdivision Section 1, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas according to the map or plat recorded in Volume 5, Page 115 of the real property records of Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.
On February 05, 2008, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of VALIANT HOMES INC in and to the real property described above.
Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 17, 2007
Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas
/s/ Alan Redd
by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD, Deputy

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid on or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Trinidad Constanco, Deceased, were issued on 18 December 2007, under Cause No. 87750, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas. Claims may be presented to the Independent Executor, Richard Constanco, 612 Carismatic Lane, Austin, Texas 78747. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated 26 December 2007, by John C.D. Drolla Jr., Attorney for Richard Constanco, 512.445.6838.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of CHERI L. WITTER, Deceased, were issued on December 11, 2007, in Cause No. 87666, pending in the Probate Court No. One, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Cheri L. Witter.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney at Law
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
DATED the 21st day of December, 2007.
/s/ Karl A. Shackelford
Attorney for Estate of Cheri L. Witter

State Bar No.: 00795838
1608 West 34th Street
Austin, Texas 78703
Telephone: (512) 472-1678
Facsimile: (512) 236-9227

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KAY HAINES HATFIELD, Deceased, were issued on December 20, 2007, in Cause No. 87825, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to Lawrence Daniel Wilson.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:
Lawrence Daniel Wilson,
Representative
Estate of Kay Haines
Hatfield, Deceased
c/o Kiester, Lockwood & Babb, L.L.P.
611 West 14th St., Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 477-5796 - phone
(512) 477-5821 - fax
kirt@klblawyers.com

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED December 21, 2007.
KIESTER, LOCKWOOD & BABB, L.L.P.
611 West 14th Street,
Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 477-5796 - phone
(512) 477-5821 - fax
kirt@klblawyers.com
By /s/ Kirt H. Kiester, Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration in the Estate of Michael Eugene Williams, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2007, in Cause No. 86,786, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to Karl

Johnson, Notice of claims may be presented to the Dependent Administrator at the following address:
c/o Law Office of Karl G. Johnson, Jr., P.C.
704 West 9th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gloria Jane Anderson Johnson, Deceased, were issued on December 27, 2007, in Docket No. 87,650, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Kim Jana Johnson and Craig Andrew Johnson.

The addresses of the Independent Co-Executors are in Austin, Travis County, Texas, and Gladstone, Clay County, Missouri, the mailing address is: c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C., 1411 West Avenue, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78701-1537.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 27th day of December, 2007.
Scofield & Scofield, P.C.
Attorneys for the Estate
By: /s/ Janice Pierce

FREE ADS Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? Want to advertise your handyman skills? 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!

Four years in a row!!!! Not just in the top ten, not somewhere in the top five, but simply voted **THE BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP IN AUSTIN!!!** Four years running!!! Thanks Austin!!!

CARS FOR SALE

1991 Mercedes 300SE, Recent complete overhaul with new timing chain, valve job. A classy classic that looks and drives excellently. Warranty, trade possible. \$4950.

1992 Celica Convertible, In process of complete restoration. 127k. Full warranty, go with the top down and the tunes up. \$4250.

1995 Accord, four-door LX, one owner, 92k, super clean. Full warranty. Loaded, with auto. Can trade \$4750.

1996 Camry, Auto, 134k, looks and drives like new. Full warranty. \$4500.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo. Leather, auto. Just installed a new motor, timing chain. Cosmetically, mechanically, a "10." Recent 65 point check. \$4350.

1997 Toyota 4Runner, SR5 package, leather, sunroof. Black on Black. 120k, \$5950.

1997 Ford Ranger V6, 107k, just really clean with warranty. \$3950.


2000 Toyota Solara, tudor, V6. Loaded. An extremely clean car that had cosmetic damage (fully repaired). Full warranty. Can trade. Dark green w/ biscuit leather. Gorgeous! \$6250.

2002 Civic, tudor, auto, LX, 72k, clean as a pin, warranty. \$7850. Never wrecked, never smoked in. Like new!

2002 BMW 325i, Possibly the nicest one you'll find anywhere. Never wrecked, never smoked in, just gorgeous. \$13,250.

2003 Jaguar X-Type, 69k. Like new, in out. Can trade. Beautiful car. \$11,900.

NEED A CAR?
CAR BROKEN?



the auto depot

909 Prairie Trail
836-9767, Mon- Fri 8am-6pm
294-2885, evenings/weekends
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MALE BODY LOVER

Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. **rockett2222**, 34,  #124473


JUST BEING ME!!!!!!!

You just have to get to know and I have to get to know you. **LILCARMEL**, 24, #124245

YES MASTER

Want someone to take charge. Sex in public. When there is the thrill of getting caught. Sex in front of others, either aware or not really turns me on! **LANAWIL**, 52,  #124093

MISS E

I just wanted a \$150 gift card from FORBIDDEN FRUIT... Hopefully I get one... Other wise this profile is for fun. I am from Austin but stay in Chicago now... **mmcchr05**, 22,  #124037

GODDESS OF LOVE

I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27,  #123960


BRAZEN AND INSATIABLE

I am looking for a man who does not have to be the most amazing thing in the world to look at, but has intelligence. **krystaltear**, 35, #12584


FEMALE SEEKING MALE

MARRIED FEMALE 61 . 38 DD'S. Seeking for a D/D/F endowed white male for friends with benefits. Join my husband and I for intimate fun. **elsex46**, 61, #123648

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE

I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **austingrl07**, 22,  #123569

REWARDING DOM

Looking for a consistant submissive,not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23,  #123509


HOT MAMA

Looking for fun in Austin. **curves44**, 45, #122575


WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS

TRANS/CROSS
Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transsexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. **pleime**, 42, #122521

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN

I see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20,  #119431

LIBRIAN LOVER


In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27,  #119103

INSATIABLE, OPENMINDED,

SEXPOT

SWF seeking SWM for???? looking for fun. **Austinnymphoo**, 35,  #121617

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. **austinparygurl1985**, 22,  #119045


DISCRETE FUN

SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. **Funtimes01**, 29, #117862


NAIVE LUST

Looking for an open-minded, intellectual, attractive, sensual, interesting, family-oriented guy with no children; who is a pervert in the bed. I want the best of both worlds; Open to new ideas. **Vana**, 37, #115092


HORNY NEEDED MORE!

29 yr old married HF. seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet.26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships.speak spanish. **2noty2bnice**, 31,  #114844


HORNY HISPANIC CPL

Married Hisp. cpl seek adult encounters. Mostly MFM, at times ply alone. She wants clean cut, endwd, Hisp. men 32yo>-. Both 40, DDF, avg lks, 5'6", 190#, clean cut, endwd. **115536**, 46,  #115536


LETS GET HIM

Hello, we seek another man in the bedroom, clean cut, professional, no tattoos to get me good while my man is forced to watch. **hotvixen**, 31,  #124454


BI COUPLE LOOKING

attractive, experienced couple seeking bi couples or single bi individuals for erotic play. lots of fun, like to play dress up, love heels and naughty. big on bedroom eyes, great smiles. **playfulpair**, 33,  #124429


THREE IS COMPANY

We're an attractive African-American couple looking for another to female to join us in spreading a little holiday cheer. Be ready to please, I guarantee you will be. **Threeiscompany2**, 23,  #124414


FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. We're in our 40's. **080764**, 43,  #124403


SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experiencing with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 48,  #123217


CRAZY ASS COUPLE

Married couple 36 female, 41 male, looking for single(s) or couple(s) that are not new to group sex. No Strings, no games, just great sex! **ginger**, 36,  #124266


FRIEND WITH BENEFITS

Happily married couple seeking one male to join us for intimate fun in and out of the bedroom. LTR. Must be comfortable with both husband and wife. **spiceycouple46**, 61,  #124262


PARADISE IN TEXAS

We're creating paradise for a special woman that would love to join us. There's 16 acres to play in so being naked is a plus. Are you that special lady? **LoversNParadise**, 35,  #124199

WHATYOUNEED

we are a nice couple i am 22 and he 20 i have experience and he does not i wish to share and show so if interested. **bandj**, 22,  #120784

SERGEANT

You're wearing my boots. **amer**, 24,  #124425


ATTRACTIVE, BI-CURIOUS FEM

Bi-curious, inexperienced, attractive, slender fem looking for a single bi-fem for friendship - & discreet, sexy encounters, dancing. Looking for height/weight proportionate, outdoorsy, fem girl adventures. **Ruby**, 31,  #124362


EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

Bi-curious, sexy, stylish, feminine, exotic woman. looking for adventures with sexy guys and feminine girls. Chemistry is a must. I long for sophisticated more than anything else. **mnemosyne**, 32,  #124135


DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS

Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **lizzy11**, 31,  #117594

LESBIAN LOVE

I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19,  #123524


FOOT/WS SLAVE

Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **Male-FootSearch**, 46,  #123872


TICKLE THERAPY

Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40,  #122033


SEXUAL ARTIST

Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 47,  #121616


OPENMINDED, NUDIST SWINGER

I am extremely open minded laid back, nudist, swinger and love sex in any place and time. I live on private and secluded land I host alternative parties. **gogetnaked**, 57,  #115993


LOOKING

looking to have fun. **rob2492**, 34,  #124294

STUD IN STILETTOS

W/M, 49, married and Bi seeks secret encounter with other crossdressers or M/M or M/F couples for erotic pleasures. Too sexy in my stilettoes and stockings. May introduce wife later. **eddyfreestyle**, 50,  #118296


HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 43,  #118402


HARD BLACK

I'm 24, 5'9", 200, ddf, clean respectful man. Looking to explore what the world has to offer me. Need some new kink in my life. **choklat_thundr**, 24,  #123854


MR ORAL LOVER

My ideal T Girl has medium to large breasts, is submissive, likes the bottom, is passionate, and has an oral fixation. **whiteknight**, 47,  #123510


MAN'S LADY'S MAN

Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42,  #123387


SEXY CROSSDRESSER

Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41,  #122825


YOUR PERFECT GURL

Adventure loving, happy go lucky Gurl seeks mentor for sharing, caring, exploring, intimate fun. You will not be disappointed with a pleasure oriented devotee looking for like minded girlfriend. **Lynda61521**, 48,  #119822


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. **kinky_violet**, 26,  #120083


RUG MUNCHER!!!

good lookin hispanic dude looking for some fun in the after hours. you know when you go out and come home horny as hell wishing you would've got some? **scattereddrummer**, 24,  #124532


ROCKNROLL PADDY

lookin 4 someone with a soul to hang out at shows movies etc and just be anything but a robot. **itzquitealright**, 27,  #124504

SUKA FREE

What can i say, i get up, go to work, come home and just wanna chill sometimes. Im a pretty simple guy with simple pleasures. Think you can handle that? **UCntCm3**, 23,  #124499

DISCREET BUT MEANINGFUL

in a discreet open relationship and looking for a partner(s) to frolic with. open minded, creative, passionate, and willing to entertain most scenarios. happy to send photos upon request. **cuchicheo**, 35,  #124490

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SHY SUB FOR SWITCH PARTNER

Married for 2 years. Been together for 6. I am sub he is dom. Looking for playmates and friends. You should be looking for fun first and foremost with no pre-conceived expectations. We are just average people looking to have an above average time ;) Prefer single females but sometimes the more the merrier. Contact us,you'll not regret. We promise ;)

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It's 2008! Whatever. The Earth makes another lap around the sun; the odometer of life rolls up another digit. You don't need numbers to remind you that your mortal coil is unraveling. Every time you look in the mirror you see more fat, more moles, more wrinkles. Yes, it's time to get your shit together, but then again, it was time to get your shit together years ago. All those resolutions you made in 2003 are pretty much the same ones you'll be making this year: Lose some weight, get a raise or a better paying job, find a soulmate, learn Spanish – at least well enough to order your breakfast tacos without sounding like a total honyak. Those are all noble undertakings to be sure, but given your record of irresolution, maybe you should set the bar a little lower. Aiming for the stars works OK as an empty platitude for motivational speakers, but most of us are equipped with a pair of Wyle E. Coyote spring shoes at best. We're lucky to be able to even touch net, much less throw down a nasty Dwyane Wade tomahawk dunk. Still, just because you're in the meat of the bell curve when it comes to human achievement doesn't mean you shouldn't try to tweak your performance every now and then, if only to make sure you're not some sort of superhuman who accidentally got bogged down smoking pot, eating Flamin' Hot Cheetos, and watching *Lost* reruns all day. Maybe trapped inside you is a Nobel Prize winning nuclear physicist or a concert pianist or an angry little girl who can start fires with her mind. Point is, you're never going to find out if you don't occasionally mix it up a bit, and failing to meet the same lofty goals and standards every year isn't helping your confidence any either. How about reining it in a bit? Maybe instead of losing weight you resolve to buy looser fitting clothing. That's an achievable goal. You don't have to buy a whole new wardrobe, just piecemeal it. Besides, what if you gain more weight? You need to be able to adjust on the fly. A raise or a better paying job takes a lot of effort, time, and energy. Instead, you might want to use those resources to examine your sick dependency on materialism. Hey, no one is going to nag you about that, are they? As for finding a soulmate, why not earn your training wheels by finding someone with a pulse who's willing to look at you naked without strapping on a pair of welding goggles? Maybe the only thing that stands between you and a regular, thorough rogering is your impossibly high standards. Those standards are going to fall sooner or later, so why not get ahead of the game and let them slide right now? As for learning Spanish, you could start by resolving to hang out with more people who speak it. Before you overcommit and stake out a spot in the Home Depot parking lot, you might want to shell out 20 bucks and hang out at Esther's Pool instead. This weekend they're hosting iLoco Año Nuevo!, a compendium of sketch comedy performed by the talented members of the Latino Comedy Project. They don't all habla español. In fact, the show comes with just a smattering of Spanish, but that's OK. You don't want to overtax your resolve.


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women
SEEKING
men

SEEKING FELLOW TRAVELER
I'm funny and smart, know foreign languages, but sadly, I am lousy at reading maps. If you're looking for a navigator, count me out. **isis_isis_ra_ra_a**, 54, **📍** **#124531**

ADVENTUROUS, AMBITIOUS, FRISKY
Me: Adventurous, Ambitious, Dynamic, Frisky, Vivacious, Romantic You: Real. **LocaVida**, 48, **📍** **#124524**

OLD FASHIONED GAL
Hi my name is beth. I am new to austin and would like to have some people escort me around town. Hope to talk to you soon. **beth311**, 47, **📍** **#124511**

LOST IN AUSTIN
New to the area and looking for new friends. I love to laugh and have a pretty wild sense of humor...thick skinned only need apply! **itsonlydaria**, 41, **📍** **#124489**

NATURAL, EARTHY, MUSIC-LOVER
I am a very simple, honest, and joyful woman. I am interested in making friends with those who guide their life with their heart. **Cypress**, 50, **📍** **#124380**

BEAUTIFUL WILD CHILD
I'm new to Austin and I'm just interested in meeting people to hang out with. I'm a struggling Artist that likes to ride on motorcycles and in fast cars. **Queen_Corvina**, 31, **📍** **#124343**

SEXY SMART EXISTENTIALIST.
Ok here is the part that I hate more when doing this single looking for that prince charming thing. **angeleve**, 38, **📍** **#124314**

FUNNY, KIND, WITTY.
Vivacious, kind, fit, petite, prof, fun to be with, smart, very family oriented loves the outdoors, organic wines, the gym, movies, the arts, healthy lifestyle, would love to find, a friend to enjoy what Austin has to offer. **Spanishrose**, 41, **📍** **#124282**

DIVERSE OUTGOING GAL
Life should be a constant learning experience. My match wants a mutually beneficial relationship- emotionally, intellectually, and physically! Someone openminded, with "old world" sensibilities. Cute geeks are a turn-on! **snax**, 43, **📍** **#124197**

WORKIN' IT
I love new and exciting experiences. I have lived in many places and each one shapes me into a better person. I love to laugh and yoga it up. **sirena834**, 28, **📍** **#124278**

WHERE ARE YOU?
Looking for my match. I'm fun, outgoing, somewhat witty, love animals and music. Looking for someone for me to get to know and hopefully date and see where it goes. **deenadub**, 34, **📍** **#124272**

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
Just moved to Austin and would really enjoy just meeting someone and getting to know the city. Love to do or go anywhere long as its fun. Up for anything. **mal06**, 19, **📍** **#124208**

UP TO 5
If your like me, you scroll until you find what you like.... **tasha**, 38, **📍** **#124020**

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THAT FUNKY MONKEY
I'm 21...currently working toward a government degree...I love to laugh...i'm not looking for a serious relationship...maybe just someone to watch Chris Farley movies with...we'll see where it goes. **Chachi**, 21, **📍** **#124173**

MAKING IT!
Partial to music, making out, making it! Impartial to liars, mooches, slutty chicks (take it off for money or love girls), people who clap at the end of movies. **jennasis**, 24, **📍** **#124177**

LOVE AND HAPPINESS
I'm a freelance writer and mother of a young child. I strive to live an ethical life free of religion. I hope you're funny, smart and a good listener. **PlanetJan**, 45, **📍** **#124147**

LIVELY AND FUN!
I'm looking for someone to go waltzing in the rain, prancing through creekbeds, and galavanting in the park with. Let's run away on an adventure! **Carrie_E**, 20, **📍** **#124111**

STRESSED COLLEGE CO-ED
I'm the one who drives with the windows down and the radio on full blast. I'm the one who slips and falls and can't help but laugh. I'm the one... **ki1153**, 20, **📍** **#124057**

HELLO
i am a very good looking girl looking for a man who know what love is all about to a woman. **suslove**, 24, **📍** **#123889**

LOOKING TO DATE
I'm a 27 yr old grad student at Texas State U. and work full time. I like to do things outdoors. I love animals, football (go cowboys), arguing (not yelling). **tigertiff816**, 27, **📍** **#123956**

COULD THIS WORK?
Not sure, but what the heck! I enjoy salsa dancing, traveling, family gatherings and good friends/company... I would like to find someone special with similar traits. **mexican_gordita**, 38, **📍** **#123930**

FRIENDLY, LOVING, INTELLIGENT
I am fairly well in the middle of the extrovert/introvert scale. I am a kind, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted, and growing person. **aprilfourteenth**, 54, **📍** **#123925**

I WALK FAST!
Am I delightful? why yes. **bintalbalad**, 46, **📍** **#123836**

TRUE CONNECTION SAUGHT
Libra metal chick lookin for some love...likes shows, parties, drinkin. Looking for a real connection...whatever else that entails then so be it...must love to go to shows and be a social person... **luvinlady**, 20, **📍** **#123845**

COFFEE TAWK
no big whoop...luscious grownup seeks a mensch with manners and idears. I like to read, travel, an urban life, but the desert lures. East Austin, baby. **suma**, 46, **📍** **#116370**

men
SEEKING
women

HUGS N NUGS
I dig on: Zen Gardening, Wheatsville, organics, Grapevine market, funk and soul, Dylan, dancing like no one is watching, loving like i have never been hurt, Jamband festivals, surfing, drum-circles. **jaycat**, 31, **📍** **#124537**

DOES THIS WORK?
Just trying to meet some one for fun or for more... **Splatty**, 34, **📍** **#124536**

CORAZON
Lovable romantic in search of same. I enjoy all kinds of music and movies. I also enjoy the outdoors, hanging out and occasionally traveling. **INSEAR-CHOF**, 34, **📍** **#124516**

COMFORTABLE WITH MYSELF
I'm an optimist-let's laugh. I'll make a plan, but if something better comes up, we'll just do it. Looking for slender woman who doesn't have anything to prove. **carefuldad**, 40, **📍** **#124485**

JUST ME
Hi Austin people.I moved here a couple of years ago and love Austin.I am from Tupelo Mississippi,I work for Independence Brewery here in town. And im searching for a great person. **tallboyray**, 28, **📍** **#124483**

OLDER GUY LOOKING
i am a 51 yr old white guy looking for a friend and companion. **rich2007**, 51, **📍** **#124482**

NEED A TAN?
Sailboat captain looking for galley winch. Must be good with ropes and able to fend off pirates.Experience in raising a mast a plus. Landlubbers need not apply. **rch420**, 46, **📍** **#124481**

GOTTA LIKE MUSIC!
I feel lucky to live in Austin where people like to get together and play music. I like to do other things, too, I just can't remember what they are... **bassackwards**, 48, **📍** **#124456**

WILD EYED VIRGIN
the past days were all a fast haze and now the sun has sunk on my teen years and tears drip drop outta my clock. i need my sexual rite. **substrate**, 20, **📍** **#124439**

UNCOMMON DOWN2EARTH GEEK
Although computers encompass my time, I'd rather be in a horsebarn picking hooves or floating the San Marcos River. Life is not cookiecutter, so shoot for the good times. **javabirdy**, 46, **📍** **#124435**

EASYGOING ADVENTUROUS FRIENDLY
When I'm not at work, you can find me shooting pool at Deep Eddy Cabaret or having a chocolate-espresso martini at Halcyon. I dig Sushi and Thai food. **NoCLiq**, 24, **📍** **#124431**

NERDY FUNNY ROCKNROLL
Fun loving guy looking for some intellectual stimulation and someone to laugh with. Someone to join me on spontaneous adventures, midnight movies, random house parties, and other enlightening experiences. **nerd-tastic**, 23, **📍** **#124427**

MUSICIAN SEEKING INSPIRATION
Unconventional , creative , good natured , honest , musician type seeks female counterpart who's also a creative type ,with her own life , to share free time with . **bigstevied**, 52, **📍** **#124418**

THIS IS SPARTA!
i just wasted 8 of my 30 words! i'll stop using vowels! i lv aasn. lrrng gd, tv bd. iv sn ghtsln d bsrtry 8 tms. srry, n mr wrds lft. **phototype**, 38, **📍** **#124417**

ISLANDBOY SEEKS CONVERSATIONCOFFEE
SciFi enhanced carbon based lifeform seeks complimentary unit for processing & field research. If naked windows turn you on drop me an email. **Nes-sius**, 30, **📍** **#124411**

OUTDOORSY, GETTO REDNECK
Outdoors junkie. Tired of the club scene and ready to move on with my life. If you love the outdoors lets hang out, maybe we can teach each other something. **austinniceguy**, 30, **📍** **#124398**

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THREEWORDBSISN'TENOUGHFOR AHEADLIN... FOR REAL
If it makes you laugh atleast that's something. I recently moved here and I'm looking to meet people. Seriously, We don't need to hump I can just imagine it later... **indie_guy**, 28, **📍** **#124389**

HELLO, DARLIN'
Creative, mischievous Texas gentleman. Off-beat tastes. I love cooking or eating good food and women who don't take themselves too seriously. Gardening and road trips, going out or staying in. **ginuwine_texan**, 49, **📍** **#124376**

DARKLY ARTISTIC MUSICAN.
i have a morbid sense of humor and slight meglomaniascism.I am like that teddy bear with spikes that keeps humping the cat.I love music, but its not as fun alone. **tattoometal_inc**, 23, **📍** **#124363**

RESTLESS HEART
Looking for an attractive, genuine, intelligent female in the Austin region to become a confidant, companion, trusted friend, passionate lover, kindred spirit and/or long term partner. Preferably in that order. **Estaven**, 54, **📍** **#124360**

women
SEEKING
women

FEMME 4 RELATIONSHIP
My name is Sarah... honestly looking for a relationship 20 y/o.Long,Blk hr, Drk Brwn lz, 5'4, 110,Brwn Skn Lotz of pics I hope you do to :D. **SekCBinX**, 20, **📍** **#124419**

JUST LOOKING
Looking for a long time too. Can't find the right Bi woman. Could it be you? Guess I'll just cross my fingers and see. I'm pretty picky, but not Dicky. **LoversInParadise**, 50, **📍** **#124333**

LOVE JIM MORRISON
I love the outdoors,music, and conversing with everyone I encounter. I believe at jumping at every opportunity, and if you are in a position to help others you should. **maryjane**, 20, **📍** **#124326**

KINK FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalcious**, 22, **📍** **#124160**

LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person.i adore my friends, family & pets.lover of all music & film genres.can't beat a good live show& when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20, **📍** **#124126**

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecka_Ann**, 24, **📍** **#124084**

AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open,honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50, **📍** **#124075**

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs.hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselfs. **smile4me**, 18, **📍** **#123970**

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25, **📍** **#123723**

OUTSPOKEN MUSIC LOVER
I love music,from rap to rock to spanish pop. I got tattoos,0's gauges and piercings. I am a communications major with a sense of perverted humor who cooks mexican food ORALE! **mis-shexum**, 21, **📍** **#123761**

men
SEEKING
men

PAPIMORENO
Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268**, 55, **📍** **#124268**

TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 53, **📍** **#121119**

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39, **📍** **#123381**


BROODING, SHALLOW, PEDANTIC
pragmatist seeks cheeky times. Competent, well balanced men over 30 preferred; short,meaty/husky/stocky, overly educated a plus. Not looking for hookups, instant romance, or teetotalers. Me: 30yo, 6'0, 185lbs, VGL-fit, masc. **Sarkany**, 30, **📍** **#123189**


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Sirena834 

WORKIN' IT

Currently I am committing the bus schedule to memory and perfecting my grand entrances. When work gets boring I take stealthy laps around the office and write ASAP! on everything. A year ago I was teaching English in China and prepared to live an Expat's life to the fullest. That plan somehow got surpassed by various forces needing me in Austin and at a desk job. I am happy, though, and really try to remember that overall, happiness is really what people are looking for in life.

read the rest of **SIRENA834's** profile
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messages

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42, **#121697**

ATYPICAL, FLACO, EASY-GOING
Eclectic, smart, fun, professional, creative, curious, outdoors, DIY, garden, software, humor, travel. You also please be relatively fit, mature, confident, diverse interests, traveled, down-to-earth, spirited, versatile. **divido**, 48, **#119363**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkAustin**, 49, **#119526**

IT'S ALL GOOD!
Looking for a boyfriend? I am 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer.I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest,no drugs.is that you? Let me know. **HusbandMaterial**, 50, **#115672**

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24, **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. I'm looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26, **#115939**

JUST friends

SARCASTIC , QUICK-WITTED,
live music & the spray paint on my car rocks but the radio's busted, addicted to sewing pillows, try not to have ex-

pectations or plans, don't always trust my guts. **jilliegirl**, 38, **#124525**

NEW TO AUSTIN
I'm a outgoing gal who is looking for friends to hang with and show me around this awesome place..im big on 80's, love music, and love to laugh!
Catwoman, 23, **#124467**

BLUE EYED BOY
I'm a kind and generous software engineer that would much rather be composing music, living off the grid somewhere in the mountains of NM, and am looking for new friends.
MazeRat, 50, **#124338**

COUPLE SEEKING FLIPSIDE-FRIENDS
Two cool kids out of college 23/24 y/old. Looking for like-minded couples or individuals to hang, listen to music, and smoke, while enjoying the hill country atmosphere - Flipside '08.
chiefdog, 23, **#124334**

a Shot in the Dark.....➡

A SLOW JAM
Creekside the day after christmas. Couldnt stop looking at your beautiful green eyes! can i make enchiladas sometime? let me know. **When: Wednesday, December 26.** Where: creekside. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902515**

JJ'S OFF CONGRESS
You: biking on Congress when your cap flew off. You said , "Thanks, babe" and kept pedaling away. Recently, you said it flies off all the time. Your smile haunts. **When: Thursday, December 27.** Where: JJ's. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902514**

WELLS FARGO LINE
Behind you in line at the Wells Fargo. You have blond hair. I made a joke about a confused look on my face-you laughed. Waited outside-you left through other exit? **When: Friday, December 21.** Where: Wells Fargo-Randalls parking lot location up north. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902512**

NICE SHOES--GREAT HAIR!
You rocked my world when you "crashed" my date. I played my cards wrong and lost you along the way. I'd love another chance to play... I've been miserable since. **When: Sunday, September 23.** Where: Opal's @ Pennfield. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902511**

CLEAN IT UP.
You were eating a burrito in Odessa but I know you're from Austin. Although you looked as if you hadn't showered, you're more beautiful than can be put into words. **When: Monday, December 24.** Where: Taco Villa. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902510**

COSTCO CHECKOUT 12/22/07
I was a goofy white-haired guy extolling the virtues of the cranberry juice in your cart. You offered to buy my flowers for me. Let me buy some for you. **When: Saturday, December 22.** Where: Costco checkout. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902509**

KARAOKEPARTY & BLUEHAIR
We never met, I only admired you from afar. You'll know who you are. Write back, I'd love to see you again. **When: Tuesday, October 23.** Where: Austin. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902508**

2NDST AUSTIN JAVA
You in Austin Java on Sunday 23 on your Apple laptop.Noticed you look EXACTLY like Adam Brody. Dark hair/ eyes and thick rimmed glasses.Me: Brunette, skinny jeans and boots. Let's get coffee? **When: Sunday, December 23.** Where: 2nd Street Austin Java. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902507**

AWESTRUCK BY YOU
Helped dispose of your trash on the 23rd (Sunday). I was captivated by your beauty and could only muster a smile. Wanna migrate back to Maria's for migas next Sunday? **When: Sunday, December 23.** Where: Maria's Taco x-press. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902506**

ROSE IN FROSTTOWER
It's not every day a rose hands you your coffee. You liked my Santa hat and Christmas sweater. Perhaps we can finish our conversation nestled up next to the fire. **When: Friday, December 21.** Where: Frost tower Seattle's Best. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902505**

ALLIGATOR BARTENDER
You, black shirt bartending Tuesday, beautiful brown locks. Me, Brunette, tan, blue eyes. I was in dining. We glanced. I was a little shy, not now. I'm coming in 12/27. **When: Tuesday, December 18.** Where: The Alligator Grill. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902504**

TATTOO 6TH STREET
You: Tall, dark, smoker. I would love to get lost in your enormous beard sometime. **When: Tuesday, December 11.** Where: Custome tattoos from the soul. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902503**

MADD PANEL
You- across room from me wearing a red/white plaid shirt. Me- in jury stand, long Brunette hair, black jacket staring and drooling !!! 509 W. 11th. 9th floor! : D **When: Wednesday, November 28.** Where: MADD panel. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902502**

RITANIZO
I'm not a member of Lover's Lane (too cheap), but think you're purty. Let's go for migas at Magnolia....or even try your migas, if they're all you say they are! **When: Thursday, December 20.** Where: Lover's Lane. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902501**

CHEAPO SEPTUM PIERCING
Shocked by your presence, fumbling for words, couldn't think straight enough to give you the Cheapo discount. Come back for beer and tuna plate. I'lll have my wits about me. **When: Monday, December 17.** Where: shoal creek saloon. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902500**

TLC ELEVATOR
Coming out of elevator with table, you in grey suit. Almost smashed by elevator doors, trying to go down. Looked back and felt a connection. Let's meet somewhere without elevators. **When: Thursday, December 20.** Where: tlc elevator. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902499**

MOWHAWK FREEBALLING BUSRIDER
Saw you on the #17 bus 12/19. Noticed your bare butt thru a tear on your jeans. I offered you a seat, you said you'd rather stand. You're very cute. **When: Wednesday, December 19.** Where: Bus 17 East Austin. **You: Man.** Me: Man. **#902498**

POST OFFICE ENCOUNTER
You: grey sweater, brown hair, sweet eyes, mailing to Michigan. Me: White tee, black hair, mailing to Minneapolis, too nervous to ask your name. Write me. Coffee? **When: Wednesday, December 19.** Where: South Congress post office. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902497**

A CHAMPION DOE
You: Beautiful waitress, spectacular smile. Me: Hick at sport's bar We had whiskey and yew stole my heart. Occupy a bed n breakfast with me? I'll bring the dice. WINK **When: Thursday, December 13.** Where: Heaven. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902496**

LAMA FOUNDATION
You got along well with my dog, so we talked about the Lama Foundation. When you left I was too shy to say anything, but wanted to.... another chance? coffee? **When: Monday, December 17.** Where: Bouldin Creek, Austin, TX. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902495**

TEX-MEX CONNECTION?
I'm a hostess at a popular restaurant, you were with your friends for a birthday party. I couldn't keep my eyes off of you. I'd love to get to know you. **When: Saturday, December 15.** Where: Chuy's. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902493**

TOADIES SHOW
Incredible red headed beauty who shared a few Lone Stars and dances with me. Still thinking about what a great time we had. Share another Lone Star under the stars? **When: Friday, December 14.** Where: Toadies Show. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902492**

JO'S SOCO EMPLOYEE
dark hair, tan skin. i think you are adorable and i want to know you. i think we should totally hang out. i'd ask you next time, but im shy **When: Monday, December 17.** Where: jo's s. congress. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902491**

OILCAN HARRY'S SHOTBOY
you were wearing black jeans, you have long brown hair! you're a shot boy at oilcan harry's. you looked busy. i was wearing a purple hoodie. we should grab a drink! **When: Saturday, December 15.** Where: OilCan Harry's. **You: Man.** Me: Man. **#902485**

PEACOCK 12/20/2007, YOU: dark hair pulled back, sitting on a high table by the bar. Me: tall, dark hair, brown jacket/black shirt, standing..center bar. I like your eyes, hope to meet, same time?

THE 'GURL' CAN be found using more conventional contacts

I KEEP THE end out for the tie that binds...

FISHBOY, THERE ARE more letters than just k in the alphabet. The dark night of pain is passing, and even from the shadows that you love you can see the stars. This is the year to reach for them and find joy. -S

A SPLENDID 2008 to all ridiculous good looking caretakers of BRATISLAVIAN ponies! please danse if you vant to

UGLY SWEATER PTY
met tube top shopping 12/15/07 you're not allowed but MAYBE we can meet again..wanna? nice backdrop. **When: Saturday, December 15.** Where: ugly xmas sweater shopping. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902490**

MICHAEL AT CISCO-S.
You: Michael from St. Louis, real sweet, works for Cisco Systems. Me: long brown hair, same seat-row. Laughing about: water shortage, family hazards, Dostoevsky-- Fun! Join me for a drink? **When: Thursday, November 22.** Where: SWAI flight to Houston. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902489**

WHOLEFOODS COOKING CLASS
I stopped you in the Wine/beer section asked if you could cook. You Jennifer(DELL sales)wearing a red sweater and black skirt who travels everywhere, me tall just moved lost your e-mail. **When: Thursday, November 29.** Where: Whole Foods Lamar. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902488**

LADY "SPOON" GODIVA
I was meandering around the intertubes and happened upon you stunning visage. If you can forgive my cowardice and would like to chat please drop me a line. **When: Saturday, December 15.** Where: A certain chronicle of a road to love. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902487**

WE MISSED ONCE
You: "whymihere" Me: "I've got the answer." You: Conventionally unconventional. Me: Unconventionally conventional. You've got the lock; I've got the key. Let's don't miss again. **When: Monday, December 3.** Where: online. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902486**

TOM RUTA MAYA
Wearing stripes both nights. Professor was in the band, I was your waitress. Bumped into you at Ruta Maya, both history majors. Wanted to talk more. Coffee sometime? **When: Friday, December 14.** Where: Patsys, Ruta Maya. **You: Man.** Me: Woman. **#902484**

DEVIN THRIFT SHOP

TRAINING @ RINGERS
You: waitress with a wonderful smile Me: Blue Moon Drink sometime? **When: Thursday, December 13.** Where: Ringers. **You: Woman.** Me: Man. **#902481**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for January 4 - January 10

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Do you ever wonder if God loves Brad Pitt and Paris Hilton more than he loves you, as seemingly evidenced by those celebrities' charmed lives? Do you suspect that Tiger Woods' fame and Bill Gates' wealth mean that fate is friendlier to them than it is to you? If so, you're in for a major surprise, Capricorn. Events in 2008 will bring you big deliveries of the next best things to riches and fame. You'll get more proof than you've had in a long time that God and fate adore you.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): As I began my hike around the lake, I asked the spirits for a vision that would serve as a symbol of your life in 2008. "Give me a sign," I said aloud, gazing to the heavens. Soon I came upon two rattlesnakes copulating on the path ahead of me. It was a beautiful ruckus. I stopped a few yards back to watch, reasoning that they were too preoccupied with each other to attack me. When they finally disengaged, I retreated. Just then I saw a very pregnant woman approaching me. She was walking alone with her head down, lost in thought. I called her attention to the snakes and convinced her that for the sake of our well-being, we should flee the scene. And that, Aquarius, was the sign I asked the spirits to send me about your life in 2008. What does it mean? That's for you to meditate on. Here's a hint: Appreciate and learn all you can from the beautiful ruckus you'll encounter but preferably from a safe distance. And be protective of other people who may be more vulnerable or less alert than you.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): "I must create a system, or be enslaved by another man's," wrote visionary poet William Blake. I suggest you write out that quote and keep it in plain sight throughout 2008. The coming months will be prime time for you to design a highly organized, richly disciplined approach to living the life you want to live, and doing it with such rigor and vigor that you will never again have to be controlled by or pay constant homage to someone else's life plan.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Do you know what an expansion joint is? No, it's not slang for a marijuana cigarette you smoke in hopes of enlarging your worldview. Rather, it's an architectural term referring to the flexible sections that are built into a bridge or brick wall. These ensure that the structure can safely adjust as its construction materials expand and contract in response to changing weather and temperature. Since I expect that you will be building a new metaphorical edifice or renovating an existing one in 2008, I wanted to get you thinking about this. Expansion joints should be a key element in your plans. In fact, now is a perfect time to meditate on how to make them and where they will go.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): The average person changes residences 11 times in the course of his or her life. Having lived in 33 different homes so far, I'm way above the norm. What about you, Taurus? I'm guessing that you will either make a major move in the coming year, or else you will find your true spiritual home. Here's a third possibility: You may penetrate more deeply into your existing abode, transforming it from a place of shelter to a sublime sanctuary -- reimagining it and reinventing it and inhabiting it with an intensity that amazes you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): I'm guessing your heart will be smarter than usual in 2008. At the very least, love won't make you stupid, as it sometimes has in the past. Here's a suggestion to help ensure that your higher intelligence is always guiding your decisions about intimacy: Develop a habit of looking for the best in your intimate companions. I hope that in the coming months you will frequently utter declarations like the following: 1) "I love how you give me your full attention when we talk." 2) "I love how in touch you are with yourself." 3) "I love that you can make me laugh even when I'm mad." 4) "I love your impeccable sense of timing -- how you call or show up at the right moment." 5) "I love how free you make me feel to tell the absolute truth." (These words of praise and more were lifted from the book *What I Love Most About You*.)

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): In the fifth century BC, the culturally rich city-state of Athens was a democracy, while militaristic Sparta was a dictatorship. But they put aside their differences and came together in a great collaboration to fight off the Persian invasion of Greece. I suspect you may make a similar move in 2008, Cancerian. A person or institution you have regarded as an adversary could become your ally. An influence from which you have always set yourself apart may help you pull off a feat of strength you couldn't have done otherwise.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): "It's now possible to fake everything," writes David M. Hopkins in his book *Counterfeiting Exposed*. He's not just referring to digitally altered photos of celebrities and singers who lip-sync to prerecorded vocals during their supposed live performances. He means everything in the world, from vintage wines to famous paintings to designer jeans. At least 5% of all products on the planet are phony. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because I'm putting you on high alert for frauds and cons and deceptions of every kind. You should be the top whistleblower of the zodiac in 2008, the chief bullshit-detector and constructive critic.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Your main assignment in 2008 is to become highly skilled at feeling good. Does that sound like something you might want to do? If so, here's the beginning of a regimen you could follow: 1) Be constantly taking notes about what experiences give you delight and what situations make you feel at home in the world. 2) Always be scheming to provide yourself with those experiences and situations. 3) Take a vow that nothing will obstruct you from seeking out and creating pleasure, peace, love, wonder, and an intimate connection with life.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): "Too much aggression is dangerous," writes George R. Elder in his book *An Encyclopedia of Archetypal Symbolism*, "but, then, so is too little." One of your main assignments in 2008, Libra, draws on that wise counsel. Unfortunately, you don't have any good role models who can demonstrate how to gracefully express just the right amount of siney force. Everyone's either too pushy or too meek. You're going to have to figure out how to pull off this subtle yet momentous feat all by yourself.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): "Dear Rob: Here are my New Year's resolutions. 1) I vow to Siamese-twin together my badass, no-hype, wide-eyed self with my tricky, strategic, puzzle-loving self. 2) I vow to rage on like a dancing warrior in the urban wilderness, keeping peak experiences and total slaphappy victory at the top of my priority list, while at the same time I play hide-and-seek with the dark, delicious secrets that fuel my soul's lust for wicked meaning. 3) I vow to deepen the collaborative efforts of my suck-out-the-marrow-and-spit-out-the-bones craziness and my listen-carefully-to-the-flow-of-the-underground-river caginess. -- Double Intense Scorpio." Dear Double Intense: Scorpios everywhere will benefit from hearing your resolutions, which is why I've made them 2008's first horoscope.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): In my dream, I was addressing a crowd of Sagittarians in a festively decorated hall. It was the first week of 2008. "You are not yet ready for the wonderful things you think you want," I told them. "To actually get them, you will have to change yourself in the coming months; you will have to shed some old conditioning that is interfering with your quest for success. Do you know what that old conditioning is? Find out *now!* Figure out how you need to transform yourself in order for the world to give you what you yearn for."

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