

THE AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE

The Longhorn Count  
The Living Maya at UT

Free Comic Book Day – 'Nuff Said!

Celebrating No Pants Day  
Through Film

Exit Music for a Film Fest Producer

A Morsel of 'Mildred Pierce' Pie

Carolyn Wonderland  
Through the Looking Glass

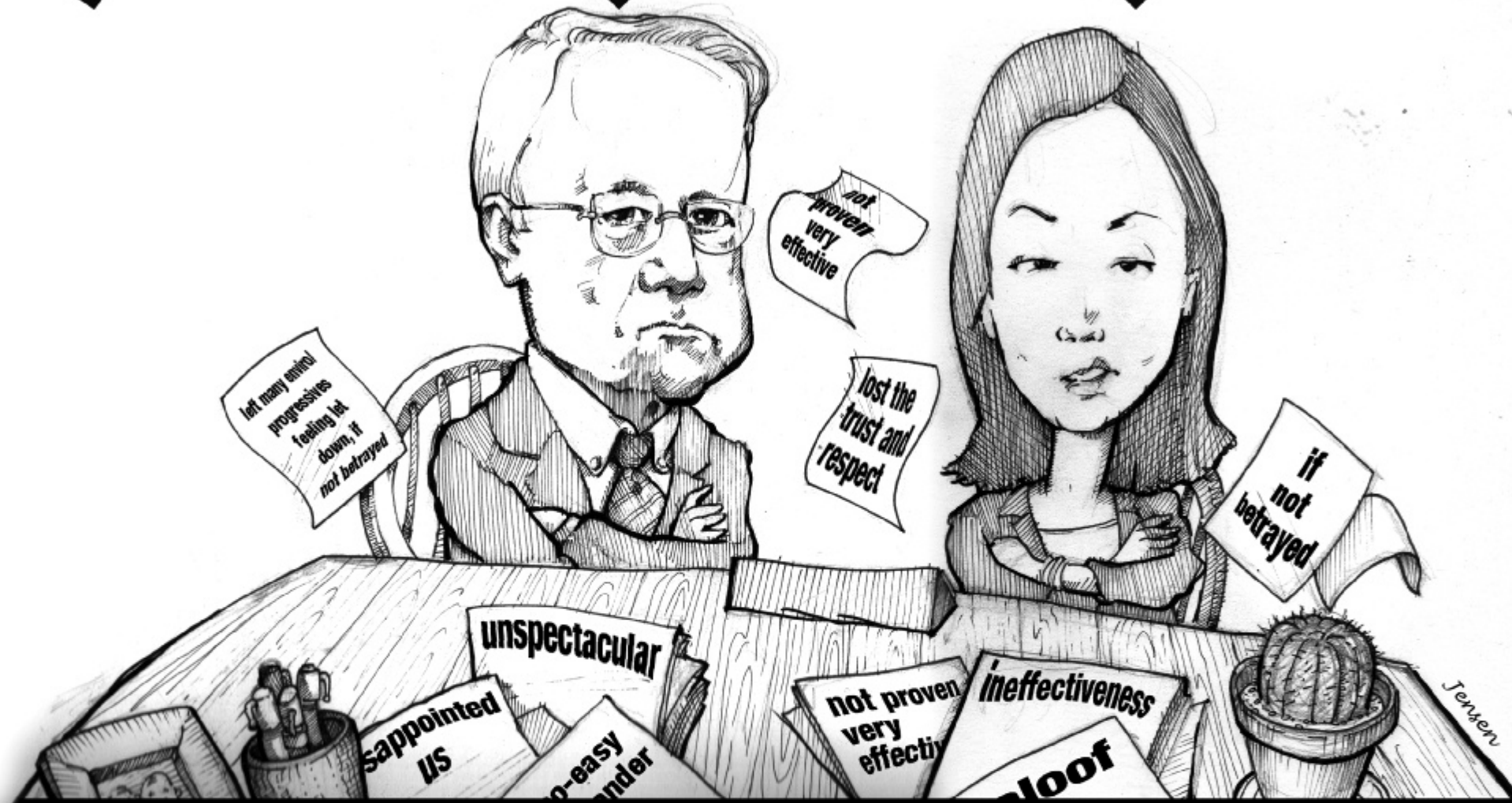
Politicking With  
James McMurtry

# Backpack Picnic

The Video Sketch Troupe Cooks Up a Viral Batch of Comedy

Vol. 27 No. 35 ★ May 2, 2008

# YOU'RE FIRED!



HERE'S WHAT THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE HAD TO SAY ON APR. 25, 2008 ABOUT LEE LEFFINGWELL

"UNSPECTACULAR", "LEFT MANY ENVIRO/PROGRESSIVES FEELING LET DOWN, IF NOT BETRAYED"  
"DISAPPOINTED US", "TOO-EASY SURRENDER"

AND ABOUT JENNIFER KIM:

"NOT PROVEN VERY EFFECTIVE", "ALOOOF", "LOST THE TRUST AND RESPECT", "INEFFECTIVENESS"

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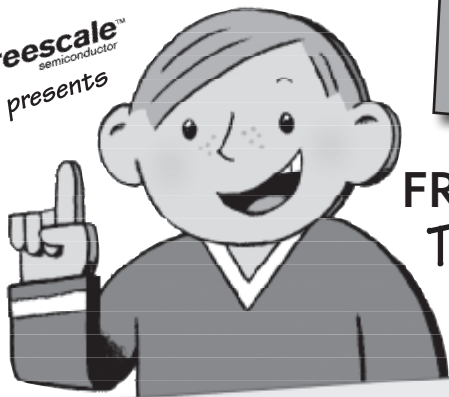
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# contents

VOL. 27, NO. 35 MAY 2, 2008



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- 6 PAGE TWO The Immersion Method
- 8 ENDORSEMENTS Chronicle picks for the May 10 election
- 10 POSTMARKS Rush rules, timers conserve energy, and more

Wx Postmarks' online - updated (almost) daily austinchronicle.com/webextra

## NEWS

- 20 The Presidential Contenders on Drugs; Urban Coyotes: Meet the Neighbors; Billboard Battle Continues; and More

POINT AUSTIN The Way We Were

Wx Enviros on Shade: Kim's open letter austinchronicle.com/webextra

- 22 BESIDE THE POINT We're in the Money ... Not!
- 37 THE HIGHTOWER REPORT Fencing Off Our Democracy; and Authorizing Torture

- 38 LIVING MAYA Austin becomes a hotbed of past and future Maya knowledge

BY ROB D'AMICO

## ARTS

- 45 Is It the Final Curtain for Arts on Real?; Another Fond Tribute to Austin's Missing Diva; and ACC Dance Offers the Joys of Discovery

- 46 FIRST, FREE COMIC BOOK DAY, AND THEN - KA-BAAM! Comic books and comedy improv go hand in hand, sometimes with repulsor rays

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Wx YOUR LIBRARY WANTS THESE BAD

Four graphic volumes for your entertainment and edification austinchronicle.com/webextra

- 48 BOOKS Bloggers in Print; Poetry Roundup

- 50 AFTER A FASHION Stephen lines up some fat rails of white powder for deserving fundraisers

## FOOD

- 53 Tarrytown Farmers' Market; Mildred Pierce Pie Social; Event Menu: May 3-7; and Food-o-File

- 54 REVIEWS Taste Select Wines, Mr. Catfish

- 56 RESTAURANT ROULETTE A spin around our restaurant guide

## SCREENS

- 60 The Secret Hollywood History of No Pants Day; Asia Fest 2008 Mini Film Festival; DVD Watch: *Alain Delon: 5-Film Collection*

- 62 DON'T EVERYBODY PANIC Online sketch troupe Backpack Picnic has definitely gone viral

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

- 66 EXIT MUSIC FOR A FILM FEST PRODUCER Sending off South by Southwest's Matt Dentler

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

- 67 TV EYE Spring in Swing

## MUSIC

- 69 OFF THE RECORD Tim O'Conner closes the Backyard, Grupo Fantasma and Vallejo spice things up for Latino Music Month, Hacienda strikes a chord with the Black Keys, and more

- 70 CAROLYN WONDERLAND Through the past darkly with Austin's second generation Janis channeler

BY MARGARET MOSER

- 74 JAMES MCMURTRY For God's sake, don't piss him off - unless you're Dick Cheney, in which case there's no turning back

BY DAN OKO

- 76 REISSUES Mission of Burma, the Replacements, Whiskeytown, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Fat Possum's George Mitchell Collection, and Otis Redding

- 78 NEWS OF THE WEIRD Cats in outfits, Last Supper orgy, and kidneys through the anus

## CALENDAR

### 80 COMMUNITY

A Cannabis Crusade with NORML in Zilker Park, the 30th annual Old Pecan Street Festival, and Cinco de Mayo celebrations all over town? Yes, yes, and yes. But also: Free Comic Book Day! Pinch us, baby, we must be dreaming.

- 82 DAY TRIPS Frank Buck's Zoo in Gainesville may not be as well known as its larger-than-life namesake, but it is impressive nonetheless

- 84 PLAYING THROUGH *Dumb and Dumber* hits the road

SOCCER WATCH Austin Aztex play their first game ever, and more

Wx 'Soccer Watch' online: Semiregular updates from everywhere austinchronicle.com/webextra

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NEW THIS WEEK!

**ERACHE!** GIRLIE ACTION laments rats and the closing of a local institution, plus more sonic landscaping

**PICTURE IN PICTURE:** Film CRITICS BITE back and parking-lot jet-pack shenanigans

**CHRONIQUE:** AUSTIN LEATHER represents and TIE SKIRTS that don't bind at JAZZFEST, plus more loose threads from our improbable design blog

**THE GAY PLACE:** This week: GAY NOLA & GALVESTON WRAP UP. Plus: The Kates & friends keep your finger on the gay pulse. That finger.

**NEWSDESK:** Up to the minute coverage of the CITY COUNCIL RACES going into election day

**THE SCORE:** On the road with the AUSTIN OUTLAWS and more sports blatherings and whatnot from here and afar

Wx web extra

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

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# ENDLESS REFRESHMENT



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# The Immersion Method

Dream double bills and the great and simple pleasure of film viewing

BY LOUIS BLACK

“Remember, they did it for the love ... but they were not above the money.”

There are good movies and there are great movies. To some, there are “movies” and then there are “films,” though this distinction has always struck me as pedantically crippled – much like saying there are “cars” and there are “automobiles.” There are mediocre films and there are those that are offensively bad. Hours can be spent in making distinctions or analyzing films in ways that range from easy generalizations to those nitpickers who write 30-page essays on “Hegemony and Counter Hegemony in *The Godfather Trilogy*” or “Objecting to Objectification: Re-Viewing the Feminine in *The Silence of the Lambs*” (both real essays). Films meant to entertain are forced to ride through the hazardous white-water rapids of criticism, obsessive revisionist theorizing, critical obsession with just how negative writing can get, detailed ideological readings, and reviews offering consumer ratings based on the film’s “enjoyment” factor. Often they get chewed up or torn apart for reasons not even of their own making.

Fortunately for me, although I’ve been writing on films for too many decades to enumerate without severe embarrassment, I’ve never lost the emotional immediacy of watching a film, even those I’ve seen any number of times. Any kind of critical appraisal or intellectual analysis happens later; when watching a film, I am in the film. Certainly the experience has changed: Having seen thousands of films, I find that those eureka moments of unexpected joy no longer spray forth like a firehose. Instead, they come rarely – though that often makes them more joyous.

What I’m trying to get at here is basic and simple. In the midst of assessing films, dealing with them qualitatively, or essaying their greater meaning within the culture they were created for, the true pleasure remains in watching movies – sinking into them, regard-

less of their quality or meanings, in a way that allows them to define the world that you are in for their duration. In abandoning oneself while ignoring critical standards or concern about meaning, there is the great and simple pleasure of viewing.

All of the above is by way of saying there has been a recent, coincidental confluence of events that brought to mind two of my favorite country music films.

Bud Shrake is a great writer and a Texas treasure. Whether penning novels, sports stories, films, or biographies, Shrake is a craftsman whose wit is matched by his keen observations about people. An anthology of great Shrake writing, *Land of the Permanent Wave*, has just been published. If you’re not familiar with Shrake’s work, quickly get yourself a copy. If you are, well then you’ve probably already gotten one.

Easily my favorite work of Shrake’s is the 1984 film *Songwriter*, starring Willie Nelson (who is getting intense media coverage now because of Joe Nick Patoski’s book and Nelson’s 75th birthday – see last week’s Books and Music sections for more on Shrake, Patoski, and Nelson), Kris Kristofferson, Melinda Dillon, and Rip Torn. It was shot in Austin; Richard Pearce started out directing but was replaced by Alan Rudolph. This is a film that regularly earns 2½-star ratings or is praised as a fine good-old-boy comedy or an interesting country music story. Treating it so lightly misses the many aspects of its greatness, from really capturing its characters and the country music lifestyle to what being on the road is like (regardless of musical genre) to its wonderful performances. The genius of the film, however, is Shrake’s marvelous script.

Once I had to prepare a reel of great clips from *Songwriter*. Watching the DVD, I was planning on noting a couple of the best scenes that featured the strongest dialogue. I ended up jotting down notes on more than

half the script. I kid you not. Proving the point, here are just some of those notes (this is just a small selection from that effort):

## ‘Songwriter’

02:50 singing “Who do you screw to get out of this place?”

05:10 V.O. cont. “He did it for the love but was not above the money.”

09:00 “Doc, you loved me about 10 percent of the time; hated me 10 percent of the time.” Willie: “I never hated anybody.”

14:00 Rip Torn walking through house to wife: “I wish the vision of how beautiful you are could be painted on the Great Wall of China” ... continuing to his wife telling the baby “Some day you’ll grow up and beat the hell out of ...”

27:00 Kris to Willie “Do you deliberately make it harder just so you can stay interested?”

34:40 Melinda to Willie “I bet you haven’t picked up a guitar and written a song in so long you’ve forgotten how to.”

44:20 Kris on phone in bed “Is there something weird there I should know about?” up to where he admires himself in the mirror although a sleeping mask covers his eyes so he can’t really see himself.

53:00 Exchange between Kris and Willie “But you are a songwriter and you can’t say you wrote something you didn’t write unless you really wrote it.”

1:01:20 Rip Torn goes into motel room. Finds his wife in bed with a band member (Stephen Bruton) ends with

1:02:20 Willie “I under estimated you” Rip “All you sons of bitches do.”

“All you sons of bitches do!” A truly great line that I use all the time – but you need to see the film to really get it.

The reason to evoke *Songwriter* now is not just because of the superb new Shrake anthology and the publication of Patoski’s biography, *Willie Nelson: An Epic Life*. Both are notable and glowing achievements but not the root cause. As long as, if not longer than, I’ve dreamed about a double bill of *American Graffiti* and *Dazed and Confused* or showing Clutch Cargo cartoons with a Sam Fuller triple bill, I’ve dreamed of the perfect country music double bill. Obviously *Songwriter* would be one of the movies. The reason for this reverie is that the other, Daryl Duke’s *Payday*, a 1973 film starring Rip Torn, has just been released on DVD.

Torn’s performance as country singer Maury Dann is so on-target and brilliant that to try and explain the why and how of it would be foolish. Torn plays a George Jones/Merle Haggard-type country singer who plays the back-road and small-town honky-tonks. Traveling in a station wagon he’s hoping for his break: Some of his songs are getting some radio time, and he has a shot at a Grand Ole Opry appearance. But his life is the smoke, beer, pool, neon, other men’s wives, and very loose groupies with which he lives out his motto: “You only pass this way once, so grab everything you can.”

There may be film scenes as great as the one here in which Dann and band visit his mother’s house to go hunting, but I doubt there are all that many that are greater.

One could go out on the road for months or read a lot of books to try to get some idea of what the working musician’s life can be like. Far more entertaining and just as informative would be to watch a double bill of *Songwriter* and *Payday*. ■

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# 'Chronicle' Endorsements – May 10 municipal elections

## Place 1: Lee Leffingwell

Incumbent Leffingwell's unspectacular, consensus-building approach to policy – while criticized in some quarters as insufficiently activist – has in fact made him one of the most productive council members – environmentally engaged and politically pragmatic and enabling effective programs that enable greener redevelopment, reduce solid waste, conserve water and energy, and preserve shoreline open space along Lady Bird Lake. He has labored to improve mental-health-care programs, sought ways to improve public safety while eliminating staffing inequities, and worked to turn Capital Metro in a more progressive direction.

Leffingwell disappointed us on some issues in his first term – a too-easy surrender on Advanced Micro Devices, questionable support for the Northcross neighborhood against the Wal-Mart project, a too-modest water conservation plan – and a number of smaller issues left many enviro/progressives feeling let down, if not betrayed. Some of us believe that a more proactive council could have derailed the Wal-Mart, but we are unpersuaded that Leffingwell should bear the blame for that complex defeat.

Leffingwell also fought to reclaim power from city staff: defending the city auditor, increasing oversight of the spending, pushing for single-member districts, and other reforms. As a whole, Leffingwell's term has been consistently progressive and steadily successful and offers no substantive reasons to replace him with a less experienced alternative.

## Place 3: No Endorsement

While we traditionally prefer to recommend a candidate in each race, after several discussions, we simply could not come to a consensus on the two major Place 3 candidates.

Incumbent Jennifer Kim has demonstrated "heart in the right place" advocacy of community values, a scrappy independent voice, and a good voting record on affordable housing, small business, and Asian-American concerns. And she's supported environmental protection and responsiveness to neighborhoods. But Kim has not proven effective at advancing new council policies that make a real difference. She's not a good team player, she's been somewhat aloof from citizens, and she lacks political instincts and skills. As a result, she has lost the trust and respect of most council colleagues and of staff and community members who previously supported her and has failed to build the relationships and demonstrate the consistency of vision that an elected official must have to carry water on important issues.

Randi Shade deserves serious consideration, but her campaign has not clearly defined her platform beyond the need for "change." Her positions are similar to Kim's, so the question returns to effectiveness. Shade has called for joint council-nonprofit initiatives to help people living in poverty – and she has a long track record of working within public and private institutions to help the most vulnerable folks. Her strongest asset is her reputation for building consensus and hammering out workable solutions in government, business, and nonprofit groups. But Shade is unproven as a policy-maker and has no voting record on city boards or commissions.

We'll be considering our cards carefully and playing our Place 3 hands on May 10 – and we urge Austin voters to do the same.

The May 10 municipal ballot will include three City Council seats, plus three school bond propositions, with school district and ACC trustee seats also in play. We offer abbreviated versions of our editorial board endorsements here. The full versions are available online. – The Editorial Board

## TRAVIS CO. EARLY VOTING: April 28-May 6

Travis Co. voters may vote at any early voting location. On election day, voters must vote in their precinct. For a list of precinct locations, see [www.co.travis.tx.us/county\\_clerk/election/20080510/polls.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election/20080510/polls.asp) or call 238-VOTE (8683).

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Early voting polls are open Monday-Saturday, 7am-7pm, and Sunday, noon-6pm, unless noted otherwise.

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**Washington Mutual Bank,** 1000 E. 41st (M-F, 10am-6pm; Sat., 10am-1pm)  
**Travis County Offices,** 5501 Airport  
**Fiesta Mart,** 3909 N. I-35  
**Flawn Academic Center (Undergrad Library),** West Mall, UT campus  
**Travis Co. Courthouse,** 1000 Guadalupe  
**ACC Campus,** 1212 Rio Grande  
**ACC Business Ctr.,** 5930 Middle Fiskville

**SOUTH**  
**Travis Co. Juvenile Probation Dept. Annex,** 2501 S. Congress  
**Randalls,** 2025 W. Ben White  
**ACC South,** 1820 W. Stansney

**SOUTHEAST**  
**Dan Ruiz Public Library,** 1600 Grove (M-F 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-5pm)  
**Fiesta Mart,** 5510 S. I-35  
**ACC Riverside Campus,** 1020 Grove

**SOUTHWEST**  
**ACC Pinnacle,** 7748 Hwy. 290 W.  
**Randalls,** 6600 MoPac S.  
**Randalls,** 9911 Brodie

**WEST**  
**Randalls,** 2303 RR 620 S.  
**Randalls,** 3300 Bee Caves Rd.  
**Bee Cave City Hall,** 4000 Galleria Pkwy.  
**Rollingwood Municipal Bldg.,** 403 Nixon (closed on weekend)

**NORTH**  
**Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Ctr.,** 5800 McNeil Dr. (closed Sunday)

**Ben Hur Shriners Hall,** 7811 Rockwood

**ACC Northridge,** 11928 Stonehollow

**NORTHWEST**  
**Randalls,** 10900-D Research  
**HEB,** 7301 FM 620 N. (temporary building in parking lot)

**NORTHEAST**  
**MT Supermarket,** 10901 N. Lamar (M-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

**County Tax Office,** 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (just off Pecan St.), Pflugerville  
**EAST**  
**Parque Zaragosa Rec. Ctr.,** 2608 Gonzales (M-F, 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-5pm)  
**Northeast Health Ctr.,** 7112 Ed Bluestein (Springdale Shop. Ctr.)

## Place 4: Laura Morrison

Robin Cravey, Cid Galindo, and Laura Morrison are all highly experienced, and all have worked directly with council and staff on workable policy initiatives.

Overall we believe Morrison's solid engineering and business background make her a pragmatic choice. As former president of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, she has listened thoughtfully to the concerns of Austinites in every part of town and helped them to advance their interests. She has earned a reputation for fairness, balance, and respecting multiple points of view. Morrison's leadership on the city's McMansion task force demonstrated her talent for tailoring city policies to reflect valid citizen concerns. In sum, we believe that as a consensus-builder who's strong on progressive issues, and with pragmatic experience across the entire city, Morrison is the best Place 4 addition to the currently sitting council.

## Austin Community College Board of Trustees, Place 1: Tim Mahoney

Harrison Keller says ACC needs to form partnerships with school districts to ensure that high school students are more strongly challenged and prepared before they ever get to postsecondary education. Keller is the research director for the House of Representatives, hired by none other than Speaker Tom Craddick, and has authored papers for the Texas Public Policy Foundation pushing the notion of tying public-school funding directly to student performance. He insists he is no

ideologue – but his associates are ideologues of the worst sort, and we've seen the Lege use variants on his concepts to punish educators rather than help them.

Tim Mahoney's history in liberal politics squares better with our general outlook, but he failed to inspire us. Mahoney speaks generally of community outreach and selling the idea of ACC to Austin and prospective students, giving a picture of someone running for office not because he is driven by a goal but because he wants to serve and this was what was available. The Chronicle offers up a tepid endorsement of Mahoney – we believe he at least aims in the direction we'd rather go, though he may not have the plan for how to get us there.

## Austin ISD Board of Trustees, District 3: Christine Brister

Of the four seats on the AISD board of trustees up for re-election, only this one, in North Central Austin, is contested. Of the two candidates running to replace the outgoing Johna Edwards, Christine Brister has served on several AISD advisory groups, while the less experienced Jerry Garcia is a statistics maven running on his life experience. Brister's long record of districtwide involvement, plus her strong grasp of both general trends for AISD and issues for specific campuses, means she will be better qualified to hit the ground running, and she seems to know what she's getting herself into.

## AISD Bond Proposals

**Proposition 1: YES. \$187,797,315 for growth and overcrowding relief and to support academic achievement.**

**Proposition 2: YES. \$73,920,504 for health, safety and security, environmental improvements, and other district needs.**

**Proposition 3: YES. \$82,000,000 for education, special programs, and expansion.**

There is no question that AISD schools are overcrowded and that student numbers are continuing to rise. Aging facilities and computers must be replaced; other renovations must be made to keep the district in health and safety, disability, and energy-usage code compliance. Propositions 1 and 2 reflect unavoidable costs, mandated by federal, state, or city agencies, or provide funding to replace crumbling infrastructure or to build more classrooms. If they don't pass, the district will instead have to pay for them out of the maintenance and operations budget.

The three parts of Proposition 3 – a long-awaited performing arts center, expansion of Anderson High, and land for another anticipated high school – are more a matter of choice. Voters should decide whether this list resolves urgent problems or whether Prop. 3 can wait for another day ... again. If all three propositions pass, they will add an additional maximum of \$17 per year per \$100,000 of appraised property value.

The Chronicle strongly endorses Propositions 1 and 2, and Proposition 3 only a little less strongly. ■

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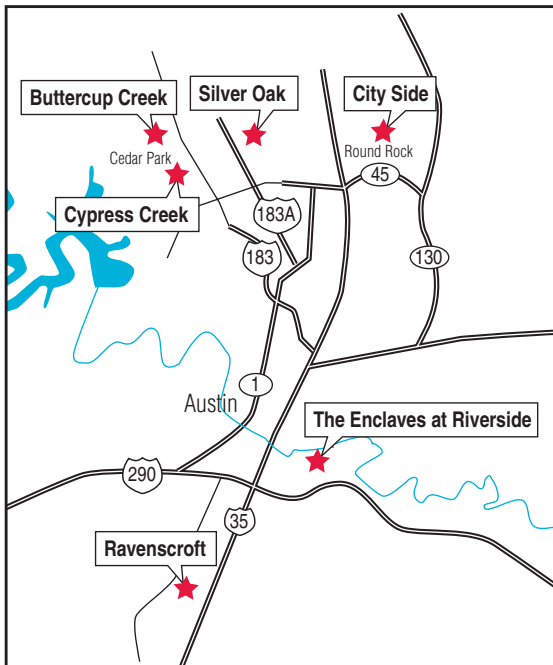


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## Why 'Cravey' Over Morrison?

Dear Editor,

I read the "'Chronicle' Endorsements" [News, April 25] and was surprised to see that you picked Laura Morrison over Robin Cravey in Place 4. Everything you wrote about Cravey made him seem like the natural choice for *Chronicle* readers. I feel I've wandered into an alternative universe when you pick an engineer, and the *Statesman* goes with the environmentalist.

Can you tell us who makes the pick for your paper and how you arrived at this one?

*Jim Cullers*

[News Editor Michael King responds: The *Chronicle* editorial board (for endorsement purposes) included the publisher, News editors and managing editor, and News staff (in all about 10 people, with multiple perspectives). We meet with and report on the viable candidates, we meet together and via e-mail, we discuss and argue and debate, we make the best consensus choice we can among the candidates, and then draft an endorsement that we can all subscribe to. In the particular case of the Place 4 seat, we would refer readers to our full endorsement (posted online) and simply add that we don't think it's fair to either of these candidates (or the others) to reduce the entire discussion to "an engineer" vs. "an environmentalist."]

## Bravo, Virginia!

Dear Editor,

Bravo, Virginia! How bizarre to encounter kids and strollers in the Hilton Ballroom at the annual Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival, basically a cocktail party with an abundance of free-flowing alcohol present ["Food-o-File," Food, April 18]. It was nice to see the signs prohibiting strollers in the tents at the Georgetown event. We were tripping over them last year.

Thanks for voicing an opinion held by many others!

*Graham Weldon*

## What About Electric Timers?

Dear Editor,

In January, I accidentally overlooked paying my Austin utilities bill and in February received one for \$434 (average \$217 per month).

As I am extremely mindful of conserving energy, I called Austin Energy, enraged. An unidentified agent there told me, "Nothing will raise your bill quicker than your water heater."

Determined to correct this, I went to Lowe's in search of their most superefficient water heater, only to have a young man tell me: "Don't waste the money. Just put an electric timer (\$59) on the one you have now."

I decided to take the gamble and paid an electrician \$75 to install the unit, for a total investment of \$134. I set it to turn on at 4am and turn off at 6am, daily.

My March bill plummeted to \$80.25. I was astounded.

Why wouldn't timers be a mandatory inclusion on water heaters? My investment (\$134) nearly paid for itself the first month, saving me about \$120. This one action could become one of the greenest things we do.

It is inconceivable to consider how much \$120 times one million Austinites would come to, but it'd be a bunch for sure.

Hope someone in authority who can investigate this further will read this and take action. My unit was installed next to my breaker box so that I could open and reset the on/off times until I got it perfect.

*Jim Lacey*

## Rush Is the Best

Dear Editor,

This was probably my 15th Rush show, from the first time I saw them on *Hemispheres* back in 1979, and they are absolutely, undeniably, the most consistent, entertaining, and talented stadium band ever ["Natural Science," Earache! Music blog, April 24]! Don't argue with me, I'm a pirate, and I will run ye through! Aarrgghhh.

*Captain Phleabag*

## Only State Facts ...

Dear Editor,

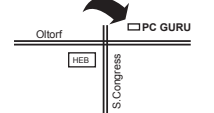
I would like to point out a few key misconceptions Sofia Resnick printed about Joshua Bingaman's coffee shop, Progress ["Deliciously Ambitious," Green Crush! feature, April 18]. The

*continued on p.12*

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**DOESN'T LIKE SHADE :: FROM P.10**

first misconception is that the compostable cups he uses are doing the planet any favors. Factually, there are no commercial composters in Texas. Those "green" corn and paper compostable cups being used are going straight to the trash, because there are no landfills around to actually compost them. In order to compost these biodegradable cups, they must be at a temperature of 180 degrees for three days straight. Not sure it gets that hot in Texas. This may be a reason Whole Foods decided against corn plastic in the end. Or perhaps they realized corn is a valuable resource to use when the end result is conservation. I also find it interesting that Progress is receiving a pat on the back for being so "green," yet recycling is not mandated there. If Progress really wanted to make a concerted effort in the recycling department, perhaps the owner could go an extra step in "keepin' it green" by supporting a local collective like Ecology Action and mandating all materials be recycled within his cafe. EA picks up all of Cafe Mundi's recycling twice a month for a minimum price, which is what makes both of those organizations so great for the environment. Since Ecology Action was also mentioned in the article, I think it could also be a great idea to fact-check and ask the collective if it is true that Progress employees take the recycling regularly on their bikes. Overall, I feel the article was well-written and *The Austin Chronicle* did Earth Day justice in providing awareness on important environmental issues we face and showcasing environmentally friendly local businesses. However, it is also important to only state facts ... not romantic illusions that owners occasionally enjoy projecting.

*Still in love with the Chronicle,  
Krissi Trumeter*

**Doesn't Like Shade**

Dear Editor,

I attended a City Council candidate forum where Place 3 challenger Randi Shade said that she had not been recruited by toll road lobbyists and developers to run. Regardless of whether she was recruited by them, her list of supporters and fundraisers should be cause for concern.

Her supporters and fundraisers include a who's who of Real Estate Council of Austin bigwigs, developers, contractors, and toll road interests. Included are: Paul Bury, former president of RECA and development engineer; Brian Cassidy, who represents toll road authority Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and is a RECA officer; Gary Farmer of Take on Traffic and a developer; Kirk Rudy, of Endeavor Real Estate Group and former RECA president; Pete Winstead, formerly of the Texas Turnpike Authority and former RECA president; and Mike Weaver, RECA board member and contractor.

At the candidate forum I attended, Shade arrived late because she had been attending a fundraiser hosted by the folks mentioned above.

It is obvious that toll road and development interests are backing Shade and would rather

have a council member that listens to them rather than neighborhoods and citizens' groups.

Tom Thayer

[Katherine Gregor replies: Jennifer Kim's 2005 campaign finance reports show that she accepted campaign contributions in that race from a majority of those Mr. Thayer cites: Paul Bury, Brian Cassidy, Gary Farmer, Don Martin, and Pete Winstead, as well as Kirk Rudy's Endeavor partners. Based on available information, Kim did not refuse their contributions in her re-election campaign; rather, their support was not offered. Pete Winstead is listed as a supporter but not a contributor to Randi Shade's campaign. Mr. Thayer is listed as a contributor to Kim's re-election campaign.]

**Congrats on Earle Coverage**

Dear Editor,

If I served as city editor of the *Austin American-Statesman*, I'd be kicking my ass after reading Michael King and Jordan Smith's take on Ronnie Earle (whom I know) before I assigned *Statesman* reporters to write his history ["District Eternity," News, April 11]. Congratulations.

Robert Heard

*continued on p.14*

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# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

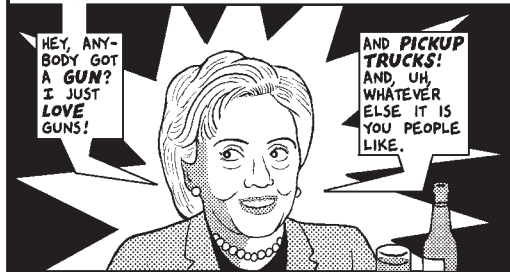
## THE ELITIST MENACE

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IF THERE'S ONE THING AMERICANS CAN'T STAND, IT'S AN ELITIST--AND HILLARY CLINTON HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO PROVE SHE'S NOT ONE!

HERE I AM, HAVING A SHOT AND A BEER IN A WORKING CLASS TAVERN--JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO WHEN I NEED TO RELAX!



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IT'S LIKE I WAS SAYING TO MY CHAUFFEUR THIS MORNING--OBAMA JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND REAL AMERICANS AS WELL AS WE HIGHLY-PAID MEDIA PROFESSIONALS DO!



BUT--AS CONSEQUENTIAL AS THIS ISSUE MAY BE, THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING THE NEXT LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD--LIKE WHO LOVES AMERICA THE MOST...

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## Sidewalks Need to Be a Priority

Dear Editor,  
No matter how tight the city budget may be, Austin needs a deadline, funding, and staff to finish the sidewalk and crosswalk system. Vertical, mixed-use, transit-oriented development, New Urbanism, and the Climate Protection Plan will all be ineffective without a complete, well-maintained pedestrian system. Austin also needs some temporary pedestrian space while the sidewalks are being finished. Perhaps we need pedestrian lanes in the streets.

The city budget will be tight this year. Usually, whenever money is tight, pedestrian and bicycle funding is cut. The rationale, I guess, is that hardly anyone in Austin walks or bicycles for transportation anyway.

Yet somehow cars managed to kill 24 pedestrians in Austin last year. How is this possible, if nobody walks here?

The truth is that, actually, everyone in Austin is a pedestrian. The pedestrians killed by cars each year include people who step out of disabled cars to seek help, people who "drive everywhere" but are just crossing the street, children waiting for school buses, people walking bicycles with flat tires, people in wheelchairs, and so on.

With money tight and gasoline expensive, more people are willing to walk instead of drive for trips of half a mile or less. But without any pedestrian space at all on most streets, people will just keep driving those half-mile trips.

If we really want to solve our problems and not just dream of castles in the air, we need a deadline, staff, and funding for finishing the pedestrian infrastructure.

Yours truly,  
Amy Babich

## Perry on Pre-K Funding?

Dear Austin Chronicle,

Pre-K Now's new report, "Leadership Matters," rates each governor's commitment to prekindergarten education. For the first time in four years, the number of governors proposing

increases in pre-K funding declined. The struggling economy this year gave voters a good look at their governor's true pre-K colors. While many states are facing deficits, some governors showed that they recognize pre-K's value not only to children and families but to the long-term economic success of their states. These

governors understand that young children's minds cannot wait for budget surpluses.

A bipartisan group of 17 state executives chose to protect and grow pre-K investments. Their proposed increases total \$261 million and would make pre-K available to nearly 60,000 more 3- and 4-year-olds across the nation.

The states whose governors proposed pre-K funding increases are: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. Also, the mayor of Washington, D.C., proposed an increase.

In the minority are four governors who proposed cuts in pre-K funding. These are the governors of California, Idaho, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Governors in five other states proposed flat funding for pre-K: Arizona, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, and South Dakota.

Where is Texas? What is Gov. Rick Perry's stand?

Sincerely,  
Jerry R. Grammer, Ph.D.

## Stay Informed

Dear Editor,  
With the release of Ben Stein's new documentary, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, it is an indication that the debate over intelligent design is neither simple nor easily understood [Film Listings, April 25]. Whether or not you believe in intelligent design theory, it is hard to avoid the controversy swirling around it. With public school teachers strongly opposed to having it in the biology curriculum and evangelical fundamentalists advocating for equal time, students are stuck in the middle. I personally don't feel that I.D. theory should be allowed in schools, with the exception of private schools or higher-

continued on p.16



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education institutes. It really only becomes an issue when the topic slips into the public school curriculum, where it surely has no place. I think it's important for people to remain educated and aware of the current debate. But more importantly, parents need to be aware of what their children are learning in school. Get involved. Stay informed.

Patricia Moden

## Worse Than Hillary and Obama

Dear Editor,

Re: Save Our Springs' Bill Bunch and *Austin Chronicle* News Editor Michael King: Oh, will you two please stop it! You are worse than Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. It's obvious you both want Austin to be a better place, so can we put "the things you do wrong" away and talk about the things we can do right? Sure, Bunch's letter was passive-aggressive, but King's response was downright mean ["Postmarks," April 18]. As for the merits, I for one have many times wondered why council consistently votes against the wishes of their constituents. I mean, were they really considering allowing billboards to be built on 360 and other scenic highways? Who the hell would be for that except deep-pocketed business interests? I'm sure people would be interested in a local publication's explication



of such seemingly dubious intentions. And if Bunch is the only one asking for a return to this, maybe he's just the only one who's been around long enough to remember how it used to be (and care). And I am so frustrated with the tired old "pull it out of a bag and slap it on" environmentalists' insult that we are arrogant and self-righteous (others include hippie and tree hugger). How dare we tell you what you could be doing to maintain the earth's beauty and habitability? Leaving aside the argument that many environmentalists are experts in the field and may only be applying scientific findings to common sense, could your real beef be that environmentalists ask you to do something that no major political figure has asked of the American people since Jimmy Carter (and we can see where that got him); and that is to sacrifice, to do something that involves looking beyond yourself for a minute to other beings on this planet, present and future? That would

include speaking the truth, however bitter it may be.

Kelly Davis

## Austin's Dumping Ground

Dear Editor,

Why must my neighborhood be Austin's dumping ground?

Why shouldn't Austinites share our community responsibility to care for the less fortunate?

As *Chronicle* readers may know, a new low-income and homeless resident housing development has been proposed in the Windsor Park neighborhood at 5908 Manor Rd. Readers may not realize that Windsor Park is already doing its part to provide this type of housing. According to 2007 Austin census data, my neighborhood supports approximately 115 Section 8 households. By contrast, other Austin neighborhoods to our west host drastically fewer: Hyde Park has only

four Section 8 households, and Tarrytown has none. Why must my neighborhood bear our community's burden while more privileged neighborhoods neglect to do their part?

Windsor Park residents are proud of our beautiful homes, our proximity to Downtown, and our vibrant and diverse community. We're also proud to give a second chance to those in need. But we're tired of bearing that responsibility for all of Austin. Local residents voted 53-1 against an amendment to our neighborhood plan that would allow the low-income and homeless housing development at 5908 Manor Rd. I urge city officials to respect my neighborhood's wishes, and I encourage Austinites to share our community's responsibilities to help the less fortunate.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Norris

Windsor Park homeowner

continued on p.18

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UPDATED DAILY

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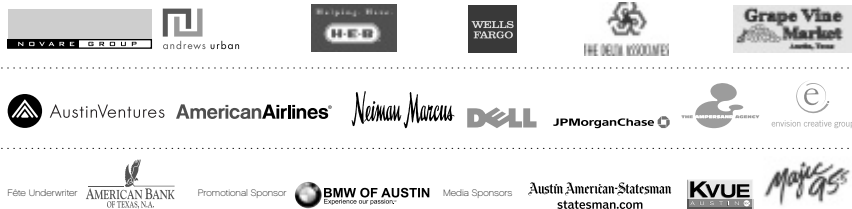
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## Bike Laws Make No Sense

Dear Editor,

The laws pertaining to bicycles do not make sense with the reality of bike-riding in a city, as human-powered vehicles following car laws can be dangerous. Instead of bikes following the same laws as cars, bikes should have laws that take into account the lower speeds and human power of the bikes. Bikes should have the right-of-way at yield signs, should treat stop signs as yield signs, and should treat stoplights as stop signs. It is often safer for a bike to go before the crush of cars at a stop sign, and it makes no sense for a bike to stop at a stop sign when there are no cars coming. Precedent can be found in boating laws that treat different-powered boats differently. Sailboats do not follow the same laws as powerboats. Bicycles should have the same kind of preferred status that sail has to power in the boating world.

Tom Cuddy

## Live Version of 'Monopoly'

Dear Editor,

Austin has become a real live version of *Monopoly*. There remains increasing pressure on locals to "sell out" their homes to the highest bidder. The disappearance of familiar surroundings accompanied with the lure of money makes selling out very enticing. The almighty, worthless dollar has enslaved our city government and turned Austin into a lame caricature of California. Contrary to popular belief, it is this that has sparked concerned interest and passion in the upcoming local elections – not the carnivalesque presidential race. What a joke Austin has become, with an egocentric mayor who uses Earth Day as

a career booster and flocks of overpriced IKEA condos appearing smack in the middle of our poverty-stricken Eastside. There's no time for finger-pointing. Three City Council seats are up for grabs, and local elections are just two weeks away. In an effort to regain control of our city's future, we must vote out all incumbents. It will be interesting to see if the (free) local, liberal press remains unchanged as the city it represents descends into permutation.

Always,  
Colette Michalec

## Environmental Ethics

Dear Editor,

Your Green Crush issue was welcome and overdue. It may be the only time an enviro has made the cover.

Katherine Gregor's Austin Climate Protection Plan story ["Cool Austin, Cool Planet," News, April 18] references welcome local progress on the issue, but Austin Energy and the city face many internal challenges on program implementation. First, many city field employees don't have an environmental ethic and needlessly idle vehicles and leaf blowers and wastewater without any consequence. Second, the city does not promote their own programs well enough. I have worked closely to support AE, the Parks & Recreation Department, and the Fleet Department initiatives, and progress is uneven. An activist mentality is needed. The plug-in hybrid initiative does have an activist element to it. The standard and unimaginative promotional efforts of tabling and direct mail will not be enough. Third, there are rarely economic incentives and never disincentives for managers and employees based on the effectiveness for environmental programs. Fourth, the CoA should only help facilitate ACPP's community

plan and then quickly refocus their attention to municipal operations.

The Municipal Buildings – Sustainability update states: "Initiative to ensure minimum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver (level) for city buildings, greater consistency, etc." This was already accomplished by Council Resolution (No. 000608-43) passed in June 2000. An update from the city manager's office last year said every CoA project since then has met this mark and some such as City Hall have exceeded it.

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Task Force is meeting bimonthly instead of the stated biweekly. The second part of what the ordinance will do is uncertain based, in my opinion, on a lack of commitment to the original goal setting and unfamiliarity among the task force participants to each other.

Finally, the fleet component of the Municipal Plan is flawed. The CoA had in their possession dedicated compressed natural gas garbage trucks well before they had a fueling station for them. Currently, they are waiting on an ethanol (E85) refueling station for already received E85 capable vehicles.

Most importantly, the adoption of corn-based ethanol (E85) as a major fuel source for Austin Police Department cruisers last year will help wreak havoc with world food supplies. Buying APD cruisers that are dedicated to run on gasoline, but which get greater miles per gallon, would have been a better decision for the climate, as I advocated to the city in 2007.

Regards,  
Scott Johnson

Original member, Green Building Task Force (1999-2001)

Alternate, CoA Energy Efficiency Retrofit Task Force (2008)

[Editor's note: Scott Johnson's lawn mower program was also featured in the Green Crush issue. See "The Outdoorsy Type" for more.]

## Unnecessary Risks

Dear Editor,

Emergency plea to all Austin bike riders: I was surprised to see a cyclist ride around the warning sign on the Lamar Street bridge and continue across on the same narrow walkway where a rider tragically died a few years ago, prompting construction of the bridge next to the vehicle bridge. Before I had gotten over my initial surprise, I saw yet another rider do the same thing – ride around the sign and across the bridge at 5pm, in heavy traffic. Please do not take such risks when taking a route only a few minutes longer will provide a safe route across this dangerous location. (I'm not a bike rider, but I don't want to lose any more riders.)

Tom Brown

## Pedestrian Access Denied

Dear Editor,

I was very disappointed to learn that Sheryl Cole convinced a majority of the City Council to block pedestrian and bicycle access to a new development in Hyde Park. I thought our city leaders were supposed to promote alternative transportation. I thought this was supposed to be a more bike-friendly, pedestrian-friendly town. How can they deny pedestrian access to mothers pushing strollers? How can they endanger children on bicycles? I just don't see justification for Hyde Park and Sheryl Cole to block already existing pedestrian and bicycle access.

Sebastian Wren

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## The Way We Were

In Austin's politics of nostalgia, the truth is a frequent casualty

BY MICHAEL KING

Well, the city's silly season – otherwise known as campaign time – is definitely in high gear.

While the Place 1 race (aka the Jason Meeker Campaign Comedy Circus) has featured the lion's share of looniness (see "Place 1: Who's on First?" by Lee Nichols, p.24), the other races are not without manufactured melodrama. Notably, last week the Place 3 race (Jennifer Kim vs. Randi Shade) featured the sort of time-warp two-step that so often marks Austin politics, as the Kim campaign attacked Shade for allegedly expressing a politically incorrect opinion ... about a film ... about an environmental episode ... that happened 15 years ago.

The backstory is as funny as the immediate argument. In February, Brian Rodgers, leader of the Stop Domain Subsidies charter amendment campaign (coming to a November election near you), had a conversation with newly announced candidate Shade, primarily about the proposed amendment, which Shade considers ill-advised. As it happened, Shade had recently seen *The Unforeseen*, Laura Dunn's documentary about the 1990s fight over development, Barton Springs, and the Save Our Springs Ordinance. The film came up in the conversation, and (as both people confirmed to me this week) Shade said it was a shame that some compromise couldn't have been worked out before the Legislature enacted House Bill 1704 (vetoed by Ann Richards in 1993, signed by George W. Bush in 1995), which essentially grandfathered every possible suburban development plat ever committed to napkin prior to the city's passage of SOS.

As each recalls it now, Shade's comments were on the order of the eminently inarguable and quite forgettable, "It's too bad things turned out as they did." But Rodgers thought the sentiment might be an indication of Shade possibly being naive or "too willing to compromise" on environmental matters, and reported the conversation that way to others, notably his colleagues on the Better Austin Today PAC. Two months later (April 17), at a Real Estate Council forum and in a subsequent press release, Kim sprung the conversation on Shade this way: "You told Brian Rodgers we should have negotiated SOS instead of passing SOS. Why do you feel this way?" A somewhat puzzled Shade rejected Kim's tendentious version of the conversation, adding that she was talking about the legislative action, not SOS, and regretting that somehow the city couldn't have persuaded the Lege to back down: "That the will of the citizens [of Austin] ... was basically taken by legislative process."

continued on p.22



JOHN ANDERSON

Dogs, dog lovers, and dog-loving City Council candidates gathered outside City Hall Wednesday as FixAustin.org released its report card on the council contenders (see [www.fixaustin.org](http://www.fixaustin.org) for results). Two of the group's favored candidates – Laura Morrison (seated) and Randi Shade – attended the event.



### HEADLINES

- ▶ Brakes slammed all over town Tuesday, over news that Gov. **Rick Perry** had tapped his chief of staff, **Deidre Delisi**, to head the **Texas Transportation Commission**, over the objections of Austin Sen. Kirk Watson and countless others.
- ▶ The **Place 1** race borrows a slapstick scene from the *Keystone Cops*; see p.24.
- ▶ **Barack Obama** denounces "divisive and destructive" comments of his former pastor, the Rev. **Jeremiah Wright**.
- ▶ The merry month of May brings **bicyclists out in force**; see p.34.

### NAKED CITY

- ▶ Bus riders packed the **Capital Metro** boardroom Monday to protest the closure of the **Capitol transfer hub** and the elimination of the **Silver 'Dillo**. The state ordered Cap Metro to close the Capitol stop, but though they cited security as the main reason, some speakers insinuated that the move was really more about keeping the unwashed masses away from the front of the Capitol. As evidence of an ulterior motive, speakers pointed to the state's rejection of viable alternatives presented by Cap Metro. "That stop belongs to us," said Susana Almanza of People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources. "I've never seen the governor ride the bus." Cap Metro is also cutting three 'Dillos – including the Silver 'Dillo, which serves the Eastside – to shift resources to the two remaining Central 'Dillos, increasing frequency to five-minute intervals. Some said they see this as a slight to the working poor in an effort to appease tourists and condo-dwellers. The board is expected to vote on the proposed changes in May after a series of follow-up community meetings. – *Justin Ward*

- ▶ Do you care about the future of parks in Austin? Then make your voice heard on Thursday, May 1, at City Hall meetings scheduled to gather community input on the city's next **Parks & Recreation Department** director. In a welcome move, City Manager Marc Ott has initiated a national search for the position. In a resolution, the Parks board had requested that Ott consider national as well as local candidates and include community input in the hiring process. The leadership of our next director could be critical for Austin, as the city wrestles with growth and development pressures and revisits comprehensive planning. "A great parks system is a key community value, so personally, I think we need someone who can do it justice," said Parks board member Danette Chimenti. "We need somebody with a vision, who will be a strong advocate for parks and green space. With so many things going on in this city, that can easily get lost." At the public meeting, citizens can recommend the desired characteristics, knowledge, and experience they believe the new director should have. Staff will use the input in developing a recruitment profile to attract candidates. Thursday's City Hall meeting times: 4-5:30pm in City Council Chambers; 6-7:30pm in the Boards and Commissions Room. – *Katherine Gregor*

- ▶ The search for a new Austin Independent School District superintendent has begun – but not with a search for actual superintendents. Monday, the **AISD** board of trustees voted to invite executive recruitment agencies to send in bids to be the lucky firm to help the district's **Superintendent Search Process Committee** look for a replacement for current Superintendent Pat Forgione. Tenders will be accepted until May 21, and the board hopes to recommend a contractor on June 16: At that point, the district will be actively recruiting its new chief. But don't worry if this seems to be a slow process: Forgione does not retire until June 30, 2009.

– *Richard Whittaker*  
continued on p.23

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"We have now had more than 30 DNA exonerations in Texas – more than any other state in the nation. These ... exonerations are clear and convincing evidence that our criminal justice system is broken."

– Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, announcing a May 8 meeting at the Capitol with criminal justice experts

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## She Said What?

After this exchange, the Kim campaign circulated a letter signed by five "Austin environmentalists" (Gus Garcia, Bill Bunch, Brigid Shea, Robin Rather, and Ann Kitchen) denouncing Shade for, as they put it, telling the forum, "She thought the City should have compromised with developers instead of passing the SOS ordinance." The first problem with that declaration is that even in their own attached "transcript" (see the whole letter online) of her forum statement, Shade said no such thing. Indeed, Kim's transparent attempt to trap Shade into taking such a position failed miserably. That didn't matter to these paragons of historical virtue, who claimed she said it anyway. In normal parlance, that's called a "lie," and it's a peculiarly incompetent one. But what's a little misrepresentation in the name of Barton Springs, especially at campaign time?

Shade insists that she supported SOS then, and she supports it now, and that she was regretting only the city's inability to stop HB 1704. Indeed, it took three years for lobbyist Dick Brown to ramrod the grandfathering law, finally succeeding only because of the 1994 Bush ascension. Other than Richards, in those years Austin essentially had no chance at the Capitol; but it is hardly an indication of environmental treason to express the 15-year-old wish that things had turned out differently.

It's frankly absurd that former lawmakers Garcia and Kitchen should pretend to be "stunned" at Shade's innocuous reflections on "the importance of compromise." Shea and Rather have been read out of the environmental movement so often for impure thoughts you'd think they might know better by now. As for Bunch, he's on record multiple times dismissing the entire current council as environmentally regressive and corrupt, so who knows why he would sign a dishonest campaign letter on behalf of the Place 3 incumbent?

## The Confidence Man

Also amusing in this little charade is the role played by *The Unforeseen*, Dunn's engaging, heartwarming, but thoroughly maudlin – and politically naive – history of the fight to save

Barton Springs. It's hardly surprising that a viewer like Shade, coming fresh from that film, would express nostalgic regrets for what might have been. Dunn seems to have fallen completely in love with her main character (the only person granted a life history), Circle C developer Gary Bradley. Bradley is allowed to deliver a lachrymose eulogy for his mother (!) and is portrayed sympathetically as a Horatio Alger hero who tragically overreached.

That ain't just me talking; it was the opinion generally shared by the reviewers, most of whom don't know Bradley's real, hard-nosed, scorched-earth history. And it's apparently also shared by Shea, who, in an April 24 *Statesman* op-ed, blistered Dunn and the film for misrepresentations and omissions, particularly of Bradley's role in delaying the SOS election to enable even much more unregulated development in the watershed. "No one is asking for endless minutia," wrote Shea, "just the truth." (In the film, Bunch does describe Bradley as "a con man of the highest level," but it hardly makes a dent on Dunn.)

## What's a little misrepresentation in the name of Barton Springs, especially at campaign time?

Having watched the film twice, I pretty much agree with Shea – that *The Unforeseen* is emotionally inspiring, but fundamentally misleading, about what actually happened (and is happening) to Barton Springs and Austin. Alas, the SOS Alliance has eagerly wrapped itself in the aura of this Terrence Malick-Robert

Redford High Romantic environmentalism, using the film as a fundraiser and supposedly to educate the "unengaged, uninformed newcomers" to Austin that Bunch now blames on the SOS website – along with (roughly in this order) the City Council, the whole community, foreign wars, Wall Street, K Street, and *The Austin Chronicle* – for despoiling the Springs.

It does make one wonder: If *The Unforeseen* is wrong on Gary Bradley, but SOS actively promotes *The Unforeseen* as "powerful" and "amazing" and "challenging," does that mean Bunch and SOS are guilty of having incorrect thoughts about Barton Springs?

The Kim campaign better get on that, right away.



The Kim campaign letter from "Austin environmentalists" is available online with this column at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

# BESIDE THE POINT

## We're in the Money ... Not!

BY WELLS DUNBAR

"Does anybody think we're not in a recession?" economist **Jon Hockenyo**s asked the City Council last week at its first work session concerning the upcoming **2008 budget**. And as one might deduce from the rhetorical query, the implication wasn't exactly good news. With regard to the mortgage meltdown and tightening credit markets, seemingly unresponsive to interest cut after cut, Hockenyo – delivering a national and local economic outlook – said credit is the economy's fuel, "and right now, the tank is pretty dry."

Yeah, yeah, we know – gas prices are a pain, too.

That national slowdown has had limited but noticeable impact here, where he predicted some Downtown condo or hotel projects wouldn't get built. While the population, jobs, and tourism keep increasing, all housing development indicators are down, except that little thing called – ahem – price.

Lucky us.

Tougher news, if at all possible, came during the city's economic outlook and financial forecast. Projections of local sales-tax revenues – which amount to 28% of the city's general fund – were overshot dramatically; instead of the estimated 7.5% growth, the numbers had come in at 4.7% and now, following a month of negative revenues, stand at an increase of 3.8% for the year. In order to get a sense of the city's total potential revenues for the new budget year, budget officer **Greg Canally** prepared three projections (with each property-tax rate including an extra penny to pay for the 2006 bonds):

- Scenario 1, with the "effective" property tax (lower than last year's rate, but bringing in the same amount of revenue, due to rising property values) and 3% sales-tax growth;
- Scenario 2, "nominal" property tax (the current rate, 40.34 cents) and 3.5% sales tax growth; and

• Scenario 3, the "rollback" property tax (the nominal rate, plus an 8% increase in the operations and maintenance portion of the tax rate – 27.30 cents of the total 40.34 cent rate; the rest covers debt obligations) and an optimistic 4% sales-tax projection (see graph)

But even under this last, most bullish projection, revenues – \$620.7 million – are surpassed by the city's expenditures – \$641.3 million – leaving a \$20.6 million deficit. Not exactly chump change.

While this was only a preliminary meeting, a few themes emerged. With the United Way restructuring its mission, leaving local social service agencies in need of funding, **Mike Martinez** called for "more transparency" and a more rigorous set of benchmarks for agencies to meet. "I get the sense we've created a sense of entitlement," Martinez said, at least hinting diminishing expectations.

Additionally, with a relatively low property-tax rate (compared to other Texas cities), Austin has developed an unusual dependence on sales tax – an imbalance council wishes to correct. "We have too low a [property] tax rate to support a city this size," said council's revered budget oracle and Mayor Pro Tem **Betty Dunkerley**, who is retiring before the 2008 budget's adoption. To her, Austin's "abnormally low" tax rate – bound by state law capping any increase at the rollback rate – puts the city in a "very scary situation."

So much for shopping ourselves outta this one.

After the budget session and last Thursday's regular meeting, council's off this week, but fallout continues from last week's vote against providing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between **Hyde Park** and a new development off 51st, counter to Planning Commission recommendations. It's continuing to work the local blogosphere into a tizzy – albeit a seemingly well-deserved one, for once.

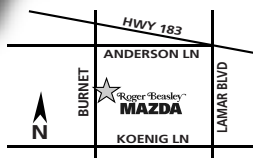
Comment to BTP at [wdunbar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:wdunbar@austinchronicle.com).

	Sales Tax Growth	Property Tax Rate	Total Revenue (in millions)	Total Expenditures (in millions)	Deficit (in millions)
<b>Scenario 1:</b>	3.0%	39.82¢ ("effective")	\$604.5	641.3	(36.8)
<b>Scenario 2:</b>	3.5%	41.34¢ ("nominal")	\$618.0	641.3	(23.3)
<b>Scenario 3:</b>	4.0%	41.39¢ ("rollback")	\$620.7	641.3	(20.6)

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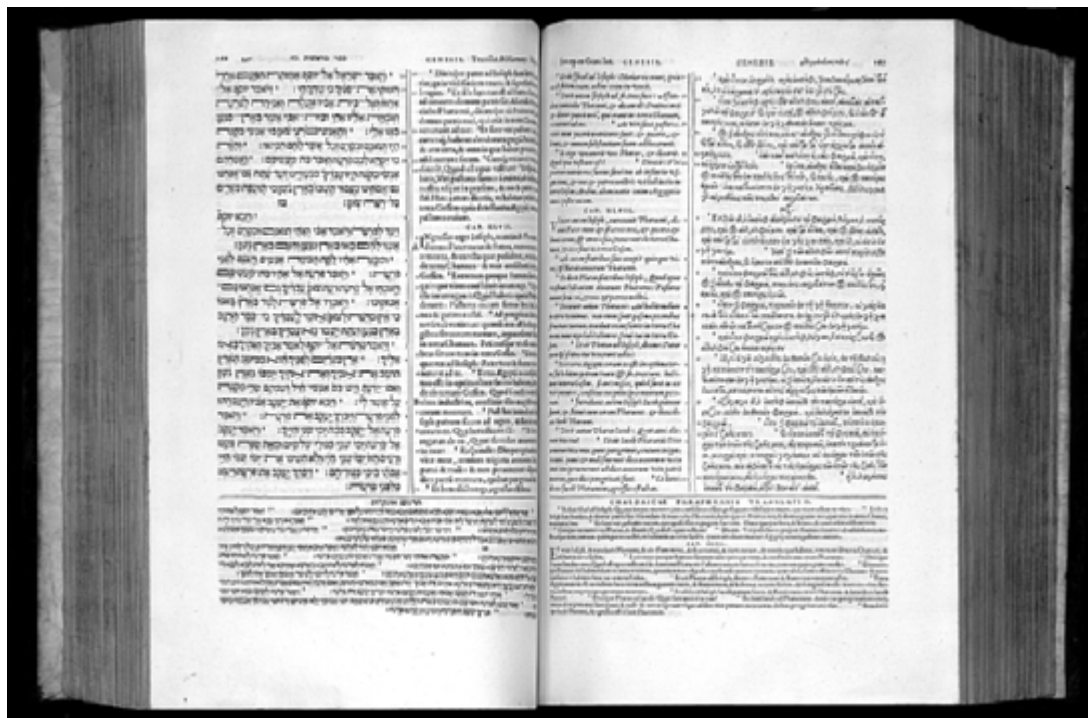
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▶ The **Harry Ransom Center** at UT has acquired a rare 16th century Bible, the **Plantin Polyglot**. Center Director Thomas F. Staley called the purchase, paid for by private donations, the center's "single most important rare-book acquisition in the past two decades." Polyglot Bibles were a tool for scholars to compare different texts and translations side-by-side in one volume. While 1,200 copies were printed between 1568 and 1572 in Antwerp, Belgium, by publisher Christopher Plantin for King Philip II of Spain, there is no record of how many remain. The Plantin edition includes four languages: Aramaic, Greek, Hebrew, and Syriac, with translations and commentary in Latin, the standard language of academics of the time. In addition to being a landmark work in the history of textual study of the Bible, the edition is widely regarded as the defining work of one of Europe's greatest printers. Two of the eight volumes will be on display to the public in the Ransom Center lobby until Sunday, May 4. — R.W.

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▶ County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir said she is committed to a point-by-point review of the county's **eSlate machines**, in the wake of a federal whistleblower's lawsuit alleging that Hart InterCivic overpromised and underdelivered on the machines. The organization **Vote Rescue** was on hand at Tuesday's Commissioners Court meeting to provide copies of Hart technician William Singer's lawsuit, which alleges that Hart stretched reports of the performance of the eSlate in Ohio in order to secure its share of the \$4 billion set aside in the Help America Vote Act. DeBeauvoir said she's not yet willing to pull the plug on the machines but would if she found significant problems in light of the lawsuit's allegations. Vote Rescue would prefer the county return its machines and choose to count ballots by hand. — Kimberly Reeves

as Bush noted this week, worldwide oil demand "rising faster than supply" (peak oil anyone?), Perry seems to ignore the greater economic peril of Texas' ever-growing auto dependence, which he's done little to mitigate. — Daniel Mottola

▶ **Diana Maldonado**, the Democratic nominee for House District 52, has become the first candidate to be endorsed by the **TexBlog PAC**. The political action committee, whose board includes publishers and writers from leading Texas political blogs including Burnt Orange Report, Off the Kuff, and Dos Centavos, plans to endorse five candidates — the number the Democrats needed to take back the House in November. Maldonado hopes to fill the Williamson County seat left empty by outgoing Republican Mike Krusee; she faces Republican



Diana Maldonado

Larry Combest) Bryan Daniel and Libertarian Lillian Simmons in the election. "Texas' progressive bloggers decided to put our money where our mouse is," said Capitol Annex owner and TexBlog board member Vince Leibowitz. Handily for Maldonado, the endorsement comes with a \$5,000 check and "massive online outreach." — R.W.

▶ Creationist education in Texas took a blow, as Dallas-based fundamentalist school the **Institute for Creation Research** has failed to get degree-granting powers. The school, which teaches the Bible as literal scientific truth, wanted to provide a master's degree in science education for "quality-trained science educators who can teach in those private schools that select or invite a creation science perspective." But in its April 24 meeting, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board denied the request because the proposed course failed to reach board standards. It based its decision on Section 61.301 of the Texas Education Code, dealing with the state's responsibility when it comes to "fraudulent or substandard college and university degrees," and the sections of the board's own standards demanding that a course reflect "the breadth of knowledge of the discipline taught." The institute called this "a blow to academic freedom," and the Christian conservative Houston Area Pastor Council said, "It's time to take this issue seriously or admit that we don't care whether our children, our society, and our nation are trained and dominated by baal." — R.W.

## BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday approved an Indiana law requiring would-be voters to present a photo ID at the polls; a decision that no doubt will encourage efforts for a similar law in Texas in next year's legislative session. In a 6-3 decision, the court ruled that even though there was no evidence of voter impersonation presented, the state's interest in preventing fraud outweighed the burden that such a law would place on citizens. Republicans pushed a similar bill through the Texas House last year, only to have it blocked in the Senate after a rancorous fight. Democrats contend that such a law would impede voting in groups less likely to have a photo ID, such as minorities, women, and the elderly — groups that also tend to vote Democrat. The ruling "is a victory for democracy in our nation, and I'm pleased that the court agreed with the vast majority of Texans who want to protect the sacred American principle of 'one person, one vote,'" said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. "With this legal challenge now behind us, I look forward to passing a fair **voter ID law** in Texas next year that fully protects the voting rights of all U.S. citizens registered to vote in Texas." But Rep. Rafael Anchía, D-Dallas, vowed to continue his fight against it: "Just because an Indiana law is minimally constitutional doesn't mean it's great policy in Texas." — Lee Nichols

▶ Blaming the biofuel **ethanol** for skyrocketing food costs, Gov. **Rick Perry** last week asked Washington for a 50% waiver from the federal **Renewable Fuel Standard**, which, among other things, mandates the production and use of ethanol made from corn. Perry, in a press release, said the RFS' impact on corn prices is "significantly affecting Texans' family food bill" and devastating the state livestock industry. "There are multiple factors contributing to our skyrocketing grocery prices," Perry said, "but a waiver of RFS levels is the best, quickest way to reduce those costs." In targeting ethanol instead of oil and its rapidly rising prices — which affect oil-dependent food producers and Texas commuters alike — Perry may be throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Ethanol has its drawbacks, but as Russel Smith of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association points out, to assume corn ethanol is anything more than a transitional renewable fuel is a mistake, and its use, backed enthusiastically by President George W. Bush, is among the limited factors offsetting the United States' dangerous foreign-oil addiction. The RFS includes benchmarks for nonfood ethanol production, and just this week, UT researchers announced a noncrop biofuel production breakthrough. With oil prices expected to keep increasing and,

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# Place 1 Who's on first ... and who's paying for it?

With friends like **Rick Culleton**, Place 1 City Council candidate **Jason Meeker** may not need any enemies.

For the third week in a row, Culleton – not a candidate – has been the most controversial player in the current City Council Place 1 campaign. Last week, Culleton, the owner of Discount Electronics and former treasurer of Meeker's campaign, ran more ads expressing his preferences in the May 10 election. This follows two previous ads in the *Chronicle* that, by omitting language identifying who paid for the ads and seeming to have a connection with his corporation, appeared to violate state law and drew a formal ethics complaint from a supporter of Place 1 incumbent **Lee Leffingwell** (see "Complaint Filed Against Meeker," April 18).

The new round of ads, both in the *Chronicle* and on television, raised even more eyebrows – partly for their message, partly for yet more legal issues. The message included a cannon blast against a candidate one might have assumed Culleton would support. Like the earlier ads, the new ads (print and television) criticize Leffingwell and support Meeker. But they also attack Place 3 incumbent **Jennifer Kim** and advocate for challenger **Randi Shade**. That's surprising on its face, because both Meeker's and Culleton's forays into city electoral politics grew from their activism with **Responsible Growth for Northcross**, which is fighting the construction of a Wal-Mart at the moribund mall (Meeker was RG4N's spokesman and Culleton is a financial supporter). Since Kim has declared herself staunchly in RG4N's corner, the ad was a shock.

"I guess everyone had kind of misunderstood why I was doing this," Culleton says. "It's not that I'm a Jason Meeker supporter. I barely know Jason. I got to know him through the RG4N mess. But that just made me pay attention to what our City Council was doing, and I didn't like what I saw. ... The issues that I have with some of these council members are not related to that at all.

"I don't think her votes have represented small business in the way that she said she was small business when she ran for office in the first place. I don't like the way that she tends to ignore the issues and constituents. Just to give you an example, during RG4N ... when I e-mailed and called every council member, I got responses from everyone [except Kim]. I might not have liked what they had to say, but I at least got a response. When I would e-mail Jennifer Kim, I never got a response from her. When I would call her office, I would never get a call back. Yet the e-mail address that I e-mailed her from was added to a spam list to invite me to some picnic she was putting on."

Kim said she was surprised by Culleton's ad, "because I've been very supportive of RG4N, including my campaign manager [Paige Hill, who] is one of the founders of RG4N, and according to them, I've been a helpful council member on this issue, and I'm still working with them on it." Kim pointed out that at an April 8 RG4N candidate forum, she easily won a straw poll of attendees, with Shade coming in third behind another challenger, **Ken Weiss**.

"His credibility is quite questionable," Kim said of Culleton, referring to the complaints surrounding the ads. "Everyone that wrote me a letter on that issue got a response, a standardized response that I sent back to many, many people. ... Whether or not his spam filter got it or something, that could be his problem. Technology is not a perfect thing."

Shade, for her part, didn't exactly jump for joy at receiving Culleton's endorsement – in fact, she issued a press release last Friday distancing herself from him. "I want to make clear that I have never met with or talked to Mr. Culleton about my campaign, and have no previous association with him," the statement read.

"I think that was the appropriate response for her," Culleton replied. "One, it was accurate – we don't know each other and haven't spoken. My support came a little bit later, because I wanted to see a little bit more of what she was about. Yes, I wanted Jennifer Kim out of there, but I wanted to make sure we had a good replacement. Now I think Randi is a good replacement. ... My involvement in this has become somewhat controversial, and I'm sure she didn't want to get wrapped up in that mess."

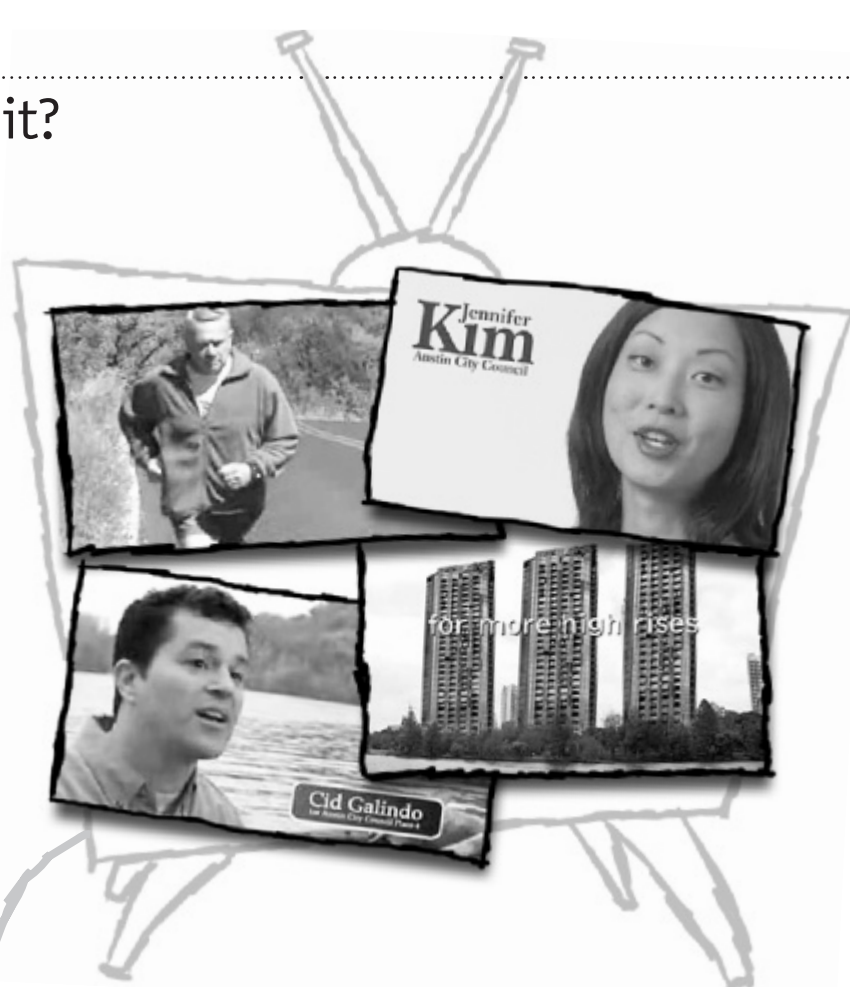
Then there are the legal issues. First, *Daily Texan* photographer **Michael Bicknell** complained that his photo of Leffingwell and Kim in the *Chronicle* ad – doctored to make it appear the candidates are standing in front of a Wal-Mart, when in fact they were announcing a city service for low-income residents – which Culleton designed himself and provided to the *Chronicle* ready for print, was used without permission (an apparent violation of Bicknell's copyright). Moreover, the TV version of the ad used another unauthorized photo, this time a head shot of Meeker by *Chronicle* photographer John Anderson. When Anderson made phone calls to complain about that unauthorized use, he learned that the TV ad was produced by Stanford Research, the consulting firm of **Jason Stanford**. That raised further questions, because last we knew, Stanford was Jason Meeker's campaign manager; his involvement appeared to violate the ban on independent expenditures being coordinated with campaigns. But, we were surprised to learn, Stanford and Meeker officially parted ways about a month ago. Meeker says poor fundraising made him decide to cut costs, and he's now managing his own campaign.

In fact, he sounded genuinely surprised when told of Stanford's involvement: "Could you repeat that for me?" After taking a moment, Meeker said, "These are third parties doing things with their own political agendas. Some of it helps me; some of it hurts me. Clearly, they are interested in defeating Lee Leffingwell and Jennifer Kim. But it's not solicited or endorsed by me personally or my campaign officially."

For his part, Stanford said he has no concerns about the legality of his working for Culleton, and he was apologetic about the photographs, the use of which he blamed on a young assistant "raised in the Internet age" and therefore not familiar with copyright laws.

That isn't good enough for Leffingwell: "The fact that Jason Meeker's former campaign manager has been working with Jason Meeker's former campaign treasurer to run a \$20,000 negative campaign benefiting Jason Meeker makes a mockery of Austin's campaign finance laws," he said in a statement. "I don't think anyone would believe that Jason Stanford and Rick Culleton quit Jason Meeker's campaign on one day only to decide to run an expensive negative campaign benefiting Jason Meeker on the next day."

It wasn't good enough for Shade either, who distanced herself even further from Culleton. Noting that at one point her own campaign manager, Mark Nathan, had briefly retained Stanford's services, she released another state-



## GRADING THE CAMPAIGN ADS

With council candidates' TV commercials airing in earnest as of last weekend, the *Chronicle* grades them on their merits, "artistic" and otherwise. – *Wells Dunbar*

**Cid Galindo:** Expanding on the ad he's been running for more than a month, Galindo's clip now trumpets "The Galindo Plan," directing viewers to his website to read up on his congestion-clearing proposal for town centers scattered along the SH 130 corridor. Unremarkable but sticks to the issues.

**Grade: A-**

**Lee Leffingwell:** The Place 1 incumbent steers clear of specifics, preferring to highlight his Austin connections while jogging along the hike and bike trail. "We've got a lot to be thankful for here, but we've also got a big responsibility, because the future of this city is just too important to be left to chance" is as heated as it gets. An homage to David Lynch's *The Straight Story*?

**Grade: B+**

**Jennifer Kim:** She "opposed tax giveaways to corporate shopping malls!" She "voted against all the toll roads!" Featuring talking heads and a blank background, Kim focuses solely on the issues. She highlights her refusal to accept the council pay raise – which she's getting aired-out for in Rick Culleton's pro-Jason Meeker ad. Her "I'm sure not perfect" closing line seems a little forced. If anyone's capable of thinking she's perfect, it's Kim!

**Grade: B**

**Randi Shade:** Claiming that "we need an attitude adjustment at City Hall," this clip shows Shade waiting in line at the Alamo Drafthouse, restaurants, and the airport, underscoring Kim's airport security snafu last year. "I'll wait in line with you at the airport," ain't exactly "Change we can believe in," or "Morning in America."

**Grade: C+**

**Laura Morrison:** This clip has generated some controversy for Morrison's statement that the city is "rushing to sell the last 5 acres of prime city land on Lady Bird Lake to build more high rises," accompanied by a trio of bombed-out towers you'd call the Beirut Arms. For neighborhood lovers, it's akin to the Republicans (or Hillary, for that matter) putting Osama in an ad.

**Grade: C-**

**Jason Meeker & Randi Shade:** Where to begin? This unsolicited ad from Meeker supporter Rick Culleton slams Leffingwell over the Las Manitas fund, but neglects to mention he voted against the loan, and attacks Kim for increasing council pay without mentioning she refused the raise. This ad plays fast and loose with the facts. Plus, tying Shade to Meeker does the former more harm than the latter good.

**Grade: F**

See more with *Laura Morrison* on her campaign ad, at the *Chronicle* election blog, at [austinchronicle.com/newsdesk](http://austinchronicle.com/newsdesk).



ment on Tuesday reading, "while I appreciate Mr. Culleton's support, I am making a public appeal to request that he and Mr. Stanford please discontinue their campaign on my behalf. It's critically important that voters trust my integrity, and any appearance of a link between my campaign and their independent effort is unacceptable to me. I will also be returning Mr. Culleton's unsolicited campaign contribution."

Add to the list of dissatisfied: **Mike Blizzard**, a public relations consultant who filed the ethics complaint regarding the first two ads. "[I]t may not even be necessary for Meeker to be personally aware of this activity for him to be implicated in this," Blizzard wrote to the *Chronicle*. "These people worked for him and represented him. They are part of his campaign and he's ultimately responsible for his campaign's actions." — *Lee Nichols*

## Place 3 Sour grapes?

**Jennifer Kim's** re-election campaign continues to attack challenger **Randi Shade** for accepting campaign contributions from "developers." Yet Kim's latest finance report shows she herself has accepted contributions from Austinites with development, legal, real estate, and architecture/construction firm ties. Examples include checks from the Carter & Burgess Political Committee, Steve Metcalfe, Brown McCarroll, Larry Warshaw, Pete Gasper, Taylor Andrews, Michael Casias, Kevin Burns, Juan Cotera, Jerry Harris, Tom, Lynn, and Will Meredith.

An invitation to a March 19 Kim fundraiser at Ranch 616 listed as co-hosts influential real estate attorneys Steve Drenner and Nikelle Meade, developer Perry Lorenz, Real Estate Council of Austin leader Diana Zuniga, and real estate/development players David Hartman, Richard Maier, Matt Mathias, Brad Schlosser, and Ron Thrower.

Not that there's anything wrong with that. Like all viable and reasonably well-funded Austin City Council candidates in history, both Kim and Shade have accepted contributions — capped this year at \$300 per individual or \$600 from a joint account — from Austinites with some form of business, Downtown, lobbyist, or development interests.



JOHN ANDERSON

Randi Shade

Which is why Shade calls foul on Kim for making her contributors a campaign issue. "More than 50 percent of my donations have come from people who have never before donated to a City Council race," asserts Shade. She characterized these checks as "the support of my friends — from UT, from business school, from CharityGift, from AmeriCorps days, from Ann Richards' staff, the Entrepreneurs Foundation, et cetera."

"I am not knocking Jennifer Kim for having the support of these folks in 2005, nor am I knocking her for soliciting these folks again in 2008," said Shade. "However, it seems incredibly hypocritical for Jennifer to attack me for having the support of folks who supported her in 2005." A case of sour grapes? The evidence indicates that Kim did not set a policy of refusing contributions from Austinites with development ties; rather, she simply lost the support of many of her 2005 contributors. The Shade campaign confirmed that former Kim contributors who are now contributing to Shade include Gary Farmer, Don Martin, Pete Winstead, and Paul Bury.

**Elliott McFadden** of Ignite Consulting has taken over as Kim's lead campaign strategist. On April 25, **Matt Hersch** announced he was stepping down as lead consultant to Kim, to spend more time with his family (citing his near-term pregnant wife). — *Katherine Gregor*

## AUSTIN INTERFAITH PINS DOWN CANDIDATES

In what its leaders described as "the largest event of the local election season" (and they're probably right), 800 prominent members of **Austin Interfaith** held an "accountability session" on April 20 to pin down municipal election candidates on its agenda of fighting poverty and strengthening the middle class in Austin. Almost all the major candidates signed onto Interfaith's programs (though, frankly, failing to support the group's progressive policies in Austin would be like coming out against oxygen). The programs include increased funding for **Capital IDEA** (a nonprofit providing support for the poor to attain education and workforce training), ESL classes, increased health-clinic funding, and the like. About the only note of dissonance was when Austin Independent School District candidates **Annette LaVoi** and **Christine Brister** would not commit to funding \$1,800 toward the nearly \$10,000 out-of-pocket health-insurance costs of district employees. City Council candidate **Cid Galindo** did not attend. "This event was a big step in strengthening the middle class in Austin," said **Gina Hinojosa**, an Interfaith leader from **St. Ignatius Martyr Parish**. "We need to keep people from slipping out of the middle class and provide opportunities for people to pull themselves out of poverty. We feel candidates recognized those priorities tonight." Elections for City Council, AISD board, and Austin Community College board are May 10. — *Lee Nichols*

### LAST CHANCE TO GRILL THE CANDIDATES

The procession of City Council candidate forums concludes this week with the **Crime and Safety Forum**: Thursday, May 1, 6:30pm; City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 W. Second.

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## WHAT ABOUT THAT 2004 BOND ELECTION?

With \$343.7 million in bonds for the **Austin Independent School District** on the May 10 ballot, Austin's citizens are starting to think about future education spending. But meanwhile, the district is still completing projects from the last bond election.

In 2004, voters passed six bond propositions, worth \$519.5 million. The district broke the projects contained in those propositions into five phases. Currently, they are on phase four: Nearly all the projects have been designed, and the district has taken construction bids so they can break ground this summer. The district is scheduled to pick architects and construction managers for the last two projects, the undesignated North-Central and Southwest elementaries, on May 12. This is the last phase of major construction, since phase five mainly consists of repairs and renovations, such as window replacement and roofing work. "For the most part, we're sitting where we thought we'd be," said **Curt Shaw**, AISD director of construction management.

Breaking the projects down into phases means the district has staggered the sale of the bonds and so staggered the repayments on them. "It's like taking out a loan for your car: You don't borrow the money and then leave it in your account until you buy your car," said AISD's Chief Financial Officer **Larry Throm**. So far, there have been three issues, totaling roughly \$249 million. Out of the \$270 million left, the district expects to issue another \$100 million in June. Between staggering issues, house-price increases, and low interest rates, the district has avoided using any of the property-tax increase voters approved (\$46.5 per \$100,000 of appraised value).

Around one-fourth of the projects has altered since being originally drafted, either expanding, becoming more costly, or getting split into separate projects to take advantage of shifting conditions. "We start out with a given number of projects in a particular phase," explained Shaw. "If there happens to be a major failure of a mechanical system, we'll at least pull that forward." Last summer's rains caused some unexpected construction delays. "It didn't delay an opening, but we really had to hustle," said Shaw. Unexpected hiccups like these are why the district built a \$49 million contingency budget into the bond. For example, **Overton Elementary** ended up \$2.9 million over budget when a geology report showed crumbly soil at the proposed site, meaning deeper foundations and some design changes would be needed. But, as Shaw noted, the school still opened on schedule in 2007.

- Richard Whittaker

## Streetcar Blow-Up

Contrary to what was reported in a front-page **Statesman** article and editorial this past week, the city of Austin has not in fact abandoned plans for a streetcar, nor has it finalized a proposal for a light-rail **urban transit system**. Consultant **ROMA Austin**, as part of its urban planning work for Downtown, had called a public meeting Tuesday, April 22, to invite comments on its work in progress. The urban designers asked for community feedback on their assignments from council: 1) to recommend cost-effective alignments for a streetcar system and 2) to research technology options and provide their preliminary cost estimates.

ROMA was still several weeks away from a final report, now expected in mid-May. The consultants' work will inform a city of Austin project proposal for urban rail. That proposal will, in turn, be submitted to a detailed, analytical transportation investment decision-making process, to be finalized next week by the **Transit Working Group** of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization**.

The **Statesman** story got numerous facts wrong and made it sound as though a specific ROMA rail proposal was a done deal. Those unhappy with this messaging failure point the finger at Council Member **Brewster McCracken**, who left the station early and went public, championing a half-baked plan that still lacked a clear scope and hard cost and financing data. That earned him the ire of some colleagues, transit advocates, and fellow Transit Working Group members, who saw McCracken as seizing the limelight and co-opting the process, inspired by mayoral ambitions.

Principal Jim Adams said ROMA and its subcontractant, LTK Engineering Services, are still evaluating the various available technologies. (No, it hasn't been decided whether to use light rail or ultralight rail.) They also are assessing the benefits of a shared-lane (true streetcar) system vs. dedicated transit lanes. ROMA's assigned scope of work was to evaluate only links between Downtown and three key destinations - the airport, Mueller, and the Long Center/Zilker Park. As urban designers, ROMA will address improved connectivity with planned and future regional commuter rail service and improving overall mobility - pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular. LTK has planned streetcar systems for Portland, Ore.; Seattle; and many other cities.

**Mayor Will Wynn** originally led the streetcar initiative, calling for a voter rail referendum in November. But when Wynn agreed to submit the city of Austin's transit initiative to a CAMPO evaluation process, he essentially handed over the political reins to CAMPO and Chair Kirk Watson. While there's no legal requirement that the city get CAMPO's blessing, it is widely seen as in the best interests of regional transportation planning.

The underlying purpose of the Transit Working Group process, crafted since January, is to transform regional conversations. In place of position-based fights (transit lovers vs. road warriors), Watson has been advocating for a new process of data-based, rational decisions.

As a result of the flap, the city has postponed ROMA's next scheduled presentations. New dates for council and Transit Working Group presentations have not been set.

- Katherine Gregor

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# DEVELOPING STORIES

## Council holds line on TODs and affordable housing

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

City Council members are currently hanging tough on their 25% affordable housing goal for **transit-oriented development districts**. That's good news for Austinites who want to keep central-city homes reasonably affordable for average working folks and lower-income families. Council's policy for TODs is worth monitoring, in part because it provides a good barometer of council's commitment to affordable housing citywide.

Last Thursday, council unanimously approved (on first reading) adoption of a third TOD **station area plan** and its TOD base district zoning. But members returned all three SAPs to staff with significant amendments – prepared in advance and sponsored by **Brewster McCracken**. Co-sponsoring the first two was **Mike Martinez**; with McCracken off the dais last Thursday, the third SAP was sponsored by **Sheryl Cole** and co-sponsored by **Jennifer Kim**, demonstrating broad-based council support. In short, council issued this policy directive to staff: "Figure out how to get 25% affordable housing done."

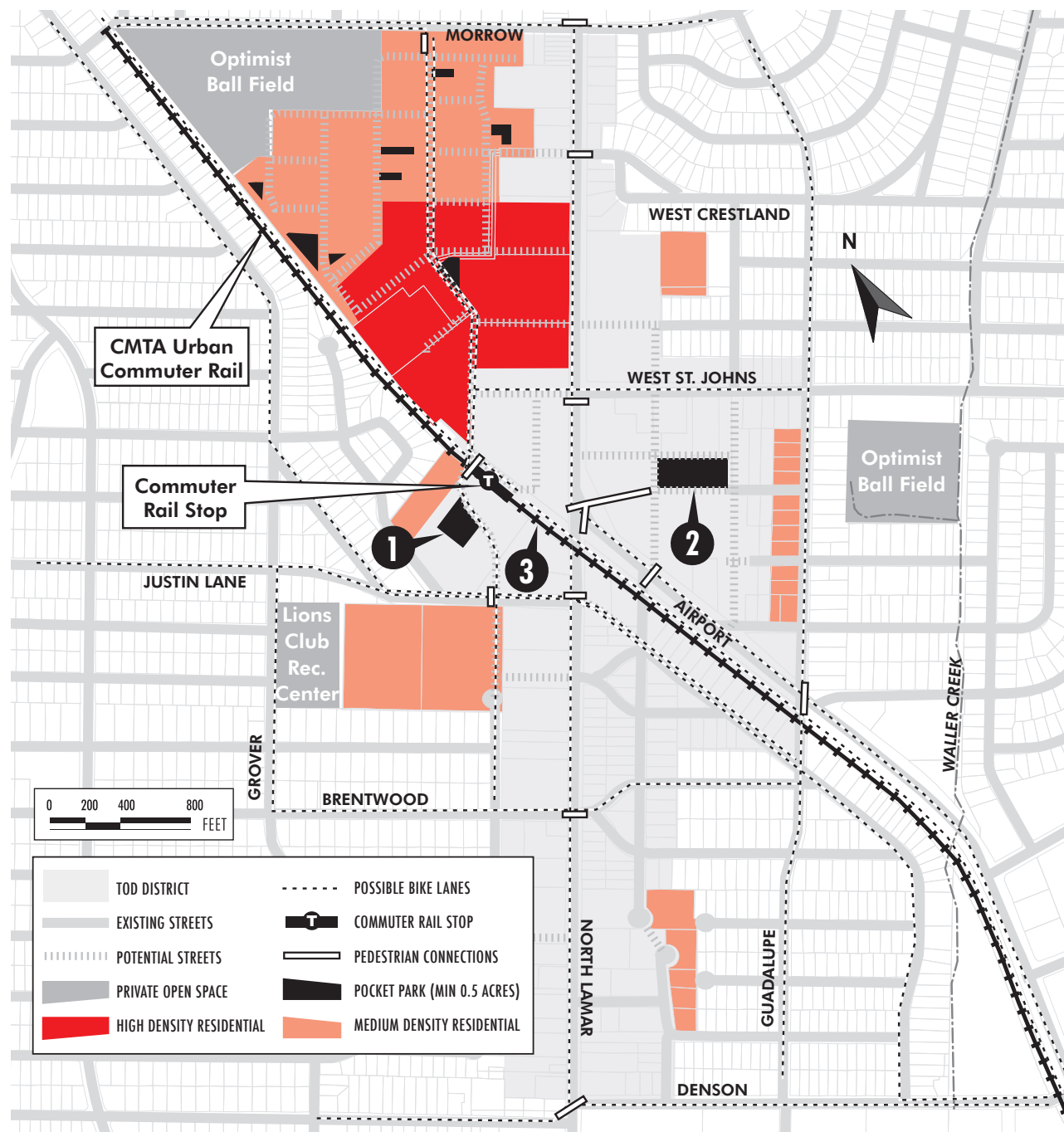
The first three station areas being planned (for districts around three stops on the new Capital Metro Red Line commuter rail) are: 1) Plaza Saltillo, 2) MLK on the Eastside, and 3) Lamar/Justin Lane in Northwest Austin. Staff had recommended requiring that only 10% of new units meet affordability standards. That's the percentage that market data suggests is feasible for private developers to underwrite; in exchange, developer/landowners can earn density and height bonuses. (Under current city standards, affordability is designated as 60% of median family income for rentals and 80% of MFI for for-sale units.)

But the original council policy for TODs established a 25% affordable housing goal. That leaves a gap of 15% – the portion over and above what private developers can afford to subsidize. Particularly in the Eastside TODs, where recent appreciation has been fierce, yet many incomes remain poverty-level, there's a huge gap between what the average new home costs and what a household at 80% (owner-occupied) or 60% (rental) of median family income can afford. According to a review by consultant Diana McIver & Associates: "Required per-unit subsidies for homeownership units ranged from \$83,131 to \$149,951 per unit, depending on the TOD. Required subsidies for rental units ranged from \$75,870 per unit in the Lamar TOD to \$127,623 per unit in the Saltillo and MLK TODs." (DMA will be doing additional analysis to more accurately put a price tag on the 15% gap for each station area.) It's a big number. For an estimated 1,300 or so affordable units in all three TODs (25% of total housing units), at a ballpark subsidy of \$100,000 per unit, the total financing gap translates to around \$130 million. Funding that will require creativity, expertise, and political will.

In its March 25 action, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to "strongly recommend that the city council establish a clear and firm plan to help developers achieve the 25% affordability goal." If they fail to do so, redevelopment may not occur, or developers may opt to forego the density and height bonuses. Since council wants to see increased density in these areas, it behooves the city to clearly show developers (and neighborhoods and voters) a workable plan for subsidizing 25% of all new units. Developers would only be liable for subsidizing the first 10%.

A study by **Kathleen Kane-Willis** at Roosevelt University notes: "Constructing any type of affordable housing requires numerous subsidies. It is not unusual for a developer to utilize more than seven different sources of funding – sometimes referred as the 'layered' or 'lasagna' method of completing financing of a project. This layering of subsidies is common in affordable housing and necessary to close the financing gap. Most developers currently combine federal money disbursed through local and state governments, a housing block grant program (HOME), and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)."

Based on interviews with city staff, city consultants, community advocates, and council members, no one has yet devised the winning recipe for our local deep-dish lasagna. While a



### POCKET PARKS THIS OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN IS PART OF THE LAMAR/JUSTIN STATION AREA PLAN.

**1** and **2** show proposed locations for pocket parks; council has asked staff to draft commitments to acquire specific tracts of at least a half-acre each.

**3** is a recommended Rails With Trails hike-and-bike trail, along the Capital Metro rail line.

In addition to maintaining the commitment to 25% affordable housing, council asked for all three SAPs to be returned with more specific parks and trail acquisition plans.

25% affordable housing goal is being met at Mueller, that's on city-owned land; Austin is striking out into virgin territory trying to achieve the same goal on privately owned land (dozens of separate parcels) in each transit-oriented district. On the city's side, a likely source of subsidies is the affordable housing bond money approved by voters. Staffers are determining exactly how much of the \$55 million approved remains unallocated and available for TODs. Council also amended the draft SAPs to direct that staff create tax-increment financing within the districts "to fund public responsibilities." Possibly those commitments could include affordable housing subsidies. Both the Plaza Saltillo and MLK station areas are within the Homestead Preservation District; there, a special TIF for affordable housing is an option (but only a single TIF is viable).

What's encouraging is that council is pushing everyone to get creative, by reasserting its aggressive 25% goal. Given the staff recommendations, it would have been easy for council to say, "Whoops, too hard!" McCracken & Co. added other well-

considered amendments as well – to implement parkland acquisitions, coordinate utility improvements, create sustainable landscape standards, and address other issues (some forwarded by the Planning Commission). McCracken said he particularly wanted to ensure that specific parcels are identified upfront for new neighborhood pocket parks (and not upzoned, which would increase the city's acquisition costs). He's also advocating that sustainable landscaping standards (use of native species, etc.) be required to earn density bonuses; those are likely to follow the national Sustainable Sites Initiative being developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects and the United States Botanic Garden.

Now the ball is back in staff's court. Addressing these detailed council directives will require coordinated input from high-level staff in multiple city departments, which will take at least a month. Look for the next draft of the station area plans to return to council on May 22, or soon thereafter.

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**BILLBOARD BATTLE CONTINUES**

Ever since the Johnsons pushed the 1965 Highway Beautification Act through Congress, Texans have been trying to get advertisements away from the roadside. Now, the city of Austin's latest attempt to reduce the number of billboards has hit a partial impasse over whether to move them out of Downtown, or wait for them to fall over.

The council was supposed to discuss a new ordinance aimed at reducing the impact and overall number of billboards at its regular meeting last Thursday. But on April 19, the ordinance co-sponsor **Mike Martinez** asked for the hearing to be postponed until May 8. "My stated goal from the very beginning," he said in a press release, "was to ensure that we 'unclutter' Austin as best we can." After lengthy consultation with city commissions, billboard companies, and environmental groups, Martinez is cutting back on his ambitious plan.

On Nov. 8, Martinez and Mayor Pro Tem **Betty Dunkerley** sponsored a resolution to dramatically amend the city code on ground transportation passenger services and the sign-regulations section of the Land Development Code. Under this amendment, sign owners, rather than property owners, would become responsible for registering their billboards with the city - and they could face fines for failing to do so. This is widely seen as an essential first step toward any meaningful billboard regulation, since there is no agreed count of the number of billboards in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction: City staff estimate 671, but **Scenic Austin** says 773.

The most significant new regulations aimed to reduce the number of billboards and get them away from Downtown. Since 2004, the city has allowed billboard owners to relocate signs, but there were no incentives to move them. The proposals made in November offered significant incentives to the ad industry, which Martinez's chief of staff, Bobby Garza, compared to "cap and trade" policies for pollution emissions: existing billboards could be relocated to new sites in commercial sign districts and to certain scenic roadways that, due to development,

were't so scenic any more. Moreover, the new billboards could be more than double the size of the original ones, from 300 square feet to 675 square feet, and existing signs could be raised or lowered for better visibility from elevated roads. To make this an omnibus billboard bill, Martinez and Dunkerley took the opportunity to tackle **mobile advertising**, by charging fees for **taxis that sell ad space** and banning altogether **mobile billboards** pulled by motorized vehicles.

But Martinez's plan seemingly pleased no one. The only change for fixed billboards the Design Commission supported was the shift to low-wattage lights. It opposed "the concept of relocation [and] recommends eliminating the concept entirely," and argued for extending billboard-free zones, which currently just cover residential structures, to include schools. The Planning Commission was less critical of relocation but still did not recommend several key elements, such as the scenic roadway changes.

Other stakeholders were also opposed. Scenic Austin, which was invited by council to comment, holds that relocation becomes a billboard preservation measure. "It's just moving them from one business corridor to another business corridor," said President **Girard Kinney**. The same discussion was held back in 2004, the last time the ordinance was amended: "We argued that if you allow one billboard to be relocated, those billboards that would have gone down because of land-use changes will not go down while they wait to relocate," said Kinney. He noted that, in the decade before relocation, 125 billboards were removed permanently; since the 2004 rule change, only 19 have been relocated, and there have been no permanent removals.

In the wake of this criticism, and with broader support for annual registration and the mobile billboard restrictions, Martinez plans to bring a new streamlined ordinance before council on May 8. For fixed billboards, the relocation clauses will be stripped away, leaving only registration, the green lighting requirements, and an online billboard database. The streamlined proposal keeps the mobile billboard ban, but the taxi ad



JOHN ANDERSON

**Scenic Austin says owners will keep billboards in place for years while they wait for sites elsewhere in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction - even if they become obscured by new buildings.**

clause is gone (it only passed through the Urban Transportation Committee on a narrow 4-3 vote, while Scenic Austin pointed out that, by singling out taxis and not including buses or pedicabs, the proposed sign amendments could actually violate equal application requirements of the First Amendment).

Before the announcement, Garza accepted the difficulty of getting anything done on "a policy that is steeped in all this emotion." But even with the most controversial section removed, the amendments could face severe criticism, beyond the Design Commission and Scenic Austin's continued criticism of any relocation policy and the billboard industry's opposition to mandatory registration and fines for failure to comply. **John Anderson** of local mobile billboard firm **Anderson Advertising** argues that mobile billboards offer the city the opportunity to cut down on the number of fixed billboards. His low-sulfur diesel vehicle, which uses scrolling banners, can carry up to 30 advertisements, he says, and he donates up to 30% of his inventory to nonprofits and public service announcements. If an Amber Alert is issued, "[w]e can have a billboard up in the area the next day," he said. Cracking down on the tiny number of dedicated mobile billboards, he argues, will do nothing to cut down on "bandit billboards" or vehicles covered in vinyl wraps, and enforcement would be nearly impossible. The solution, he argues, is registration for mobile billboards like the system proposed for fixed billboards.

- Richard Whittaker

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# Urban Coyotes Meet the neighbors

At a recent meeting of the **Allandale Neighborhood Association** to discuss the presence of coyotes, a frisson of fear ran through the room when someone asked what would happen if one showed up at a school. Naturally, residents are concerned about children's safety. But coyotes may be getting a bad rap. During the 11 years my three children attended the local elementary school, they were never an issue. But we did deal with a large, aggressive dog on the playground once, and a troubled resident had to be banned from setting foot on the property.

Coyotes can cause problems in urban neighborhoods, but there is little evidence that they deserve to be vilified as dangerous beasts. When more Allandale residents began to notice the animals' presence some months ago, tales flew of disappearing cats and stalked dogs. Before long, a mild panic was in the air. A general mentality that divorces us from the environment around us and the animals in it doesn't help, says Allandale resident and biologist John Lindsey. "We want to control our environment, and we can't," he says, adding that when emotions run high, people tend to lose perspective.

No human has been killed by a coyote in modern times, says **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department** mammalogist John Young. Meanwhile, according to the Centers for Disease Control, every year 4.7 million dog bites send 386,000 people (half of them children) to emergency rooms and cause 16 deaths. Not to pick on dogs, the CDC also reports that on an average day, four children die in automobile accidents. Obviously, dogs and cars are a much greater risk than coyotes to children and pets, yet no one is suggesting that we get rid of either of them.

What makes better sense is changing our behavior to keep coyotes in their appropriate place, according to **Dorinda Pulliam**, director of animal services for the city of Austin. For the past three years, the city has operated a coyote management program in cooperation with Travis County and Texas Wildlife Services. The program doesn't seek to remove coyotes from the planet – which Pulliam says would be neither successful nor smart – but to teach people not to provide resources that attract coyotes and can cause them to overpopulate and lose their natural fear of humans.

The program tracks coyote encounters, reported via 311 calls, assigning them a score of zero to seven. Normal coyote behavior, such as howls emanating from the green belt or sightings of them prowling the creek at night, score a no-threat zero. A coyote on your porch gets a higher score. Randy Farrar, a biologist with TPWD, traps high-scoring coyotes and euthanizes them. (They cannot be relocated due to a rabies quarantine in Texas – and before the "R" word sets off another panic, skunks and bats are greater rabies threats than coyotes.) Coyotes acting the way a coyote should are not removed, Farrar adds, because others would simply move in to replace them.

When coyote reports increased in Allandale earlier this year, Farrar found that coyote scat in the area was composed of 100% pet food. This readily available smorgasbord of chow was understandably attracting the animals. Coyotes are territorial, and territory size depends on three basic resources – shelter, food, and water. "Unless we want to pave over Austin, it is impractical to limit shelter," Young says. "Where humans can have a huge effect is with food resources." Without pet food, pets, or trash on the menu, a coyote diet is primarily small mammals – squirrels, rats, raccoons, plus the occasional insect or lizard. This rather paltry fare will naturally limit their numbers.

Removing coyotes altogether would require a sustained, ongoing effort of trapping and killing to even come close to complete eradication. And, Lindsey points out, such a campaign might even create greater threats. "Without coyotes, we'd have a greater population of small mammals, including skunks, possums, and raccoons, and the issues they bring." A big raccoon can kill a cat, for example, and they certainly make a mess of your trash. Skunks are potential rabies carriers.

Cats are not much bigger than jackrabbits, and anything that would eat a rabbit – a coyote, yes, but also hawks, owls, snakes, dogs, bobcats – will eat a cat. The statistics are stark: The average life expectancy of an outdoor cat is two to five years, while indoor cats may live 17 or more.

At the Allandale meeting, one resident commented that her outdoor cats keep rats and squirrels from wreaking destruc-



CRAIG STAGGS

tion on her property. But it is a misconception, Lindsey says, that cats control mice and other nuisance animals. "If you get a mouse or rat infestation, there's not a mouser out there that could keep up with the reproductive rate of a rat." Foxes and other small predators with roles in a healthy ecosystem would be happy to eat pesky rodents if cats aren't around, Farrar pointed out. Humans have altered the entire natural world, some places more drastically than others, and a truly healthy, balanced ecosystem is hard to find anywhere, much less within the Austin city limits. But the less we mess with the natural balance, either by introducing outside influences or removing natural players, the better.

Removing top predators from an ecosystem, whether deliberately or inadvertently, throws the entire system out of whack. In a natural world, coyotes wouldn't be in Austin at all, and wolves would be at least part of the reason. But coyotes are here now, and even if removing them were possible, more than likely those 311 operators would then be answering complaints about raccoons and other wildlife getting into trash, destroying property, and even eating small pets. There is simply no way to get rid of all wildlife, nor would most of us truly want the sterile and less diverse natural world that would result. A much better solution is for humans – in Allandale or anywhere else – to accept and even enjoy that wildlife is part of our environment and to behave accordingly.

– Melissa Gaskill

## COYOTE 101

These members of the canine family stand less than 2 feet tall and weigh between 22 and 45 pounds. Their color tends to be brownish-gray with a lighter belly, ears are erect and pointed, muzzle slender, and tail bushy. Coyotes breed in January and February, and the average litter is five or six but varies according to population density. Average life span in the wild is six years. Home ranges in the wild are 3 to 16 square miles but in urban environments may be as small as a quarter to half a square mile, thanks to ready supplies of food and water. Coyotes are normally active at night and early morning. They are naturally fearful of humans but can become less fearful in urban populations.

## HUMAN BEHAVIOR 101

- Do not put feed or water out for coyotes or for wild animals that are their prey (deer, rabbits).
- Construct and position bird feeders so that coyote prey (squirrels and rodents) can't get to them.
- Secure garbage and compost so coyotes cannot get to it. Use tight-fitting lids on trash cans and fix them so they cannot be turned over.
- Feed pets indoors; if feeding outdoors, pick up any leftovers.
- Do not allow pets to run free. Bring them in at night, walk your dog on a leash, and accompany your pet outside. Walk small dogs in open areas.
- If you see coyotes around your home or property, throw rocks or sticks at them and make loud noises; if you're in your car, honk the horn. Report coyote sightings and behavior by dialing 311. If you feel threatened by a coyote, call 911.

– M.G.

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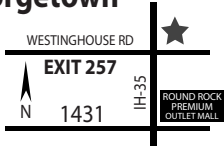
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# Former Rep. Lena Guerrero Dies of Cancer



Lena Guerrero on the House floor in 1989

ALAN POGUE

Former Austin Rep. **Lena Guerrero** strode fearlessly into the Texas House in 1985 and showed the boys how a woman gets it done. She was young, 27, and only the second Hispanic woman sent to the floor, following the Valley's **Irma Rangel**. Guerrero died April 24, at the age of 50, after a long battle against brain cancer. Observers remember her as someone with terrific political instincts. She could rally and organize. She was progressive without pandering, often pragmatic rather than partisan. She often used her charm and humor to her advantage in the heat of a debate, which won her friends on both sides of the aisle.

Then-staffer Harold Cook said Guerrero could be "ferocious and lovable, often at the same time." By the age of 31, she was appointed by Gov. **Ann Richards** as the first woman and first Hispanic on the Texas Railroad Commission, which sealed her fate as the face of the new Democratic Party in Texas. But her political future came crashing down when it was leaked to the media that Guerrero had failed to finish her degree at UT, despite claims to the contrary on her résumé.

Lobbyist **Bettie Naylor**, who met Guerrero when they both worked for the **Texas Women's Political Caucus**, remembers the strength of Guerrero's resolve and commitment. "What I remember about Lena is that, from the very beginning, she would talk to these guys in such a way that people really felt connected to her," Naylor said. "A lot of them would listen to what she had to say. And even when you disagreed with her, she never held it against you." Naylor said many in Guerrero's inner circle urged her to "come clean" about her lack of a college degree when the first reports surfaced, to no avail. In her later years, and even while she battled her illness, Guerrero was seen as a diligent and thorough lobbyist. Funeral services were held last weekend. She is survived by her husband, Lionel "Leo" Aguirre, and son Leo, as well as numerous family members in Austin.

— Kimberly Reeves

## The Return of Bike Month

It's time again for that annual bonanza of bicycling known as **Austin Bike Month**. With gas prices gone wild and climate crisis at critical mass, there's no better time to curb the car. Organized by the **Austin Cycling Association**, Bike Month includes opportunities for the inexperienced to try bike commuting, join recreational group rides, and learn safe bicycling techniques — and there is also a number of activities for seasoned cyclists. See [www.austincycling.org/bike\\_month.php](http://www.austincycling.org/bike_month.php) for a full list of events. Here's this week's rundown:

### Friday, May 2

#### Civic Bicycle Cruise, aka Political Pedal

Join elected officials and community leaders on an easygoing cruise around Downtown en route to the Bicyclists' Happy Hour. 4:45pm. Austin City Hall Plaza, 301 W. Second, 389-2250.

#### Bicyclists' Happy Hour

Join the Civic Bicycle Cruise, or just show up for snacks, libations, and lively conversation. Enjoy valet bike parking and live music! 6-7:30pm. The Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant, 301 San Jacinto. [bikeeric@yahoo.com](mailto:bikeeric@yahoo.com).

### Saturday, May 3

#### Capital Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Summit

Share ideas on promoting bicycling as a viable transportation mode. Register online at [www.campotexas.org/programs\\_bicped.php](http://www.campotexas.org/programs_bicped.php). 9am-4pm. UT campus, Jester Center, 21st & Speedway. Free.

#### Hundred Acre Wood Overnight Ride & Camping Event

The Hundred Acre Wood, a new event space 20 miles east of Downtown in Manor, hosts an arts & crafts fair followed by camping beneath a meteor shower. It's free, but participants must register at [www.austincycling.org](http://www.austincycling.org). Start time TBA. Ride begins at Yellow Bike Project, 2013 E. 51st. Destination: The Hundred Acre Wood, 21707 Hog Eye Rd., Manor.



JOHN ANDERSON

### Sunday, May 4

#### Inside Austin/Beginner Ride

This scenic ride entirely within Austin follows established city bicycle routes, begins in North Austin, and cruises leisurely through historic Central neighborhoods, landmarks, and parks. A 10- to 12-mile beginners ride will depart from the same location later that morning. 8am. Pillow Elementary School, 3025 Crosscreek Dr., 345-1154.

## COUNCIL GETS BIKE HAPPY

Just in time for Austin Bike Month to kick off, City Council took three decidedly pro-bicycle actions last Thursday. With a landmark project under way to update the city's 10-year-old **Bicycle Plan** (intended to institutionalize bicycling as a viable transportation mode), council showed its support by passing a resolution calling for efforts to elevate Austin's official bike-friendliness ranking (as rated by the League of American Bicyclists) from silver to gold. Council also voted to base the bike plan's update in large part on the recently completed recommendations of the **Street Smarts Task Force**, another significant bike-mobility effort that responded to community demands that the city find ways to make cycling safer and more mainstream. Finally, council also passed a resolution, sponsored by Council Member **Sheryl Cole**, to coordinate city interdepartmental efforts to build off-road, interconnected bikeways through Austin's parks and green spaces. "As we contemplate mobility, bicycle and pedestrian considerations should be included," Cole said. Stay tuned for more bike reporting throughout the month.

For more info on the city initiatives, see [www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/streetsmarts.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/streetsmarts.htm) and [www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/bicycle). — Daniel Mottola

## HAPPENINGS

For more events, see Community Listings, p.80.

### THURSDAY 01

**CRIME & SAFETY CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM** 6:30-8pm. City Hall, 301 W. Second.

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION** Professor Mira Binford presents her documentary, *Diamonds in the Snow*. 7pm. Texas Hillel, 2105 San Antonio, 735-8012 x17. Free. [www.shalomaustin.org](http://www.shalomaustin.org).

**MARCH FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS** 4:30pm. Texas Capitol grounds, 1100 Congress.

**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT** Come to one of two public sessions, and provide input into what the city should be looking for in a Parks director. (See Naked City, p.20, for more.) Thu., May 1, 4 & 6pm. City Hall, 301 W. Second.

### FRIDAY 02

**COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AWARDS LUNCHEON** 11:30am-1:30pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 916-6012. \$65. [www.envisioncentraltexas.org](http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org).

**HUMAN RIGHTS IN FLORIDA'S FIELDS** The Student/Farmworker Alliance presents traditional Vera Cruz folk music and an update on how a petition to Burger King made history. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

### SATURDAY 03

**CANNABIS CRUSADE MARCH & POTLUCK** The march to the Capitol begins at noon, after a morning of sign-making and taco-eating. The rally lasts till 4pm, after which you'll head back to Zilker for music, disc golf, and more. 10am-10pm. 585-6369. Free. [www.texasnorml.org](http://www.texasnorml.org).

**INTERNATIONAL MINING FORUM** Learn about the economic and environmental impact of gold and silver extraction in Guatemala. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

**WOMEN'S RESOURCE FAIR** features free legal, medical, health, and job-skills services for homeless and battered women and children. 9am-3pm. Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca. Free.

### SUNDAY 04

**COVER THE UNINSURED HEALTH FAIR & RALLY** Noon-2:30pm. Texas Capitol grounds, 1100 Congress. Free. [hcfataustin@gmail.com](mailto:hcfataustin@gmail.com).

**DON'T EMPTY LAKE TRAVIS** Help conserve Lake Travis at this fundraiser featuring auctions, a catfish dinner, music, and more. 2-8pm. Carlos'n Charlie's, 5973 Hilline Rd., 267-0151. \$30 (\$25 advance). [www.draininglaketravis.org](http://www.draininglaketravis.org).

### MONDAY 05

**IRAQI TRADE UNION TOUR** A short film screening and discussion. 6pm. Texas State Employee Union Hall, 1700 S. First. Free. [vickicbradley@aol.com](mailto:vickicbradley@aol.com).

### TUESDAY 06

**CHINA/TIBET FORUM** 7:30pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

**ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES: FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS** 7:30-9am. Chez Zee American Bistro, 5406 Balcones, 499-0435. \$25. [www.leadershipaustin.org](http://www.leadershipaustin.org).

### WEDNESDAY 07

**CENTRAL WEST NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING WORKSHOP** 6:30-9pm. Austin State School, 2203 W. 35th Bldg. 526, 799-4370. [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central\\_west\\_austin.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/central_west_austin.htm).

### THURSDAY 08

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: A CONVERSATION** with District Court Judge Charlie Baird, Assistant D.A. Gary Cobb, defense attorney Keith Hampton, and you. 7pm. First United Methodist Church, 500 E. Pecan, Pflugerville. Free. [www.pflame.org](http://www.pflame.org).

**CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION DISCUSSION** 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. [www.workersdefense.org](http://www.workersdefense.org).

## ONGOING

**DEATH PENALTY DOC SCREENING** At the Death House Door screens around town this week. See [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org) for times and dates. 258-6480. \$5 suggested donation.

**WALK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS** Prison-rights activist Andre Latallade started walking in New Jersey (the first state to abolish the death penalty) and will end his trek at the Governor's Mansion right here in Austin. Offer words of encouragement (or donations) at [www.myspace.com/capitalkaka305375](http://www.myspace.com/capitalkaka305375).



# Jennifer Kim is Fighting for Us at City Hall

**Jennifer Kim is Endorsed By:**

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| Austin Women's Political Caucus       | Southwest Austin Democrats         |
| Austin Central Labor Council          | Austin Tejano Democrats            |
| League of Bicycling Voters            | West Austin Democrats              |
| Capital Area Asian American Democrats |                                    |

## **JENNIFER KIM REFUSED COUNCIL PAY RAISE**

When the Austin City Council voted for a pay raise, Jennifer Kim refused to accept it.

Pol Ad Paid for by the Jennifer Kim Campaign, Cecilia Crossley, Treasurer. P.O. Box 42258, Austin, TX 78704. This campaign has not agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Chapter.

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Raul with his wife, Theresa, and their daughter, Sofia.

Political Ad Paid for by the Raul Alvarez Campaign, 3812 Kandy Dr., Austin, TX 78749. Theresa Alvarez, Treasurer.

# REEFER MADNESS

## The Presidential Contenders on Drugs

When the next president takes office in January, he, or she, will be the proud new parent of two outrageously expensive wars: the war in Iraq and the domestic **War on Drugs**. While the candidates have spent a fair amount of time talking about the first – and how we might (eventually) end it – they have spent embarrassingly little time talking about the several-decades-old drug war.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the cost of the Iraq war now tops \$500 billion – a fraction of the tax money that's been spent doing battle at home. The economic cost of the War on Drugs is difficult to estimate: There are the annual toilet-flushing expenditures, like the millions tossed into the ineffective anti-drug media campaign and the millions more sent overseas for ethically and environmentally questionable programs, like coca-crop-spraying **Plan Colombia**. There are the annual costs associated with incarcerating drug offenders – the only real “plan” of action we have for dealing with what otherwise (and in many other countries) would be considered a public-health concern: According to the Washington, D.C.-based **Justice Policy Institute**, the annual cost of incarcerating drug offenders in state and federal facilities amounts to a whopping \$8 billion per year. Above all, of course, there is the inestimable human cost of the war: Countless families destroyed, not only by substance abuse but by the fallout associated with our collective approach to handling such things – throwing users in jail, branding them criminals, and resigning them to life as second-class citizens, often disenfranchised from the democratic process and quite likely destined for continuing economic struggle.

And you'd be hard-pressed to find a government-approved “program” more shamelessly racist than the drug war: As of July 2007, some 2.2 million Americans were behind bars, and nearly half of them (900,000) were black, reports the nonprofit **Sentencing Project**. The startling increase in the number of incarcerated citizens – up 500% since the 1970s – has been driven by the number of individuals locked up on drug charges. Even though whites and blacks use and sell drugs at a similar rate, in 2003 twice as many blacks were locked up on drug offenses – blacks made up roughly 13% of the total U.S. population but accounted for 53% of drug offenders sent to state prisons that year, the JPI reports. Even in “liberal” Austin the numbers are staggering: According to JPI, in Travis Co. blacks are 31 times more likely than whites to be incarcerated on drug charges.

Given the sobering reality of the federal drug strategy, one would think our presidential candidates – Democratic Sens. **Barack Obama** and **Hillary Clinton** and GOP Sen. **John McCain** – might see fit to spend at least a smidgen of their seemingly endless time on the stump addressing this issue, if not actually mustering the courage to speak the truth, however unpopular it might be (rather than simply assuming the citizenry too addled to comprehend the difference between being smart about drug policy and being “soft on crime” – which is the aggravatingly myopic approach to which we've been subjected for years).

To date, this election season has been no different than others regarding candidates' public positions on drug-war policies. That said, there are some bright spots – although until recently, ferreting out where the candidates actually stand hasn't been easy. Thanks to the Sentencing Project (and other online sources), voters can now see where the candidates stand on a handful of drug-war issues. For a March report, the project combed through candidate speeches and other public comments compiling a list of candidate platforms on various criminal justice policies. Among the highlights:

**On mandatory minimum sentencing:** In 2003, Obama said he would “vote to abolish” all mandatory minimums; in February, however, he'd hedged, telling the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a candidate questionnaire that he's aware “every leading expert body in criminal justice” opposes the use of man-min sentences and that if elected he would “immediately review these sentences to see where we can be smarter on crime and reduce the ineffective warehousing of nonviolent drug offenders.” Clinton, meanwhile, appears to be straddling the fence on the issue; in the same questionnaire, she responded that man-mins are “appropriate” for certain violent crimes but have been applied “too broadly in ways that are simply unfair to minority offenders.” So far, it would appear McCain is still on the man-min train, telling Project Vote Smart in 2004 that he supports man-min sentences for “selling illegal drugs.”

**On the overall approach to the War on Drugs:** Clinton and Obama have said they support diversionary drug court programs; Obama also wants more focus on prevention. Asked by Politico.com how he would deal with Washington, D.C.'s high HIV infection rate, Obama replied that needle-exchange may be one solution. McCain, for his part, acknowledges that too many first-timers go to prison.



DOUG POTTER

**On the crack-to-powder-cocaine sentencing disparity:** Obama would eliminate the disparity by dropping penalties for crack, equalizing them with those for powder-coke offenses. He's co-sponsoring legislation to do just that. He also favors making sentencing changes retroactive, which would benefit inmates sentenced under previously draconian policies. Clinton initially supported lowering, but not eliminating, the crack-to-powder disparity but has recently come around to join the pending equalization legislation; she opposes retroactivity. McCain has remained mum. For more details, go to [www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org).

### This Bud's for You

U.S. Reps. **Barney Frank**, D-Mass., and Texas' own Liberal-publi-**Ron Paul**, R-Surfside, joined forces recently on legislation aimed at taming the federal law enforcement **war on pot**. Frank introduced House Resolution 5843, the first pot-decriminalization measure introduced in Congress in 24 years, which would remove from federal law the possibility of arrest, prosecution, and jail for “responsible” adult tokers and would eliminate penalties for possession of up to 3.5 ounces. Frank and Paul also filed the **Medical Marijuana Patient Protection Act**, which (again) seeks to end federal raids on medi-pot dispensaries and to end the federal harassment of ill patients who use the drug in compliance with state laws.

- Jordan Smith

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# THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## FENCING OFF OUR DEMOCRACY

Good grief, it's bad enough that the Bush-Cheney regime keeps usurping power to create an imperial presidency, but it's far worse that our Congress critters have been weaker than Canadian hot sauce, meekly giving away their own constitutional power to the autocracy.

Take "the fence," the 40-foot-high wall being built along 700 miles of our border with Mexico. This thing is monstrous, but even more monstrous is the unprecedented dictatorial authority that Congress handed to the Homeland Security czar to erect it. In 2005, our legislators gave carte blanche to Michael Chertoff to – get this – overrule any of our laws that he thinks might interfere with building this border barrier. Environmental law, labor law, property law – you name it – all can be voided on the unilateral say-so of Chertoff. Even Cheney, who claims to be his own branch of government, can't do that.

To make Chertoff's power absolute, Congress also took the astonishing step of banning federal courts from reviewing his decisions. And the czar has not been modest about asserting this autocratic rule, having already suspended more than 30 of our laws.

Two environmental groups are challenging this anti-democratic absurdity, arguing that Congress cannot hand over unbridled power to the executive branch. While a federal appeals court has ruled against the groups, they've appealed to the Supreme Court, which has never upheld such a wholesale delegation of power. Even though Congress itself surrendered its power, one of the Supremes wrote in a similar case, "Abdication of responsibility is not part of the constitutional design."

Congress' fence law sets a precedent that is an insult to our democratic ideals and a threat to our liberty. To learn more about the effort to overturn it, contact the Sierra Club: 415/977-5500 or [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

## AUTHORIZING TORTURE

In 81 pages of chilling legalese, the Bush-Cheney regime reveals just how morally corrupt it is.

The pages, recently released under a Freedom of Information action, embody the administration's tortured legal reasoning for authorizing the torture of prisoners of war. These are the contents of a memo written in March 2003 by John Yoo, then the Bushites' top-ranking authority on the interpretation of our laws. The purpose of Yoo's memo was not merely to okay some heinous, clearly illegal, un-American acts against human beings, but – even more despicable – it also provides a detailed legal escape route so top officials would not be held accountable for authorizing such acts.

He asserts, for example, that policy-makers can legally permit such obvious abuses as water-boarding as long as interrogators don't actually intend to drown the person. Besides, he insists, in times of war, mere laws don't apply to the commander in chief.

Back in 2004, when the story and photos of Abu Ghraib shocked Americans and outraged the world, the troika of Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld clucked their tongues about the bad characters in that prison who acted with such depravity. The troika stood silent as a few of the grunts were punished and as Americans were left to wonder how the soldiers could stray so far from our nation's standards of decency.

Now, however, we see that this stain on our national honor didn't bubble up from the bottom; it was authorized from the highest level by officials who were determined to twist the law so they could do anything they wanted while exempting themselves from any responsibility. Meanwhile, Bush himself recently vetoed a ban on water-boarding, and he is keeping at least two other memos on the legality of torture a secret from us.

The immorality of the Bushites is corrupting America itself.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com).

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# Election?

## WHAT ELECTION?

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[austinchronicle.com/election](http://austinchronicle.com/election)

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# Living Maya

Austin becomes a hotbed of past and future Maya knowledge

BY ROB D'AMICO

Linda Schele was always quite a show.

A towering figure, both physically and intellectually, she strode across the stages and workshop rooms at the annual University of Texas Maya Meetings, often peppering her language with curses and enthusiastic exclamations at moments of discovery. She liked the attention she commanded, and it fed her enjoyment in being at the forefront of research on the ancient Maya. And unlike many of her counterparts in academia, who zealously defend their findings from competing scholars, Schele encouraged lively discussion and revision of her theories, not only among the elite ranks of archaeologists, epigraphers, and art historians of Harvard, Yale, and the like, but also among those with no formal training. “She had a guru quality about her, and people would come from all over the world to Austin to hear her pronouncements,” said David Stuart, a longtime Schele friend and protégé who now heads the UT-Austin Mesoamerica Center.

Schele died in 1998, of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 55. Her continuing intellectual and cultural legacy, in terms of her contributions to the reading and interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs, remains enormous. She also put UT-Austin on the map as a leading center for Mesoamerican research. Today, UT researchers continue to be at the center of groundbreaking discoveries in the world of Maya archaeology. But they also are leading a movement to bring the

world of the ancient Maya into the lives of the living Maya and are engaging in new debates over archaeological discoveries of ecological destruction and its relevance to our planet today.

## “Who Shall Read Them?”

When John Lloyd Stephens titillated readers with tales of Maya ruins in his *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan* in 1841, he asked of the hieroglyphs found among the ruins, “Who shall read them?” For Stephens, it was apparent that the inscrutable adornments represented a written language. But for more than 100 years, archaeologists, historians, linguists, and epigraphers were stymied in their attempts to read the glyphs, which to many seemed to be only elaborate and artistic decorations on monuments and vases discovered throughout the jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize. Unlike Egyptologists – who possessed the Rosetta stone, which laid out Greek and Egyptian in parallel with Egyptian glyphs – the Mayanists (as Maya researchers became known) had no code-breaker to rely on. In the 16th century, Spanish priests and authorities had burned thousands of ancient Maya books written on bark, since they were considered satanic. And they purged any knowledge of the glyphs in the conquered Maya population, with punishments of torture and execution for anyone found to

practice the writing. Eventually, however, researchers came to realize that the glyphs were more than just icons or symbol images – that instead they actually represented a spoken language. Scholars armed themselves with the few reading clues available. (See “Filming the Code-Breakers,” p.42.) The deciphering came slowly, as researchers often competed against each other and clashed over their theories.

## Creating Maya Studies

Linda Schele wasn’t an archaeologist or an epigrapher or a historian or a linguist, at least in the beginning, although she eventually adapted aspects of all these disciplines to her research. A studio artist, she became entranced with the Maya after visiting the ruins of Palenque on a 1970 vacation to Mexico with her husband, David. There she met a fellow American artist, Merle Greene Robertson, who lived in Palenque and spent her time in a passionate pursuit of preserving and enhancing the glyphs with drawings, photographs, and rubbings of the stone. Schele returned to Palenque several times to work with Robertson, and although she eventually became an expert on many facets of Maya research, it was her participation in the now famous Mesa Redonda (round table) meetings in the early 1970s – informal gatherings of glyph buffs held in Palenque and other locations – that propelled her into the limelight. Schele began deciphering glyphs in rapid succession, partly because of her natural talent and methodical approach, but also because of her insistence on working with people from all walks of life.

“Linda was a very dynamic person and a charismatic leader,” Stuart said. “And she invited collaboration, which is what works best when tackling the glyphs.” Her groundbreaking work led her to a fellowship in pre-Columbian studies at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., and eventually to UT for graduate studies, where she was awarded a doctorate in Latin American studies in 1980.

UT-Austin became a natural destination for some Maya archaeologists due to its relative proximity to the sites and because it already housed a prestigious Latin American studies program and the world-famous Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection library. Schele began teaching in 1981, and over the next decade, she became the big draw, as aspiring archaeologists and art historians clamored to be her grad students. “It was an exciting, vibrant time,” recalled Julia Guernsey, a grad student of Schele’s, who arrived in 1993 and now works as an associate professor of art and art history at UT’s Mesoamerica Center. “Linda did so much for the program and trained so many people.”

Another Schele student, Ed Barnhart, remembers her as “a real character, a cult of personality that drew people from around

the world. She was just so enthusiastic in her work, and she had a different style than most of her peers. She cursed a lot and jumped up and down yelling ... and she cracked a lot of jokes.” Barnhart, who received his doctorate from UT in 2001 and now runs the non-profit Maya Exploration Center in Austin and Palenque, said Schele wanted to be the first professor to teach glyphs, and in doing so, she essentially “ushered in the era of Maya studies at UT.”

## Everybody Welcome

For Schele, collaboration with peers and students in academia wasn’t enough. In 1977, she helped launch a series of annual glyph-reading workshops and research presentations that eventually became the Maya Meetings. The meetings weren’t intended to be draft symposiums, though, as Schele wanted to capture the spirit of the productive Mesa Redonda gatherings. She made it clear that anyone – regardless of his or her occupation or knowledge of the Maya – was welcome. Then as now, participants from around the world would come to Austin each March to learn how to read glyphs in basic, intermediate, and advanced four-day workshops and to share their findings in presentations.

Some 250 people signed up for this year’s March Maya Meetings, which focused on new research out of the Copán ruins in Honduras. “They’re not all archaeologists,” Guernsey said. “They’re dental hygienists, for example, that love archaeology. ... It’s really fun.” Indeed, a sampling of participant professions included architects, nurses, retirees, many of whom had attended the meetings for several succeeding years.

Inga Calvin, an archaeologist at the University of Colorado, has been coming to the meetings for 12 years. “The meetings bring together the best of Maya scholarship,” she said. “But most important is the format since there is so much

opportunity for discussion, rather than other formats where you get up and speak for 15 minutes, and that’s it.”

“I don’t think that there are that many meetings like this in the world where you have that kind of access to top professionals in the field,” Guernsey continued. “And that was something that Linda Schele was adamant about, making it accessible. She’d be up on the stage, and someone would stand up – because you could – and say something questioning her, and she’d say, ‘Oh, shit!’ ... She was willing to admit she was wrong. Not only that, but she’d recognize their point, tell them to write it up, and then she’d publish it.”

## Starting Early

While Schele may have been the catalyst for UT becoming the hub of all things Maya, it was

*continued on p.40*

# FixAustin.org

## Animal Welfare

### Voter Education Guide

With three Austin City Council seats up for election on May 10, 2008, **FixAustin.org** has been contacted by countless Austinites asking the same question: **Which candidates care most about Austin's homeless pets?** After careful review of the candidates' records and responses to our questions, **FixAustin.org** has answered the call.

#### Laura Morrison and Randi Shade

Two candidates rise above the rest when it comes to interest in, knowledge of, and passion for Austin's homeless pets: **Laura Morrison** and **Randi Shade**. **Morrison** fought the City's ill-conceived plan to relocate Austin's animal shelter from the shores of Town Lake, and intelligently engaged all stakeholders — including homeowners in East Austin — before reaching her own conclusions. **Shade** exhibits the intellect and passion needed to dramatically change the way Austin's pound does business. **Morrison** and **Shade** favor rebuilding Austin's pound on Town Lake, implementing programs that have ended shelter killing in other cities, and holding shelter management accountable for poor performance.

#### Allen Demling and Jason Meeker

**Allen Demling** and **Jason Meeker** scored impressively: both favor rebuilding Austin's pound on Town Lake rather than relocating it. **Demling** offers a thoughtful approach to animal-welfare issues, and **Meeker** is unafraid to take on shelter bureaucrats mired in the status quo.

#### Lee Leffingwell and Jennifer Kim

Incumbents **Lee Leffingwell** and **Jennifer Kim** have each demonstrated leadership on animal-welfare issues. **Leffingwell** brokered the "compromise" plan to move the animal shelter but keep part of it open as an adoption center, and **Kim** initiated Council action to regulate the sale of unaltered pets. But both voted to relocate Austin's shelter away from the heart of the City — a decision that will mean fewer visits to Austin's pound, fewer adoptions, and even more killing.

#### Cid Galindo

**Cid Galindo** favors not only relocating Austin's animal shelter away from downtown, but also eliminating Council's commitment to keep part of the shelter open as an adoption center. **Galindo** is an intelligent and thoughtful urban planner, but he sees no role for homeless dogs and cats in his vision for downtown Austin.

## FixAustin.org

**FixAustin.org** is Austin's only non-profit organization aiming to end the killing of lost and homeless pets through the implementation of proven, cost-effective methods that have ended shelter killing in other cities. For more information and to read the candidates' complete responses, please visit **FixAustin.org**. Some candidates were not scored due to incomplete information; these ratings are not endorsements.

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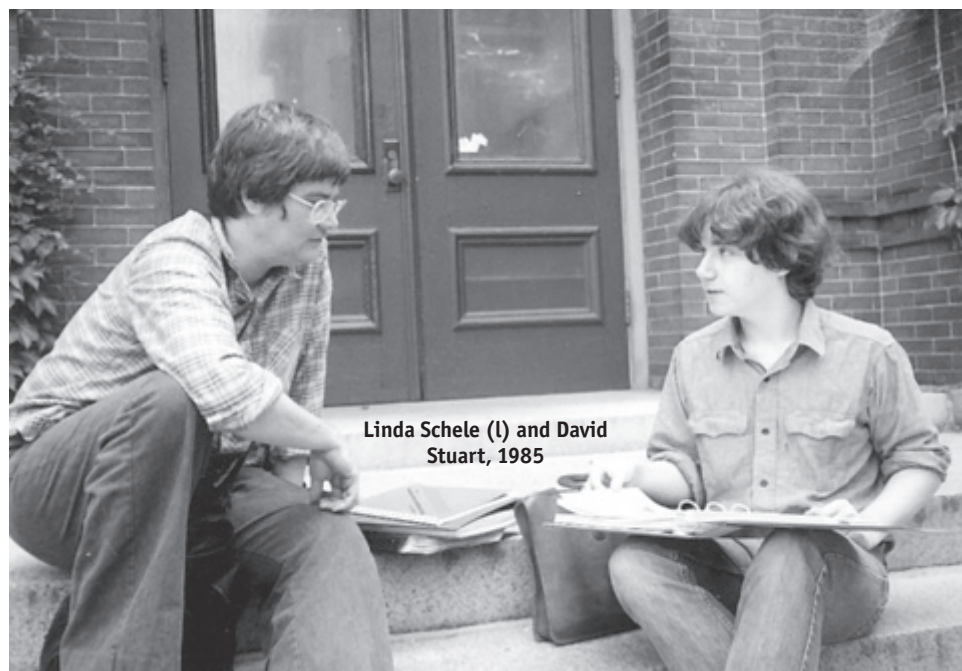
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Linda Schele (l) and David Stuart, 1985



David Stuart

## Linda Schele and David Stuart: If Linda Schele was the catalyst for UT becoming the hub of all things Maya, it was David Stuart who cemented the university's reputation on a par with Harvard and Yale.

David Stuart who cemented the university's reputation on a par with Harvard and Yale, which had been active in the Maya world for decades. Stuart, born in 1965, got his introduction to the Maya on trips to Latin America with his mother and father, George Stuart, who worked on Maya research for the National Geographic Society. As a child, he studied with and assisted Schele in Mexico and was just 12 years old when he presented his first research paper to a crowd of Mayanists in Palenque.

Like Schele and others mastering the glyphs, Stuart began drawing them and isolating them for study. He soon was, as he puts it, "obsessed" and has been deciphering them ever since. "For a lot of people, it's like a puzzle you can't get out of your head," he said. By his teens he was contributing major discoveries to the field of Maya epigraphy and, at age 18, landed a MacArthur Fellowship that let him continue to do research freely, without

the constraints of college coursework. He went on to receive his doctorate in anthropology from Vanderbilt University in 1995, published several books and many papers – including the groundbreaking "Ten Phonetic Syllables" – and taught at Harvard for 11 years before the call came from UT in 2004. Because he was following his mentor, Schele, who created the foundation of epigraphy studies at UT, a position here was a perfect fit for Stuart. He became the Linda and David Schele professor of Mesoamerican Art and Writing and director of the Mesoamerica Center (housed in the Department of Art & Art History).

Elaine Day Schele (who married Linda Schele's widowed husband, David) is now a graduate student in the UT program, after catching the Maya bug and leaving her job as a Travis County urban planner. "My previous life, I studied the future of cities, and now I study

the history of cities," she said. Day Schele said she continues to see a huge growth of interest in the UT program because of its legacy in epigraphy, as well as its multidisciplinary approach. For instance, the Mesoamerica Center faculty includes: Stuart (epigraphy), Guernsey (art history), Brian Stross (ethnobotany, food anthropology), Fred Valdez (archaeology), and Nora England (linguistics). "That's our strength, combining epigraphy, art history, and archaeology," Guernsey said.

Valdez, who surveys archaeological sites and conducts digs at the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area in Belize, said UT has had several influential Maya archaeologists who primarily have done field work. He adds that Stuart has become a "bridge between the old and the new" with a concentration of inter-departmental collaboration. "The overlap wasn't as broad at UT as it is today. It is so important for those fields to overlap now."

## Digging the Dirt

It's not just academia that makes UT an exciting place for Maya studies. There's always the opportunity to camp out in the jungle and dig. Numerous grad students assist Valdez and others at field projects throughout Latin America, and graduates continue to contribute discoveries. Barnhart, for instance, was actively involved in archaeological exploration and mapping projects at Palenque and discovered a lost city, Ma'ax Na, in the jungles of Belize. Now with the Maya Exploration Center, he also leads tourists and students throughout Latin America, offering them well-informed looks at everything from Maya astronomy to the history of chocolate.

Stuart also is called out to numerous field projects, which inspires his work back in Austin. "I can't be stuck in this office too long," he said. "So every year I like to get out in the field." It's not hard for him to get an invitation, said Michael Scanlon, an administrative associate who helps run the Mesoamerica Center. "His experience is like no one else's, so he's involved in so many different projects. Everyone wants him ... [because] he embodies a lot of things that make the research work."

In April, Stuart traveled to one of the most astonishing finds in recent history, a well-preserved and colorful mural found in 2001 at San Bartolo in Guatemala's El Petén. Stuart actively assists the project's director, William Saturno, who also is one of his former students. Saturno marched hours into the jungle to San Bartolo and found a looters' pit (looters often beat archaeologists to sites), with a small hole that revealed a chamber with the painting. The mural, dating to about 100BC, made headlines around the world and provided a jolt of energy to Maya archaeologists, who are well aware that the jungle is still hiding exciting discoveries.

"Yeah, San Bartolo is impressive," Stuart said. "But there are several places like this still in the forest. San Bartolo was one of those places that didn't look like much on the surface. ... Thank God the looters didn't take it out. But really they couldn't, because you can't pry it off the wall."

*continued on p.42*

## ABOUT THE MAYA

The Maya first began establishing their own artistic, linguistic, and religious identities some 2,000 years before the birth of Christ, but they're best known for their spectacular cities that dotted the present-day countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras during what is known as their Classic Period, about AD250 to 900.

During this time, the Maya built many of the spectacular temples at city-sites like Palenque, Mexico, and Tikal, Guatemala, that are now popular tourist attractions. Their populations, region-wide, numbered in the low millions, with estimates of 100,000-200,000 or more living in some of the larger autonomous city-states. They achieved astounding levels of skill in the fields of astronomy, architecture, agriculture, and mathematics. (The Maya – and probably other Mesoamerican people in the area before them – were among the first cultures to use zeros, second only to the Mesopotamians.) The Maya wrote histories and accounts of ruling life on their mon-

uments with hieroglyphs, but they also produced thousands of books written on bark paper – and burned by the Spanish in the 1500s.

It is now known that the Maya were a warlike people that – although not always as bloodthirsty as those portrayed in Mel Gibson's *Apocalypto* – are known to have included sacrifice in their war activities and religious ceremonies. Equally bloody, but not fatal, was a ceremonial practice of kings and other elites of cutting their penises with stingray spines or obsidian (and their female counterparts puncturing their tongues with roped thorns) to let blood onto paper in a bowl, which was then burned to create a rising smoke serpent, as a connection with their ancestors.

The popular destination of Chichén Itzá, in the Yucatán, became a center of political power around AD900, after many Maya mysteriously abandoned their temples and other centers of religious and ceremonial life in Chiapas and Guatemala. After a civil war of sorts between rul-

ing lords in the Yucatán, the Maya shifted their "capital" to Mayapán, south of Mérida, around AD1200. Around 1441, more warfare thrust the Maya into chaotic political divisions, which continued until the Spanish conquistadors arrived in 1519 and defeated warring leaders around 1541. The Spanish, however, were forced to put down numerous Maya rebellions throughout the centuries leading to the independence movements of Central American countries, and rebellion was in the news as recently as the 1990s, with the Zapatista movement in Chiapas.

Today, the Maya number more than 10 million and speak 30 recognized Mayan languages, which are categorized into 12 major groups. Like many indigenous peoples in Latin America, they have been marginalized, disenfranchised, and outright killed, particularly in the brutal Guatemalan Civil War that raged from 1960 to 1996, and included the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Maya.

– R.D.







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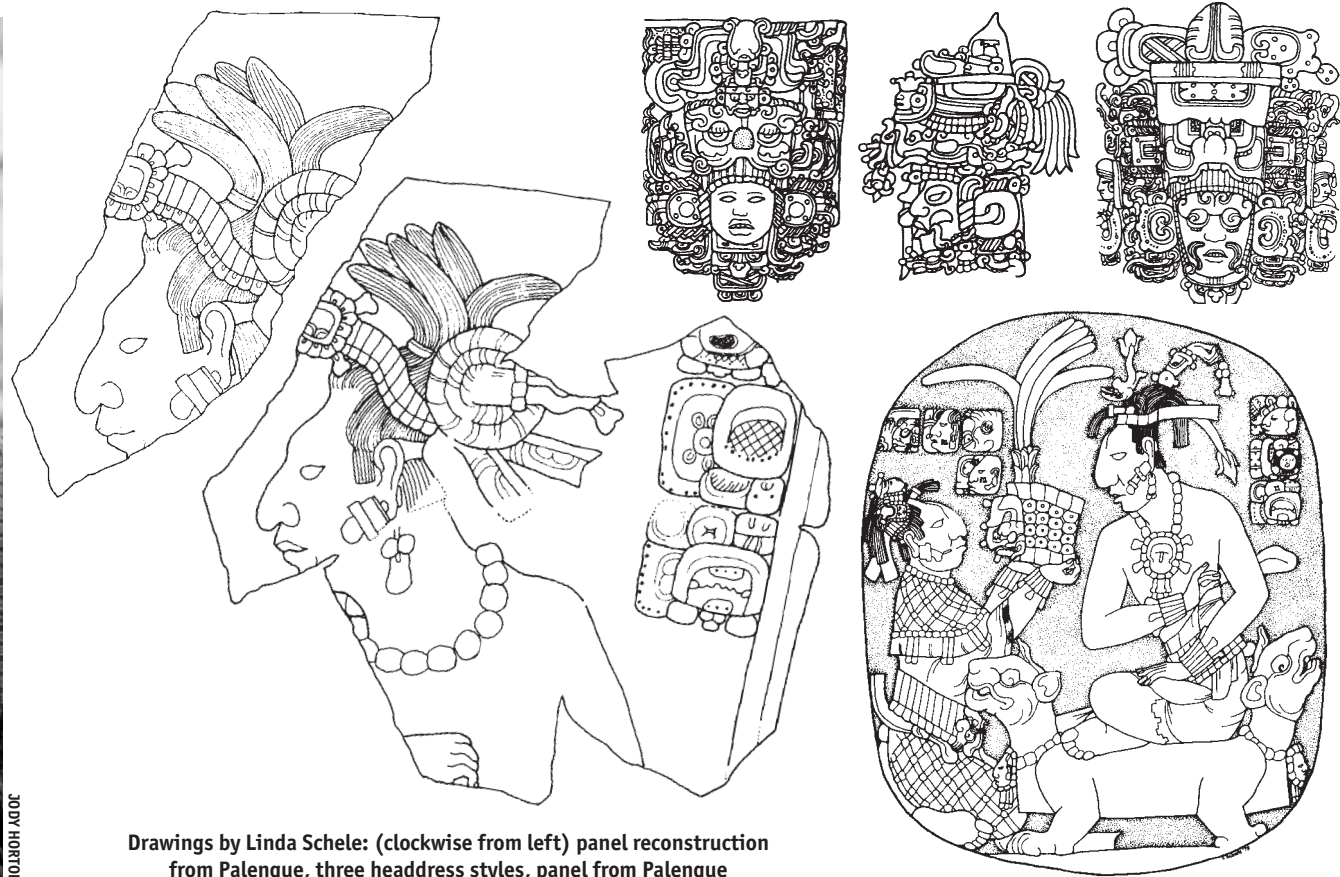
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UT archaeologist  
Fred Valdez



JODY HORTON



Drawings by Linda Schele: (clockwise from left) panel reconstruction from Palenque, three headdress styles, panel from Palenque

## Lessons of History

The Maya were extraordinary in their precise accounting of dates, and one such designation was based on a Long Count calendar, which last began in 3114BC and is expected to end on Dec. 21, 2012 (give or take a day, as the exact date is in dispute). That end point has created a buzz in the media as numerous Maya enthusiasts – often from a New Age movement coined “Mayanism” – have declared that since the time period has great import in Maya creation myths, the date will signal either a shift in global consciousness that will benefit mankind or doomsday events like meteors, floods, supernova explosions, and a variety of other end-of-the-world scenarios.

What do the serious Maya scholars think? To them, it’s mostly bunk – the vast majority believe that the date is nothing more than an ending of the Long Count, which merely signifies the beginning of another Long Count. Nevertheless, it’s certain that doom and gloom prophecies will put the Maya in the headlines for the next few years. Stuart would like those headlines to read a bit differently, although with a similar slant to the doom and gloom – conversations about where our planet is heading with climate change and other environmental concerns.

“The [ancient] Maya trashed their environment, and there were dire consequences,” Stuart said. For instance, much of the forest of what was lowland Guatemala at the time was felled for firewood. Many archaeologists believe that was a major factor – along with periods of drought – in the abandonment of the cities and larger population centers in the northern area of El Petén and in Chiapas. The grandeur of the Maya’s Classic Period, with construction of towering temples and extraordinary achievements in

astronomy and art, came to a remarkably quick halt, which long baffled archaeologists wondering why monuments recording history stopped suddenly around AD900. “We definitely can say now that this environmental destruction was a huge issue for the Maya,” Stuart said. “The idea that these native populations were always good stewards of the land is false. Human beings have always had a disruptive effect on the environment, wherever they are.”

Wetter times and dispersed populations led to the return of the jungle that then buried the ruins for centuries. But today the destruction rages again. The forests of El Petén are literally

## The Maya Long Count calendar last began in 3114BC and is expected to end on Dec. 21, 2012 (give or take a day).

under siege by what environmentalists call “invaders,” armies of men with gasoline cans clearing the jungle on behalf of farmers and cattle ranchers. The Guatemalan government has made some efforts to halt the invasions but with little success, even in supposedly protected conservation areas. The clearing and populating of the jungle also threatens archaeological sites, since it makes the areas more accessible to looters.

Archaeological tourism is one obvious response, since tourists bring money, which leads to opportunities to protect archaeological sites. But Stuart noted that equally important is engaging the present-day Maya in

archaeological research to connect them with the history, language, and religion of their ancestors. An engaged community is more likely to be part of any possible solution in protecting archaeological sites, and in helping interpret them. It would also make it harder for the governments of Mexico and Guatemala – which have long isolated, disenfranchised, or simply killed the Maya – to ignore the needs of those communities.

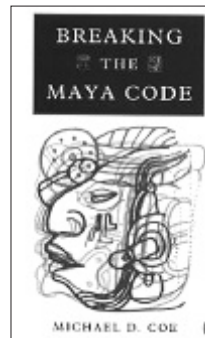
Stuart sees UT playing a significant role in this engagement, which began with direct invitations and financial support for Maya to attend the Maya Meetings each year. “These Maya are representative of a group of up-and-coming intellectuals who are very engaged in discussions on what’s going on with our research,” he said. Next year, some of these scholars will lead presentations, he added.

For Ed Barnhart, having Maya at the meetings and workshops learning to read glyphs has made the UT event unique. “This is a connection to their ancestors. ... They have an opportunity to read what they wrote instead of reading what someone else has written about them, which is real appealing.” UT is taking its outreach a step further by opening a center for Maya research in Antigua, Guatemala, where it has been offered use of a historic 17th century estate. Stuart said he hopes to have the center – which will allow both Maya and foreign scholars to meet and confer – operational by fall.

For Stuart, UT’s solid reputation in Maya research is exciting, but the most moving moment for him at this year’s Maya Meetings came at the end of a screening of *Breaking the Maya Code*. The film showed Maya children learning to read and write glyphs in Guatemala. “Maya kids learning to write Mayan. ... Yeah, this archaeology is about ancient civilizations, but it has relevance to living people.” ■

## FILMING THE CODE-BREAKERS

The more-than-centurylong struggle to decipher the Maya hieroglyphs is a fascinating story of clashing egos, missteps, and brilliant discoveries – all captured in Michael Coe’s 1992 book, *Breaking the Maya Code*. Much of the book covers the roles



of Linda Schele and David Stuart and others associated with the University of Texas, along with accounts of the famous Mesa Redondas (round table discussions in Palenque, Mexico). Equally impressive is the film version of the story, adapted from the book and directed by David Lebrun. Lebrun premiered the film *Breaking the Maya Code* at this year’s Maya Meetings. “This was the toughest audience in the world, and they all loved it,” said Coe, who also raved that the film maintains the subject’s academic integrity while still entertaining people who know nothing about epigraphy.

The film has since played in a few festivals in the U.S. and Canada, but Lebrun hopes to have it return to Austin for a screening, as well. Until then, you can catch the 50-minute version of the 116-minute film as it was shown on NOVA as “Cracking the Maya Code,” by visiting [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode). The site also has interactive pages highlighting Maya culture, timelines, and a podcast on how the ancient Mayan language may have sounded, with spoken examples from Barbara MacLeod, who got her doctorate at UT. — R.D.



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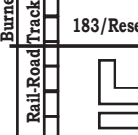


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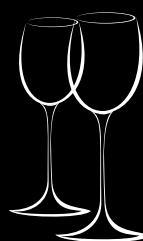
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86 ARTS LISTINGS



BRET BROOKSHIRE

## Karen Kuykendall Tribute

### More bouquets for the missing diva

When Karen Kuykendall passed away last November, she was the recipient of many lovely tributes, but those who knew her knew there weren't nearly enough. Karen was the kind of performer, the kind of supporter, the kind of hostess, the kind of friend, the kind of — well, there's no other word — *diva* who sparked more stories than the Ann Richards Bridge has bats. To do this beloved Austin native and local legend justice, more tributes would be needed. Zach Theatre, where Karen starred in many shows, does its part this Sunday, May 4, 4:30pm, at the Kleberg Stage, 1421 W. Riverside. Theatre artists who worked with Karen and members of her family will perform and speak. You can expect to hear anecdotes about Karen in Zach's production of *Angels in America* from actor Martin Burke (*The Santaland Diaries*); songs from actress Jill Blackwood (*Urinetown: The Musical*), Karen's granddaughter Jennie Kuykendall, and crooner Jerry Conn (*Say It With Music*), who will be accompanied by Carol Kooock, wife to Karen's brother Ken Kooock; selections from *Full Gallop*, the one-woman show about fashion maven Diana Vreeland that was a tour de force for Kuykendall, performed by Barbara Chisholm (*Present Laughter*) and Karen's granddaughter Haley Naiser; and more.

Donations collected at the memorial celebration will benefit the campaign to name the stage in Zach's proposed third theatre after the divine Ms. Kuykendall. When it's completed, you can count on that to be a place where friends and fans will continue to share Karen stories for a long time to come. For more information, call 476-0594 or visit [www.zachscott.com](http://www.zachscott.com). — R.F.

## ACC Dance Department The joys of discovery

"I'm always surprised by what people create when they are given the opportunity to produce in a positive and supportive environment."

That's local choreographer Darla Johnson (Johnson/Long Dance Company, Big State Productions) reflecting on her work with students in the Austin Community College Dance Department, where she's been working for several years to help develop the dance-makers of the next generation. ACC's program has long been under the radar in the Austin arts scene but is noteworthy for its faculty of strong local choreographers (Johnson, José Luis Bustamante, Kathy Dunn Hamrick, and Allison Orr, among others), the regular opportunities it offers students to make and present work (such as this weekend's Spring Choreographers' Showcase), and that supportive environment to which Johnson was referring.

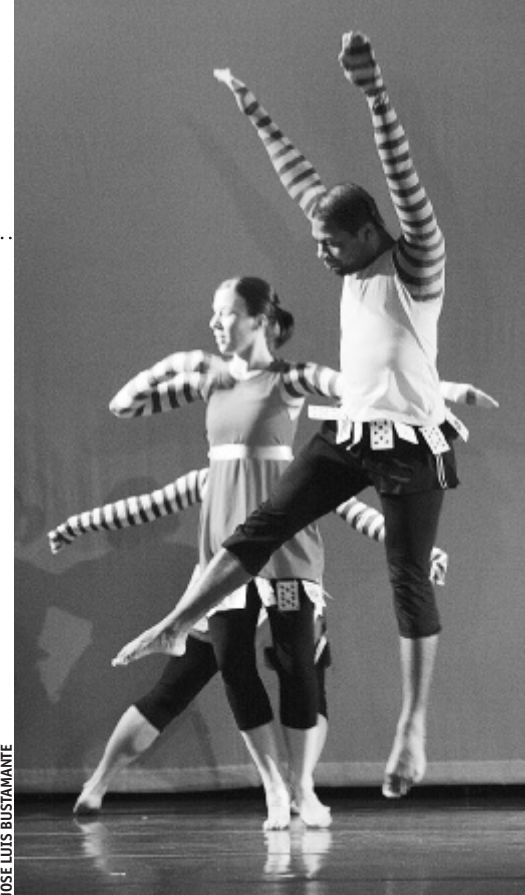
"We encourage our students to bring all of themselves into the process," Johnson says. "Other cultural dance forms they've studied, other artistic pursuits, any kind of movement vocabulary that they can spring from and create with. The goal is to nurture each individual's voice and to help them discover their own unique style and dance vocabulary."

Forklift Danceworks Artistic Director Allison Orr, who studied with Johnson herself, has been leading the Choreography II class, where many of the 2008 Spring Choreographers' Showcase dances were developed. In the process, she's found herself taken by "the students' abilities to solve 'problems' in creative ways — for example, how to communicate when you are finished with a dance phrase

and another dancer needs to begin when that dancer can't see you. Or how to get the whole group to start on a particular music cue when some students can't hear the music. That is what is interesting about working together, where we have issues we need to solve in creative ways. I also asked this group to create duets based on personal writing that they did in class, and I have loved seeing their unique voices and personalities come out in the choreography. All in all, what I most enjoy is seeing who they are come through in the dance. That is really a gift."

Students Tara Baker, Leah Crockett, Leigh Gaymon-Jones, Christina Houle, Sarah Leung, Victoria Pierce, Mysti Pride, Kaly Vaughn, and Sarah Wendtlandt will be featured in the program, which also includes new dances by Johnson and Orr, both inspired by their work with students. Orr's piece is rooted in the duets created by her students from the writing assignment she gave them. Her 13 dancers include three students who are deaf, four who are blind or visually impaired, and seven who are not blind or deaf, and the movement draws on American Sign Language and the use of white canes. *How Many ... Circular Ruins* was inspired by one of Johnson's students who spent three years in Iraq and is preparing to return for another tour.

According to Johnson, working with younger artists feeds her artistically as much as it does them. "To guide someone as they dis-



JOSÉ LUIS BUSTAMANTE

cover their own choreographic voice and be a part of that process is exciting," she says, "and allows room for my own discoveries."

— Robert Faires

The ACC Dance Department 2008 Spring Choreographers' Showcase, featuring work by students from the Choreography II class, runs May 2-3, Friday and Saturday, 8pm, at the Mainstage Theater, Rio Grande Campus, 1212 Rio Grande.

The ACC Dance Department 2008 Spring Informance, featuring work by students from the Choreography I class, takes place Tuesday, May 6, 7pm, in the Rio Grande Campus Dance Studio, Room 130, Rio Grande Campus, 1212 Rio Grande. For more information, call 223-3384 or visit [www.austinncc.edu/dance](http://www.austinncc.edu/dance).



## Arts on Real Theatre under threat

A month ago, Arts on Real was cheerfully celebrating five years of producing and presenting plays, dance, and film on the Eastside. A week ago, however, it looked like the classy warehouse theatre wouldn't be around to see a sixth. Blake Yelavich, the actor/writer/director/producer who built the venue out of an empty Reddy Ice facility (with \$50,000 scored as a contestant on *Win Ben Stein's Money* and *The Weakest Link*), had sounded the alarm to friends and patrons: He needed to raise \$7,500 by the end of April, or Arts on Real would close by the end of May.

What happened, Yelavich says, is that he was told by LWR Family Partnership, which owns the property at 2826 Real, that he had to pay the property taxes that the lease makes him responsible for in one lump sum this year instead of spread over 12 months as he'd been able to do in the five years previously. And that total, \$8,800, was due April 30. Not having that kind of scratch just lying around — Yelavich has ever been the thrifty producer, but hey, this is still a small nonprofit theatre we're talking about — he put out the word that unless supporters sent in some cash, the theatre's days were numbered.

The tone of desperation was occasioned, Yelavich says, by the fact that the landlord wasn't open to negotiation or mediation on the matter. In defense of the property owner, an attorney representing LWR Family Partnership has claimed that Yelavich had repeatedly failed to pay rent on time, wrote checks that bounced, and owed back rent. Yelavich doesn't deny having had cash-flow problems that affected rent payments — again, this is a small nonprofit theatre — but says he was assured in March that he was up to date on rent. Whatever the case, Yelavich was still responsible for that \$9,000 payment, and with a week until it was due, Yelavich issued his cry for help.

People got the message, and they responded — fans of the theatre, certainly, but also some folks who had never been there, like the member of an East Austin neighborhood association who just liked what Arts on Real represented: an effort to add something to the neighborhood rather than profit off it. Within five days, Yelavich had the money he needed. But then he was informed that he owed several thousand more dollars and that now a total of \$15,000 would be due April 30. That put Yelavich in the position of raising another \$6,000 in three days.

As of press time, Arts on Real did not have that amount in hand, but attorney Catherine Tabor, who has been offering pro bono legal services to Arts on Real, indicated that potential donors who had not yet made contributions were willing to do so if Arts on Real was assured of an extension of its lease. Tabor obtained a new one-year lease agreement on Wednesday and was hopeful that the full amount owed LWR Family Partnership could be collected by the end of the day.

Although the Wednesday deadline has now passed, Yelavich would no doubt appreciate any support, especially in case he faces any further financial challenges. Donations may be made online at: [www.2008donorpage.eventbrite.com](http://www.2008donorpage.eventbrite.com). For more information, call 472-2787 or visit [www.artsonreal.com](http://www.artsonreal.com). — R.F.

# First, Free Comic Book Day, and Then – Ka-Baam!!

Comic books and comedy improv go hand in hand, sometimes with repulsor rays

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

1) Nobody gives a shit about superheroes these days. We left those hyperbolic spandex-stretchers and their banal melodrama behind with the Crunchberries and the footed pajamas, didn't we, moving on as the drug-infused, hippie-dippie, late-Sixties underground of Jaxon and Crumb and Shelton and company phased through further explorations by Bill Griffith, Shary Flenniken, Jay Kinney, Trina Robbins, and so on, a rising wave of innovation that crested itself with Art Spiegelman and Françoise Mouly's *Raw* anthology in the Eighties just before breaking over the mainstream of what's called culture and irrevocably dampening even its most highbrow shores. Now, among scores of other notable nonhero comics, there's Los Bros Hernandez's *Love and Rockets* and Julie Doucet's *Dirty Plotte* and Adrian Tomine's *Optic Nerve* and the holy navel-gazing trinity of Chester Brown, Joe Matt, and Seth; Spiegelman's *Maus* won a Pulitzer; Jessica Abel's *La Perdida* debuted in hardcover from Pantheon; Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, filmed, took an Oscar; and Chris Ware's *New Yorker* covers are almost as frequent as the seasons. Sweet Winsor McCay, do I need to go on? But, yeah, on the other hand ...

2) Everybody gives a shit about superheroes these days. Are you kidding? With *Spider-Man* and *Batman* and *X-Men* generating box-office millions; with top writers like Brian Michael Bendis and Joss Whedon and Grant Morrison revitalizing the genre in page after four-color page of self-reflective yet often violently compelling struggle; with Alan Moore hilariously upping the heroes-per-square-inch ante in his *Top 10* series; with that same Moore's seminal *Watchmen* (finally) in film production up there in the Great White North; with artists like god-of-watercolors Alex Ross, retro-wonder Darwyn Cooke, multiplatform maestro Paul Pope, and so many talented others visualizing the infinite science-fantasy, Kryptonite-riddled, Skrull-infested multiverse; with current real-world technology slowly catching up to the futuristic miracles of Stark Industries ... it's like every day is National Superhero Day up in here. What time is it, people? It's fucking *cllobberin'* time.

3) Everybody likes to get something for free. How about a comic book? How about several comic books? How about almost as many as you can carry? You can do this, at independent comic-book stores all across North America, on Saturday, May 3. It's not exactly a new idea: It's been going on, annually, for six years.

"It's the first Saturday in May now, every year," says Brad Bankston, affable head honcho of Austin Books & Comics. "It's mostly a celebration of comics and a sort of giving-back to the fans, but it has multiple purposes." He counts those purposes off on fingers faintly stained from the back issues he's been attending to in the store's vast archives: "Getting people who already read comic books to try something new, maybe a different comic than what they'd usually buy. Getting new people, who have never read

comics before, into comics. And getting people back into comic books – who might have read them in their youth and given them up for various reasons."

This doesn't mean that you can just walk in on Saturday and snag any title you want, of course; this means that a myriad of companies and stores have joined forces with big-daddy distributor Diamond Comics to offer comics specifically for this day: introductory stories, tie-ins to currently raging story arcs, whimsical one-offs. It's a fun-for-the-whole-family sort of event, with comics geared to different age groups and access restricted, so as not to offend, um, sensibilities, lest the ghost of Fredric Wertham be raised, whining, from the bone orchard or some yutz decides to sue because his precious prog saw a cartoon drawing of Picasso's penis. For a list of available books, see [www.freecomicsbookday.com](http://www.freecomicsbookday.com).

There will be reality-based comics available on this day, and there will also be, yes, illustrated stories starring any number of familiar or obscure superhero-types flexing their derring-do while wearing what seems to be their underwear on the outside. But suppose you wanted to see a few superheroes right before your (very) eyes – in the flesh! – gaining powers, honing skills, battling some power-equivalent Bad Guy to save the world?

4) Improv is the answer, and the answer is, "Yes, and ..."

Coinciding with Free Comic Book Day this year, the Hideout presents the premiere of its newest comedy improvisation series: Ka-Baam!! This is an improv show where the classic audience suggestion will decide the sort of power a hero will have, before the performers unleash their wild narratives in bringing him or her to larger-than-life existence onstage.

Now, there's an excellent idea. But can it work as well as we might hope?

"There's always a danger, in getting suggestions from an audience, that they'll just throw out some jokey suggestion to get a laugh," says Asaf Ronen, the man behind the Austin incarnation of Ka-Baam!! "But I know that there will be people in the audience who are fans of comic books. And all fans of comic books have this idea of the comic book they would write if they had the funding. I'm hoping to get those superhero ideas."

Ronen didn't create Ka-Baam!! himself, but neither did he merely gank it from *The Big Del Close Book of Rainy Day Improv Fun*.

"It started sometime in 1998," says Ronen. "My friend Steve Wacker, who I was doing improv with in New York City, created the idea because he loved comic books. And I've been in the cast – every run of it, pretty much – since '98, and then at one



## FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Free Comic Book Day takes place Saturday, May 3, throughout the nation. Participating area stores include:

**Austin Books & Comics**

5002 N. Lamar, 454-4197

**Battleforge Games**

2700 W. Anderson #402,

323-9600

**Capstone Comics**

2121 W. Parmer #107,

339-4251

**Dragon's Lair**

**Comics & Fantasy**

6111 Burnet Rd., 454-2399

**Funny Papers**

2025 Guadalupe #256

(Dobie Mall), 478-9718

**Juniors Comics**

2110 Slaughter #147,

282-1302

**Kenny's Collectibles of Austin**

440 E. St. Elmo #400,

748-9718

**Ninja Pirate**

100 12th St. #105,

Pflugerville, 512/251-0110

**Rogues Gallery**

**Comics & Games**

1601 S. I-35 #360,

Round Rock,

512/279-8888



Wanna actually buy some comics? Brenner has four recommendations online with this story at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).



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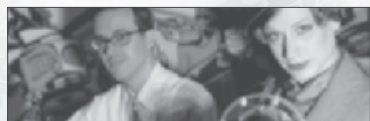
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### SVT presents Intergalactic Nemesis -- May 9

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# CHRONIC

THE GAY PLACE ON WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP ARTS ON REAL OPEN:  
"man-part-showing art"  
- Kate Getty



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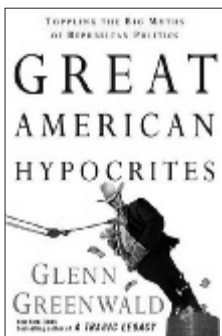
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# BLOGGERS IN PRINT

## GREAT AMERICAN HYPOCRITES: TOPPLING THE BIG MYTHS OF REPUBLICAN POLITICS

by Glenn Greenwald  
Crown, 304 pp., \$24.95



## RIGHT IS WRONG: HOW THE LUNATIC FRINGE HIJACKED AMERICA, SHREDDING THE CONSTITUTION, AND MADE US ALL LESS SAFE

by Arianna Huffington  
Knopf, 400 pp., \$24.95



## IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: THE FEMINIST SURVIVAL GUIDE TO POLITICALLY inhospitable ENVIRONMENTS

by Amanda Marcotte  
Seal Press, 200 pp., \$13.95 (paper)



As the blogosphere comes into prominence this election year, several of its leading voices transition into print. But the fevered pounding of keys aside, is the act of writing books and blogs more similar than dissimilar?

An attorney versed in constitutional law, *Salon* blogger Glenn Greenwald approaches the abuses of the Bush regime with rigorous, unrelenting urgency. His third book, *Great American Hypocrites*, follows a simple idea, exemplified in the empty flight-suit theatrics of our Vietnam-avoiding president or the values-sermonizing of bathroom-trolling Sen. Larry Craig: “[T]hose who playact as powerful Tough Guys and anti-Terrorist Warriors and Crusaders for the Values Voters have lives filled with weakness, fear, unbridled hedonism, unearned privilege, sheltered insulation, and none of the ‘Traditional Masculine Virtues’ they endlessly tout.” He devotes his opening chapter to deconstructing John Wayne, to whom Greenwald personifies the modern right, albeit not in a fashion they’d prefer: war avoidance, broken marriages, and pill-popping. With Greenwald constantly restating that Wayne “is the perfect symbol for the political right-wing movement” because “his actual life was in every respect the precise opposite of what he claimed to be” ad nauseam, it’s highly repetitive – a trait that plagues the book. The rigor making Greenwald unparalleled online leaves him laborious in print. Subsequent chapters are more rewarding, with Greenwald exposing Republican hypocrisy in war-making, morals, and spending. His final chapter attacks John McCain and the sycophantic media spinning his hypocritical “maverick” image. But Greenwald reserves his most damning attacks for the media, honing in on recurrent, perverse, sexual frames – how every Republican politico’s “a tough, swaggering warrior by day, a wholesome family man by night,” while “Democratic and liberal males are demonized as effeminate, effete elitists, and liberal women as emasculating dykes.” Moreover, it’s the mainstream media – talking heads like Chris Matthews – who run with the right’s “freak show,” ensuring a steady diet of John Edwards’ haircuts and Barack Obama’s bowling scores. “It is an endless loop of self-referential narcissism – whatever they endlessly sputter is what ‘the people’ care about,

and therefore they must keep harping on it, because their chatter is proof of its importance.” Or as he surmises, it’s “tantamount to someone who keeps chewing their food and spitting it across the room and then marveling at how filthy things are and writing columns bewilderingly examining how and why the floor is covered with food and what that signifies.”

Mining similar territory is blogging impresario Arianna Huffington’s *Right Is Wrong*. While lacking the single-minded determination of Greenwald’s tome, it substantively but snarkily addresses the failings of the media and modern movement conservatism. With its chapters subdivided by headings and crammed with sidebar detours, it’s practically a print version of the headline-filled, blink-and-you-miss-it HuffingtonPost.com. Huffington summons an outraged but bemused voice throughout: She describes NBC toady Tim Russert’s farmomongering interview of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as “about as priapic a display as you’re ever likely to see outside of a porno film or the monkey cage at the zoo.” Still, Huffington makes sound arguments regarding Republican rule – on the war in Iraq, torture, immigration, and more, “[I]t has become impossible to tell where this [party’s] core stops and the fanatical fringe begins.” From civil liberties to the science on global warming, for Huffington, it’s not right or left, but right and wrong.

Pushing the snark further still is *It’s a Jungle Out There*, from Pandagon blogger (and Austinite) Amanda Marcotte. Catapulted into the national spotlight when tapped to run John Edwards’ campaign blog, only to be attacked for her religious views and unapologetic potty mouth, she lays out a “feminist survival guide” for crises small (“What to Do When *Girls Gone Wild* Comes Knocking,” “Murphy Brown May Have Been Cancelled, but Her Demonic Presence Lingers”), large (“Abortion Is an Industry: Antichoice Myths,” “When Sexism Isn’t Sexism: The Pay Gap”), and icky (“Asshole Bleaching: The New Frontier”). Ribald, bullshit-free, and empowering, it’s perfect for feminists in training – and a great example of transitioning a blog’s discrete observations, irritants, and outbursts into a satisfying whole.

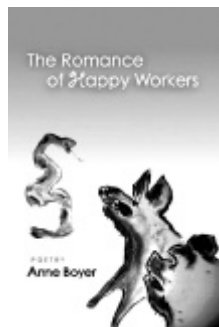
– Wells Dunbar

# POETRY ROUNDUP

## THE ROMANCE OF HAPPY WORKERS

by Anne Boyer  
Coffee House Press, 90 pp., \$16 (paper)

Marxism: “We are never better than the workers!/ There are no Workers left/ There are no Workers left, I’d answer,/but his sickle is hard against my knee.” These are skillful poems, better observed a few at a time than all at once. Boyer’s snaky language loses resonance in large doses, in part because her poems raise more questions than they put forth.



## ROUNDING THE HUMAN CORNERS

by Linda Hogan  
Coffee House Press, 114 pp., \$16 (paper)

The connection between man and nature is the unyielding subject of Linda Hogan’s collection *Rounding the Human Corners*. Hogan is Chickasaw by blood, and, true to her previous collections, her poems often read like transcribed myths, in which humans are indistinguishable from nature and salvation is found in pursuit of the union. “Some say our lives come from the wind,” Hogan writes in the “The Given.” “The human, others say, is made by the mother of corn,/or clay given breath, a rib,/or comes from the great dreaming,/a congress of words and songs.” Many of her lines are breathtaking, and bold in their simplicity. From “Mysterries of the Bed”: “Darkness./ When moths fly away from the blown-out light,/the bed is an island.” Hogan is most evocative when closing in on such gentle details, which come from her, rather than the anonymous, distant “some.” On a minor note, I found myself wishing for less obvious titles. A striking poem about searching and place – about restlessness – is given the unfortunate name of “Restless.”



*Isle of the Signatories*, the sixth collection from Marjorie Welsh, takes a cue from Gertrude Stein’s *Tender Buttons* and evades comprehension. There is much to be admired here, however. Welsh has developed something of a crossover following in the art world, as poet as well as art critic, and *Isle of the Signatories* evokes the discourse of each medium. These poems critique themselves, they critique the contexts of their subjects – walls, signs, flyers, graffiti – and, most notably, play freely with ideas, language, and, of course, representation. One can imagine “Art & Language Writes an Epitaph” all-caps, littered in blocks across the page, exhibited on a gallery wall. And this seems to be one of the points here, that words on the page are but a small part of the meaning and are themselves malleable. “Which modernity?” Welsh asks of us.



A.B. Spellman’s enlivening collection, *Things I Must Have Known*, spans decades of the scholar and jazz critic’s life. Though the majority of the poems were written in the last five years, the reader will find gems from the Jazz Age and commentary on civil rights era violence. There are poignant meditations on women, presumably lost loves, and superb, deadpan musings



on the drudgery of day-to-day corporate life. Some of the most of the affecting lines, however, center around Spellman’s family. In “Toyin’s Sound,” he describes listening to his daughter play Mozart on the English horn, and we see the heart of a father, not a critic, breaking: “her horn/is toyin’s deep voice/singing through my silence/i inhale her sound: i/breathe it backwards,/till the song sings me.”

*Saltwater Empire*, by native Floridian poet Raymond McDaniel, is a haunting portrait of the post-Katrina Gulf Coast. McDaniel conceived of this collection before the storm, and it’s difficult to imagine what the work would have been without its ineffaceable influence. The humid intensity of the region, paired with McDaniel’s use of figurative and literal water imagery, is intoxicating, a sort of metaphoric documentary poetry. “Sea Level” opens the collection: “To know what element of air is unruly rain./What of your weight is wept or lost to sweat./What water can be caught in a photograph folded half/and half again./what witchery remains in a standing piano/what room for choruses before they become other people’s music/what innocence perseveres in boxcars buried beneath sea level.” – Yvonne Georgina Puig





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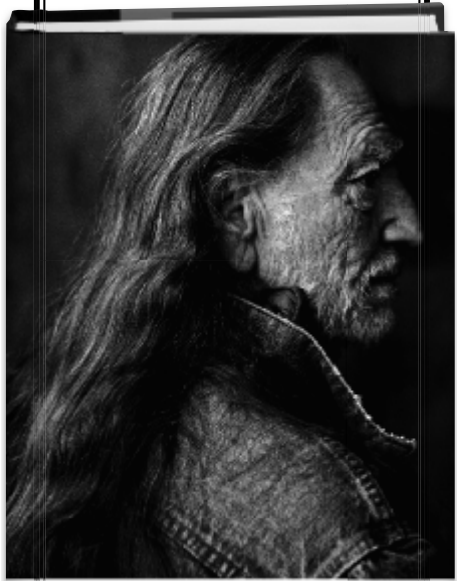
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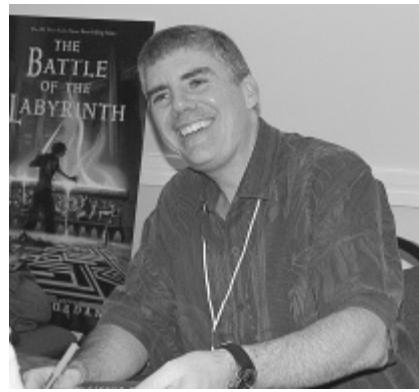
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# AFTER A FASHION BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

**MONDAY** Hangover day of rest after a hellish (but fabulous) weekend of philanthropy and debauchery.

**TUESDAY** I, along with our usual gaggle of fashionistas, judged the **UT Apparel Design** majors' senior projects, from the bold and the beautiful to the tired and the uninspired. We were inspired to give a prize for **Most Belligerent** to a particularly prickly student whose skin, in our opinion, is waaay too thin to be in the fashion business.

**WEDNESDAY** I'd avoided working up until this point but could no longer put it off. I dove into a pile of virtual messages, correspondence, press releases, and phone calls. Fortunately, dinnertime gave a lovely reprieve, and I had dinner with friends at **Taste**, the new restaurant on West Cesar Chavez. The verdict? Faaabulous.

**THURSDAY** Tragedy struck. I woke up late and discovered something funny in my mouth (no, it wasn't that). During the night, I'd lost the veneer on my front tooth and had apparently swallowed it, leaving this little brown nub of a tooth for all the world to see. I scrambled and frothed until I found someone who could see me on short notice. The **Austin Dental Spa** ([www.austindentalspa.com](http://www.austindentalspa.com)) on Northland is incredible. From the sympathetic receptionist who took my panicky phone call and booked me immediately to the lovely decor to the amenities (including an herbal shoulder wrap and hand massage) to the handsome, funny, and smart dentist right out of Central Casting, **Dr. Mark Sweeney**, the experience was superior to any dental service I've ever had. However, I was running so late I missed the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden Party**, which is one of my favorite parties every year, but caught the end of the **Fave** magazine party and then hung at **Estilo** after their

**Spring Fashion Show.** An exhausting schedule, yes? How do I do it all?

**FRIDAY** 10am, **Pink Hair Salon** for a styling appointment for a 1:30pm photo shoot. After a grueling session of posing and modeling (now I understand why **Linda Evangelista** said, "Christy and I don't get out of bed for less than \$10,000 a day"), I had to rush home to figure out what to wear to the **UT Fashion Show**. I told you that the fashion business wasn't all glamour – and as **Judy Garland** once said, "You can't eat glamour for breakfast." The show was predictably lavish (it is the largest annual fashion show in town), but I can tell you that many of the things we judged on Tuesday looked very different on the runway.

**SATURDAY** Last week when my dear friend **Mark Erwin** asked me if I'd do him a favor, little did I know that it would involve putting on some kind of drag and making an appearance at the crack of dawn for the **Hill Country Ride for AIDS**. Mark was in charge of **Pit Stop No. 1** for the ride, and our job was to entertain and provide refreshments for the riders. The theme was **Studio 54**, and we had an all-star lineup: **Liza Minnelli, Andy Warhol, Elton John, Diana Ross, Truman Capote, Gloria Gaynor, a fat Liz Taylor**, and assorted disco denizens. I appeared as **Halston** in black leather jeans, black cashmere turtleneck, red cashmere jacket, shades (of course), "cocaine" residue on my nostrils, and a vintage bottle of **Halston Z-14**. Well, it wasn't really drag since I'd worked variations of the outfit all through the holidays, but, well, it had been a busy week, and I hadn't had much time to prepare. We decked the place out with a multi-colored dance floor, mirror balls, a Studio 54 sign, fur rugs, and other Seventies relics and welcomed the riders with blar-



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**Pit Stop No. 1** starring (front) **Truman Capote**, (middle l-r) **Disco Diva** and **Diana Ross**, (back l-r) **Disco Divo**, **Liza Minnelli**, **Halston**, **Fat Liz Taylor**, and **Andy Warhol**

ing disco music, snacks, drinks, and an all-you-can-snort "cocaine" bar (OK, it was really just talcum powder, but after all, *nothing* says Studio 54 more than fat rails of white powder). "Welcome to Studio 54! Would you like to try my new Halston fragrance?" I said as I spritzed the waves of riders as they pulled in. I did not expect to have so much fun.

**DON'T FORGET** The **Mildred Pierce Pie Social** is Sunday, May 4, 2pm, at the **Alamo Drafthouse** on South Lamar.

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

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# food

54 TASTE SELECT WINES/MR. CATFISH  
56 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

## 'MILDRED PIERCE' PIE SOCIAL

In the early days of my dessert/catering business, I had a young cook friend named Eddie Behrhorst who often helped me in the kitchen. He was a huge **Joan Crawford** fan and absolutely loved her Oscar-winning performance in **Mildred Pierce**, where she played a woman who turned a pie business into a successful restaurant. On tough days he would quote lines from the movie, calling me Mildred and referring to himself as Veda (her bratty slut of a daughter). He even christened my car "the pie wagon." I have lots of laughs attached to that campy film-noir classic. Fast-forward to the present day: I have another friend who loves old Joan Crawford movies, and I have the opportunity to use our mutual affinity for **Mildred Pierce** as a way to raise some money for him when he really needs it.

As many of you may know, my *Chronicle* colleague Stephen Moser has advanced, inoperable prostate cancer. A group of his female friends, calling ourselves "Stephen's Angels," are raising money for his care and comfort. We're holding the **Mildred Pierce Pie Social at the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar**. It's one of their classic movie feasts with a distinctive twist – we'll be serving 20 different kinds of pie donated by area restaurants and caterers, along with



Butterfly McQueen (l) and Joan Crawford in Warner Bros.' *Mildred Pierce*

**Amy's** Mexican Vanilla ice cream and coffee from **Texas Coffee Traders**. We'll have famous local pies such as the Ancho Fudge Pie from **Z'Tejas**, the Chocolate Ice Box Pie from the **Frisco Shop**, sweet-potato pie from **Hoover's Cooking**, and apple pie from **Royers in Round Top**. Kathy Leverett from **R.O.'s Outpost** has created a new Jalapeño Dutch Apple Pie just for the occasion, and caterer **Suzanne Court** is bringing Blood Orange Meringue Pie in a pistachio

crust. (Check out the entire menu online.) In addition to classic film and classic pies, Stephen's fabulous collection of Joan Crawford memorabilia will be on sale that day, as well. We hope the Pie Social will appeal to Joan Crawford movie buffs, pie lovers, and Stephen's fans and friends who'd like to help him out. A \$30 ticket gets you all that. Join us for pie and a good time on Sunday, May 4, at 2pm. Order tickets online at [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com). – V.B.W.

## EVENT MENU: MAY 3-7

► **Texas Hills Vineyard** (830/868-2321, [www.texashillsvineyard.com](http://www.texashillsvineyard.com)) near Johnson City presents an evening of jazz with the **Jamie Hilboldt Trio**, including a glass each of red and white wine, nibbles, and a souvenir glass. \$25, reservation necessary. Saturday, May 3, 7pm.

► Filmmaker and author **George Motz** will discuss his cross-country trek in search of America's best hamburgers (which included stops at **Hut's**, **Casino el Camino**, and **Dirty Martin's Place** in Austin) and sign copies of *Hamburger America* (Running Press) at **Borders** in the Domain (3309 Esperanza Crossing). Tuesday, May 6, 7pm.

► **Share Our Strength's** annual **Taste of the Nation** benefit for hunger relief will feature dishes from area chefs **Jack Gilmore** of **Z'Tejas**, **David Garrido** of **Chuy's**, **Bruce Auden** of **Biga on the Banks**, **Robert Rhoades** of **Hudson's on the Bend**, **Kent Rathbun** of **Jasper's**, **Alma Alcocer-Thomas** of **Jeffrey's**, **Rebecca Rather** of **Rather Sweet Bakery & Cafe**, **Jonathan Gelman** of the **Driskill Grill**, and **Tyson Cole** of **Uchi** paired with fine wines and liquors. The dinner will be held at Jasper's in the Domain, and tickets are \$150 per person. Buy tickets at 448-2801 or [www.strength.org](http://www.strength.org). Sunday, May 4, 6:30-9pm.

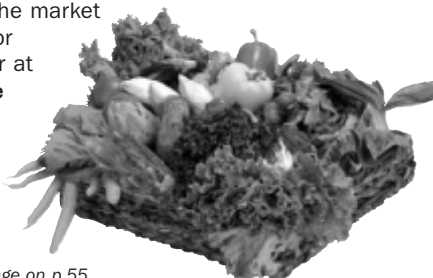
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► The **Sustainable Food Center** has invited area chefs and winemakers to join in its first **Farm to Plate** benefit for the **Austin Farmers' Market in Triangle Park** (4600 Guadalupe). Chefs will present tasting portions of dishes based on produce and prepared foods regularly sold at the market. Pay the \$60 ticketless entry fee at the market on Saturday or Wednesday or at [www.sustainablefoodcenter.org](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org). Wednesday, May 7, 5-8pm.  
– V.B.W.

more Food coverage on p.55



## FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

The trend of customizing desserts that started with mix-ins or crush-ins in flavors of ice cream has spread to cupcakes and cookies. **Lori Schneider**, owner of **Figs Catering** ([www.figscatering.com](http://www.figscatering.com)), included a cupcake bar in a catered event last year, and the concept proved so popular, she ultimately had to create a new business entity to handle the demand. Now party-givers can share this charming retro concept by booking the **Cupcake Bar** ([www.thecupcakebaraustin.com](http://www.thecupcakebaraustin.com)), Schneider's newest venture – where "entertaining takes the cake." The two-tier menu offers a per-person charge for various flavors of cupcakes, fillings, frostings, and toppings, plus beverages, ice cream, and a cupcake bartender to set up, serve, and clean up. I sampled a selection of Schneider's cupcakes after her recent launch party and was especially fond of the "nuts about chocolate" variety. Look for another new business with this same kind of groove to open in the West Campus area this summer. Pastry chef **Mark Chapman** is busy getting the **Cookie Lounge** ready to debut in the street level of a new high-rise on Rio Grande. We're told the new spot will feature several varieties of cookie batter with add-ins of your choice. Cookies are baked to order and served warm on the spot. Custom cookie orders will be available for parties, corporate gifts, and special deliveries along with many of Chapman's signature small desserts. Sounds delightful... If you happen to run into Fredericksburg Pastry Queen **Rebecca Rather** while she's in town serving desserts at two high-profile charity events in the coming week, be sure to congratulate her on winning an **International Association of Culinary Professionals** Cookbook Award for her second book, **The Pastry Queen Christmas** (Ten Speed Press)... Three lady friends who live in Southwest Austin joined me at the VIP opening party for the newest **Chuy's** (4301 W. William Cannon, 899-2489) outlet in the **Arbor Trails** shopping center recently. The newest addition to the successful homegrown chain features the same good food and drinks, colorful decor, and boisterous Chuy's atmosphere Austinites have embraced for years. My guests are very pleased to have them in the neighborhood... Folks in Northwest Hills welcomed an eagerly awaited Mexican restaurant to their neighborhood when the second outlet of **El Chile Cafe y Cantina** (3435 Greystone #112, 284-7863) opened last Friday night. The new location is casual and comfy with both a spacious terrace and a sit-down bar area in which to enjoy El Chile's enticing menu and signature cocktails... And speaking of drinks on a great patio, the folks at **Fino** (2905 San Gabriel, 474-2905) are very eager to share their refreshing new happy-hour offerings for summer. Drop in any weekday between 5 and 7pm for half off on all pink and sparkling wines, \$2 off on cocktails, \$1 off on beers, and tantalizing small plates for less than \$4.

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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Taste Select Wines is part of the burgeoning Downtown wine-bistro scene. It offers a good selection of hand-picked wines, and their 350 retail wines are available at reasonable prices, close to or just more than what you'd expect at Whole Foods or Central Market, and the corkage fee is a flat \$10. They also have a good choice of wines by the glass or half-glass (49 wines priced between \$7 and \$26.50 a glass). I should have been trying a wider variety of their wines by the glass, but I loved the J.M. Boillot Puligny-Montrachet (\$9 for a 3-ounce glass, \$17.50 for a 6-ounce glass) so much that I just kept ordering it.

Taste also has 48 wines in the innovative Enomatic system. Guests are issued a card (a system requested by the TABC), then serve themselves any of the wines in multiples of 1.5-ounce servings. Prices vary from \$2 for a serving of Terredora Dipaolo Falanghina to \$20.60 for a Penfolds Grange. The Enomatic system keeps a layer of inert gas in the bottle, on top of the wine, which isolates the wine from the damaging forces of oxygen. That way, each glass will be as fresh as if it had been just opened. When you've had enough, return the card and Taste will charge you for whatever you've poured.

For folks still learning about wine, Taste usually has several people (especially Tanya and Kristi) who are well-educated in the selection to assist. Just tell them a price, what you intend to eat, and a few other wines you usually like, and they'll steer you right.

The small menu is designed to be wine friendly, and most items are exploding with flavor, so a little care with wine choice will pay off. Taste's secret weapon is chef Bill McGrory, late of Chicago's Custom House and New York's Mesa Grill and Craft, who makes sophisticated and creative food.

Carnivores must try McGrory's mouth-watering house-cured bacon on the charcuterie plate (\$16) or on the house bacon panini (\$12). On our second visit to Taste, five people from the wine trade were scattered around the restaurant having lunch. Three had ordered the bacon panini; 60% of a knowledgeable crew is a pretty good indicator. I stuck with the charcuterie plate, and I loved the foie gras, prosciutto, and *bresaola*, but the bacon was so good that I asked for more.

Sushi fans should try the ahi tuna (\$7 for a small plate, \$12 for a large one), the embodiment of simplicity: just a few thin slices of perfectly fresh tuna with a couple of razor-thin slices of preserved lemon. It takes a confident chef to let his ingredients speak for themselves.

If you want something a little more robust, the wild-boar sausage (\$9) is rich and intense and served on a bed of sautéed peppers, onions, and tomatoes. Or the duck rillettes panini (\$12) that uses an obscure French technique where the duck is cooked very slowly, then shredded and mixed with a bit of duck fat. Once cooled, the French spread it on bread. Taste's version also has Taleggio cheese and roasted *maitake* (aka Hen of the Woods) mushrooms. Delicious.

My favorite dish is the Colorado Lamb Chops (\$17/\$32). These aren't traditional lamb chops. Instead, you get ribs from a rack of lamb, cooked exactly to order. This is another dish where McGrory lets top-notch ingredients speak for themselves. What raises the dish out of the ordinary is the lamb sweetbread on the side of the plate. Offal eaters rejoice. It is cooked perfectly so that it's still juicy and the texture is just right.

We also enjoyed the braised pork belly with grits and haricots verts (\$14/\$24). The pork belly tastes like McGrory wisely used some of the same sweets, herbs, and spices he uses on his bacon. If you're averse to pork fat, ask them to find a leaner piece. I like the fat, but mine was two-thirds fat and one-third meat.

We only had one misstep at Taste. The *pappardelle* (\$17) sounded great, with radicchio, truffle butter, prosciutto, and asparagus. Unfortunately, it was so oversalted as to be inedible. Since everything else was so good, I decided to order it again on a second trip, to see if we had just gotten a bad batch. Unfortunately, it was the same.

Service at Taste was always enthusiastic and helpful. We did have one waitperson whose wine and food knowledge didn't quite match his enthusiasm, but he was happy to research anything we asked about. Our other server was good enough that he would fit at the best restaurants in town.

Taste is not a megacorporate, multifacility chain. It's owned by two local brothers and their wives, Reagan and Kristi Mayces and Ryan and Tanya Mayces. They have done a beautiful job of creating a space that is both contemporary and comfy. With a huge crowd, Taste is loud, but a romantic couple can still have a quiet conversation. During lunch, when it is unaccountably not full, the place is quiet enough for a business meeting.

Downtown Austin's wine bar business is surging. Taste's balance of good wine, tasty food, and enjoyable atmosphere should earn it a good piece of that trade.

— Wes Marshall

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David Lott's fried-catfish empire has proven its longevity, with the original location on Springdale (a few blocks east of Airport Boulevard) open going on 14 years now and the Rundberg location (one block east of I-35) open for seven years. Both locations are all about the food, with comfortable but unguessed ambience and decoration; to use the word "funky" wouldn't be a stretch, especially in describing the music. Orders are placed at the counter, and then you wait for your number to be called. Everyone you deal with is friendly and pleasant.

The quasi-Creole menu is detailed on the website, but in short, it offers fried catfish, whitefish (tilapia fillet), shrimp, oysters, chicken strips, and chicken wings as platters, combo platters, po'boys, or buckets, in quantities from three to 30 pieces or more. There's lots of frying happening at either location. Catfish can be had as whole fish, fillet, fillet strip, and nugget.

Boudin is also featured as links or as fried balls (more on those later), by the unit or as a combo meal. Boudin, for the uninitiated, is a spicy Louisiana sausage made from rice, pork, pork liver, and Creole seasonings. Last but not least are the baskets of chicken gizzards, not on

the menu, but usually available for \$2.99 a basket; a popular item that elicits lots of whining from the crowd when they run out.

All dinners come with a choice of two sides from a lengthy list of options. Gumbo is done as more of a soup than what you might be expecting, but it is delectable as a soup: chicken and sausage at the Rundberg spot, while Springdale was serving chicken, sausage, and shrimp a few days later. Red beans and rice with sausage is nice, though done with pintos instead of small red or kidney beans. Collard greens are spicy and slightly sour, as if they were cooked with some vinegar-green-pepper sauce; we love collards in any form, and they're difficult to find on a menu.

Slaw is fine, dressed here with a vinegar-mayo. Potato salad is mustardy, smooth with chunks, and very tasty. The fries are standard issue, and we didn't try the fresh salad. Fried okra appears to be done in-house and is excellent. Hush puppies are the frozen extruded log type rather than the crunchier round version.

We sampled many of the items at Rundberg by ordering the Super Combo (\$15.95) with the gumbo and red beans and rice. Catfish fillet and tilapia are both done in a thickish and spicy cornmeal batter, with the fish inside moist and delicious. Shrimp are butterflied and panko-crusted, sweet and tasty, but a bit too perfect to be battered in-house. For some reason, my three chicken strips turned out to be



one chicken wing, and one of my three oysters had decided to leave for parts unknown. The hush puppies aren't my favorite form, but they are convenient for soaking up collard pot liquor and bean juice. The okra is addictive.

We tried catfish and shrimp, chicken strips, slaw and spud salad, gumbo and red beans and rice at Springdale and found them having a slight edge over Rundberg tastewise. The excep-

tion is the chicken strips at Springdale, with a very crunchy and thickly battered coating. The meat inside was good but the batter way too thick. Boudin balls (three with fries, \$4.99) are wonderful. Cornmeal-coated, fried balls of boudin about the size of a big golf ball, with a meaty, ricey, spicy, steaming interior when you break them open. Anything that entices me to eat liver and love it should be illegal.

— Mick Vann

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If you had a secret enclosed space right in the middle of the city, shaded by big trees and fed by a little spring, what would you do with it? If you're **Lauren Tolley**, proprietor of **Talulah Bleu Tarrytown Florist**, you'd turn it into a charming, pocket-sized farmers' and artisans' market.

"I lived in Munich for several years, and it's been my dream to create a neighborhood outdoor market like the ones everywhere in Europe," says Tolley. "West Austin needs more public gathering places."

The city's newest farmers' market has deep Austin roots. Tolley grew up in Hemphill Park; she returned three years ago after a decadelong absence, during which she earned an arts degree from Tulane, lived in Germany, and worked as a legislative analyst and political consultant in California. Her original idea was to find a shop or a gallery, but upon seeing that the venerable Tarrytown Florist on Exposition Boulevard appeared to have closed, she investigated and learned that it was in escrow for sale to a developer. When that deal fell through, she immediately bought the property.

Tarrytown Florist has an impressive history. Austin native **R.A. Lewis** opened the business in 1946 and worked in the same location until his death in 2000. The shop was so well known that it didn't need a sign; regular clients included **Lady Bird Johnson**, former Gov. **Miriam "Ma" Ferguson**, and Texas first lady **Marialice Shivers**. Lewis' widow, Mary Etta, and daughter, Suzanne Lewis, continued running the shop until they sold it to Tolley. With the business, she inherited "the oldest nursery/agricultural license in the state, granted to R.A. Lewis' father around the turn of the century."

Tolley says, "I hadn't planned on being a florist, but it just seemed wrong to close such a respected historic business." So she hired a master florist and began learning how to arrange flowers. The shop's

focus is on local and organic plants and blossoms; it also showcases the work of local artists and crafts designers. "I always thought I'd call a daughter Talulah, and Bleu was my grandmother's name. The shop is really my first child, so that's where the name came from."

Along with the flower shop, Tolley acquired the wooded, spring-fed plot of land behind it - this is the area that she's landscaping and developing into an event space and the Saturday morning Tarrytown Farmers' Market. "It's been a gigantic rehab project, an exercise in adaptive reuse," she says. "It's like a little wild world in the center of town."

The market is open weekly on Saturday mornings. Currently, there are about 25 vendors, selling everything from goat cheeses to vintage belt buckles to soy candles to local honey. You enter the pleasant market space through an arched walkway beside the flower shop; there's ample parking across the street at Casis Elementary School. There's live music and chair massage therapy each week, and yoga teacher Krista Phillips conducts **Yoga Kids** exercises every half hour during the market. And of course, there are gorgeous flowers available in the adjacent shop.

As yet, there are only a couple of local farmers providing fresh organic produce for the market, but Tolley expects more as the summer growing season progresses. While there are a number of regional farmers interested in selling at the market, the current high cost of fuel is something of a deterrent to bringing their produce into town. "The farmers want to be sure there's enough customer traffic before they open stands," Tolley says. "And shoppers want to see more local, organic produce. It's kind of a Catch-22." Nonetheless, she's convinced that the market will only continue to grow with support from her Tarrytown neighbors. "I've been getting great feedback from the neighborhood," she says.

For info about shopping or selling at the Tarrytown Farmers' Market, call Charlotte Butterworth at Talulah Bleu (391-9393 or 391-9700).  
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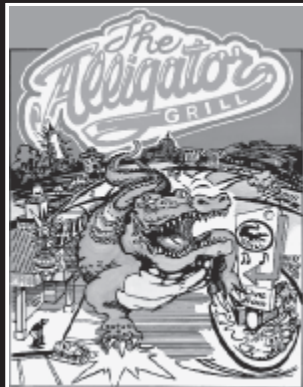
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# Screens

62 BACKPACK PICNIC

66 MATT DENTLER

67 TV EYE

92 FILM LISTINGS

## Salute Your Undershorts

### The secret Hollywood history behind No Pants Day

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

Conventional wisdom has it that No Pants Day (which takes place this Friday, May 2) had its beginnings in Austin in the mid-1980s and is little more than a good-natured lark free of any political or social intent – just a bunch of breezy young adults with nothing better to do than wander the streets in their underwear, scaring children and dogs. But the truth is actually much more sinister. New research has revealed that Trouser-Free Day was actually started in Hollywood in 1928 by a secret cabal of gin-soaked movie producers, writers, and actors interested as much in flaunting societal convention and toppling democracy as they were in making movies, a group that included such closet anarchists and degenerates as Norma Shearer, Conrad Veldt, Samuel Goldwyn, Adolph Zukor, Lillian Gish, Will Rogers, the entire cast of King Vidor's *The Big Parade*, and Wallace Beery (who, honoring the wishes of the other members of the group, kept his pants on). Rumor has it the party was the height of Roaring Twenties liberal immorality and political rabble-rousing (though no rabble were actually invited), capped off by a naked Buster Keaton reading aloud from *Das Kapital* and guzzling mulled wine while standing on Mary Pickford's shoulders.

Needless to say, the influence of Hollywood's Trouser-Free Day on the movies was immediate and pervasive, sullyng a once-pure medium with dirty thoughts. Because of those first pantsless ne'er-do-wells, our decent, old-fashioned multiplexes are now packed with the most brazen and unnatural kind of lower-body nudity.

Here are some of the most prominent, and most shameless, moments in the long, dark history of pants-free filmmaking; they are all shining examples of the moral emptiness of our cinematic taste-makers and the continuing influence of socialist ideology and the underwear lobby on our teetering culture.

#### Greetings, Herr Duck (1934):

Following the success of the early Trouser-Free Day parties, honorary group member Walt Disney announces that several of his new animated characters will go without pants, including Donald Duck, Chip & Dale, and the entire cast of the rarely seen pre-World War II short film "Our Friend, the Nazi Propaganda Machine." Disney Studios mascot Mickey Mouse, who was originally drawn naked, is later clothed by animators when Disney realizes his star creation had been circumcised and was, therefore, possibly a Jew.

#### HUAC (1947):

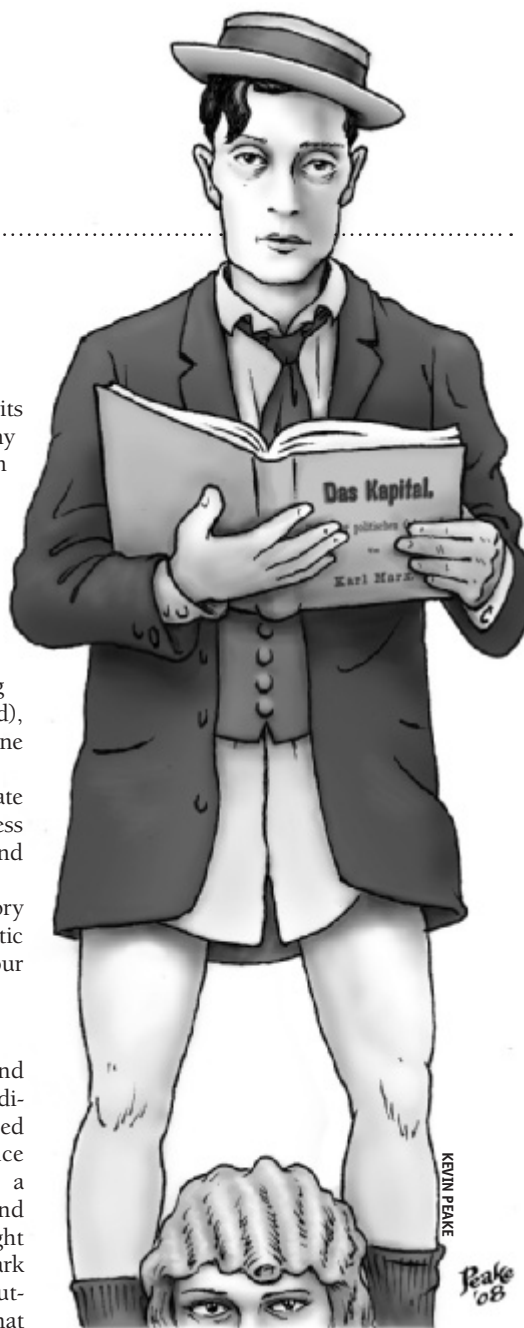
The first draft of screenwriter Lester Cole's script for *Objective, Burma!* features Errol Flynn leading a group of American soldiers on a mission behind enemy lines wearing little more than olive-green jockey shorts. Though Flynn is lauded for his performance (and his legs), Cole is promptly arrested on suspicion of Communist sympathies, convicted, and jailed as one of the Hollywood 10 by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Cole maintains his innocence until his death in 1985, proclaiming in a 1978 interview with *Life* magazine, "I just thought Errol looked better in underpants."

#### The Seventh Seal (1957):

Ingmar Bergman, Swedish director and devout immoralist, thumbs his nose at tradition by putting Death in a robe in his famed 1957 comedy. Bergman claims ignorance when confronted by Pope Pius XII with a quote from the New Testament: "And yea and lo, I say unto you Death shall come at night wearing a pair of brown corduroys" (Mark 7:153b). Shocked by the resulting public outcry, Bergman assures his wary producers that Death will be clad in "stylish shorts" for the film's sequel.

#### Risky Business (1983):

Before becoming an American hero in 1986 by starring in *Top Gun* and then again in 2005 by schtupping Katie Holmes, Tom Cruise engages in car theft, the solicitation of prostitutes, elevated-train intercourse, parental hi-fi stereo-equalizer manipulation, and other acts of casual debauchery, all the result of his wearing little more than a pair of white briefs, proving once and for all that pantslessness is next to Godlessness and that Bob Seger belongs in prison.



#### Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008):

Producer Judd Apatow's one-man crusade to eliminate pants entirely from Hollywood reaches its nadir, with star Jason Segel fully exposing himself onscreen for no less than 90 seconds. At one of the film's early screenings, shots of Segel's genitalia lead to a riot in the theatre and the fainting-related injuries of at least two elderly women, inspiring one newspaper columnist to compare the movie to Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Orson Welles' radio production of *The War of the Worlds* for sheer cultural impact. That columnist is promptly fired by his newspaper, *The Poughkeepsie Morning Tattler*, for unforgivable idiocy and later takes a job in television.

## ASIA FEST MINI FILM FEST

Former director of the Austin Asian Film Festival Masashi Niwano has added one "A" and one "F" to his résumé with his newly formed and similarly minded organization, the Austin Asian American Film Foundation. AAAFF has big plans for an October film festival, but in the meantime, it's sponsoring an abbreviated film fest, as part of the all-day Asia Fest celebration this Saturday, May 3 (see Community Listings, p.80). A number of shorts will be shown, starting at 2pm,

followed by two features: Derek Shimoda's lighthearted doc about everybody's favorite after-dinner fortune in a snack, *The Killing of a Chinese Cookie* (screens at 4pm), and Michael Kang's well-received coming-of-age feature, *The Motel*, which premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival (screens at 7pm). – Kimberley Jones

The Asia Fest mini film fest takes place Saturday, May 3, at the Asian American Resource Center grounds (8301 Cameron). For more information, visit [www.aaaff.org](http://www.aaaff.org).

## DVD WATCH

### ALAIN DELON: 5-FILM COLLECTION

Studio Canal/Lions Gate, \$39.98

Cinema Française cancans a chorus line of feminine pulchritude from Arletty to Vanessa Paradis, Jeanne Moreau to Brigitte Bardot, and still, former French marine and Sinatra-esque tough guy Alain Delon burned *froid et chaud* with the best of them. Catherine Deneuve's royal impassivity, upon which filmmakers and filmgoers project personification while agog with her radiance, found its male counterpart in Delon. Italians Visconti and Antonioni leveraged this sublime blank slate second only to the great Jean-Pierre Melville's Delon-shot crime trioka: *Le Samourai* (1967), *Le Cercle Rouge* (1970), and Deneuve-iced *Un Flic* (1972). Among those greatest hits, add at least one more from this five-film set on three DVDs. *The Swimming Pool* (1969) teams the then-midthirtysomething actor with an equally supple Romy Schneider as St. Tropez getaways dropped in on by her ex and his bored teenager (Jane Birkin). Delon, Schneider, and Birkin – all bronzed and cavorting by *la piscine* – devastate more than the film's tense *mise-en-scène*. *Diabolically Yours* (1967) capped the long career of

writer-director Julien Duvivier (*Pépé le Moko*), who was killed in a car wreck following its release. In it, Austrian spellbinder Senta Berger – Sharon Tate meets Ann-Margret – brings her amnesiac pretty boy back to their country castle, which may or

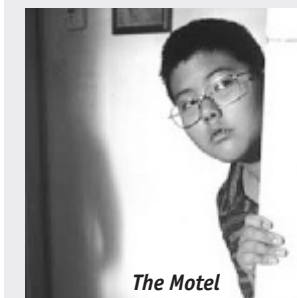
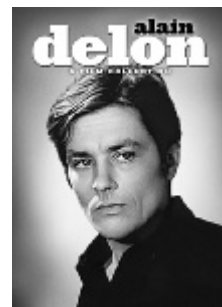
may not be powered by *Gaslight*. 1971 sleeper *The Widow Couderc* pairs up Delon's escaped murderer with French moviedom's first lady, Simone Signoret, between world wars and under the prying minds of poison relations. Terminally compromised Paul Meurisse (*Army of Shadows*) offests the trashy machismo of Delon-produced *The Gypsy* (1975), hats, scarves, knives, and guns barely disguising the star's baggy languor. Pushing 50 a decade later in *Our Story* (1984), Delon's runny blues and apex brows hang in the balance of a typically twisted sex farce by Bertrand Blier, six years removed from his Best Foreign Language Film Oscar for *Get Out Your Handkerchiefs*. A cable absurdity spiked oddly existential, its messy premise ("The nympho and the drunk," pronounces Delon, "love at first sight on a train") plays out classical *amour fou* to Schubert and Beethoven like *The Nutcracker* for holiday suicides. Revealed only in conclusion, *Our Story* manages to expose Delon's true grace. – Raoul Hernandez

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"Remembering, out of the black silence, you were born in pain." Lionel Stander's unbilled narration chisels this swift, Melvillean, hit man hit-and-run written, directed, and starring Allen Baron in 1961. "You were born with hate and anger built in. It took a slap on the backside to blast out the scream."

**Mafioso (Criterion, \$29.95):** Pie-faced funniman Alberto Sordi holds his own against beauties Marcello Mastroianni and Stefania Sandrelli in respective Criterion boot-hooping delicacies *Divorce Italian Style* and *Seduced and Abandoned*. You can never go home again if you're a vacationing Sicilian in need of a favor.



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# Don't Everybody Panic, but Online Sketch Troupe Backpack Picnic Has Definitely Gone What They Call 'Viral' and Is Also About to Contaminate the Alamo Drafthouse

The Centers for Disease Control have yet to return our calls

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Modern life can be a tricky thing. Sometimes, in order to keep yourself from obsessively contemplating the possibility of a local terrorist attack based on the use of weaponized, airborne Ebola Zaire, you need to clear your mind with a little picnic. Maybe, even better, with a *Backpack Picnic*. Although, yeah, a backpack: That's just the sort of vessel in which a person could, especially in a college town, covertly but with malicious intent, transport an effective quantity of weaponized, airborne Ebola Zaire.

"Well, I assume you could transport it in any container that was big enough, zippered or otherwise," suggests Mitch Baker, the scriptwriting brain behind *Backpack Picnic*, the quartet of comedy savants currently wrapping its third season of episodes for Austin's ON Networks.

**Austin Chronicle:** So, okay, the backpack thing, that's just a coincidence. But you do admit it's a bit unnerving, yes? That your troupe would just happen to be called *Backpack Picnic*, while the best method for transporting a weaponized, airborne version of—

**Mitch Baker:** Listen, guy, I thought you wanted to ask about our DVD release party at the Alamo.

And of course we did ask, and we'll be getting to that soon. But first you need to know, if you don't already, who these people are. You also need to know where they came from and why they shoot their episodes in Austin (often employing many of the city's top performers) and what they have to do with local filmmaker René Pinnell, nephew of the legendary Eagle Pennell and epitome of young, square-jawed cineastes everywhere (see "Direct(or) to Video," p.64). You may not need to know there is no known treatment for hemorrhagic fever caused by the virus Ebola Zaire — which, even in its natural, unweaponized form, has a kill rate of 9-in-10 — but we'd suggest keeping this fact firmly in mind, just in case.

*Backpack Picnic* creates sketches about, among other things, an enigmatic multinational firm called Corpocom, where hunting baby cheetahs is a team-building sport; their own musical incarnation as Eurotrashy New Wave band Splitstream; a neighborhood bakery that

sells hate-filled cookies and cakes; transplanted human organs that get rejected — correction: ejected — due to typos on boilerplate waivers; the magical, future-revealing power of the Cyclops Eye; and, yes, so much more. They've been compared to Monty Python and Kids in the Hall and Mr. Show, yadda yadda, but we've also detected a distinct inflection of Ernie Kovacs in their genetic material. They're smart enough to be funny in highly intelligent ways; they're also smart enough to be funny being stupid.

The troupe comprises four main stars — Mitch Baker, David Bewley, Shannon McCormick, and Jeremy Lamb — and is the larger phoenix risen from the MTV-torched ashes of what were the Edmond Bulldogs, Baker and Bewley's surreal sketch-comedy duo.

"David and I started out in Oklahoma," says Baker. "The very first time we got together was in 1995. We'd just graduated from college."

"No," says Bewley, "I was still in college."

"Ah, yeah," amends Baker, "he was still in college. And we and several other friends decided to start a comedy troupe, because we liked being funny onstage."

"So we wrote a show," says Bewley. "And we did that show, and it went over really well, so we decided to do another one."

"We called ourselves One Hit Wonder," says Baker. "It was five guys at the start, then grew to seven. And this was all in Oklahoma — Edmond, Oklahoma. And, long story shorter,



The Four Couchmen of the Backpackalypse: (l-r) Mitch Baker, Jeremy Lamb, David Bewley, Shannon McCormick

we kind of took a break around 2000. We went our separate ways for a while, and then Dave and I got back together here in Austin."

"I didn't want to go back to Oklahoma," says Bewley, "but I didn't want to stay in L.A."

Baker and Bewley had been to Austin before — One Hit Wonder had been a part of the Big Stinkin' Improv & Sketch Festival and had played the (late, lamented) Bad Dog Comedy Club — and they'd liked it. By the time they returned here, improv trailblazer Jeremy Lamb had started the Out of Bounds Improv Festival and Miniature Golf Tournament.

"We missed the first one, somehow," says Baker. "But we went to Jeremy, and we were like, 'Hey, we'd like to do some sketches ...?' And Jeremy said, 'Sure; the festival's in a month.' And so I wrote, I dunno, about seven sketches in a couple weeks. And David and I rehearsed and performed them, and it felt really good again. We were calling ourselves the Edmond Bulldogs at the time. That was our high school mascot — we went to the same high school — so that was our new name."

"And then," says Bewley, "the second time we performed at Out of Bounds, René [Pinnell] saw us. And he liked our stuff a lot and asked about the possibility of shooting something together. It started out that we were just going to shoot a sketch, but it turned into us shooting a whole little homemade pilot, like for a series. This was at the beginning of '05. And then, like the week after we'd finished shooting, Mitch moved to L.A."

"I'd gotten very fortunate here with some feature-film roles that made my résumé look cool," says Baker. "I only have, like, two lines in each one; but I thought, well, I've always wanted to be an actor, so lemme see if I can get more work out there. So I moved to L.A."

"And I stayed here," says Bewley.

"Here" is Austin, where this interview was conducted. Specifically: outside an office building on South Congress, during a break from shooting the latest *Backpack Picnic* episode.

"Actually, no," says Shannon McCormick, the afternoon sun glinting off his freshly shaved noggin as he leans against a railing with the three other Backpackers, a movie crew bustling around them and arranging props for the next scene. "Right now we're shooting a commercial for a video-game company."

"We've already done this month's *Backpack* episodes," confirms Baker. "This is a different job."

Ah, right, of course. But so what happened with the Bulldogs' sketch pilot?

"You should ask the director," says Baker, nodding toward the young man walking up with a large video camera on his shoulder.

"It took about six months for me to get around to editing that pilot," says Pinnell. He sets the camera down very carefully. "And I gave it to all my friends and told them, 'Do what you can with it.' And one of them came through — they got it to some obscure assistant, who gave it to her boss, who sent it over to Jackie French's assistant at MTV. And Jackie French eventually saw it. And she sent it to L.A. And some assistant there watched it, and then a bunch of other assistants were watching it."

Pinnell laughs, shaking his head. "It seems like the entertainment industry is managed mostly by the assistants."

"Anyway," he continues, "MTV told us that they loved it, but they wanted us to do another pilot. So we basically reshot what we'd shot before — which, at times, felt like an exercise in futility. But we changed it up enough so that it was a lot of fun for us, as well. And then that new pilot languished for a little while on MTV Overdrive, which is a now-defunct Web video thing that they were trying out."

"MTV liked it; they were very complimentary," says Baker. "But it just didn't, uh, fit their audience."

"It's true," says Jeremy Lamb. "Nobody really argued that point."

"And later that year," says Pinnell, "I was trying to clear some legal thing up, and my lawyer

*continued on p.64*



The Ebola filovirus

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knew about the show, and she said, 'You know, you should take it to these people I'm doing this other deal with,' because she – Keaton Clark – had another client who was doing something with ON Networks. And so she hooked me up for coffee with Jen [Grogono] and Kip [McClanahan], who are the owners of ON Networks. That was in March or April 2007, and by May, we were shooting our first series of four sketches. And we've been doing it ever since."

**Austin Chronicle:** *But you weren't the Edmond Bulldogs anymore, right? Wasn't there something contractual?*

**Mitch Baker:** Yeah, that was kind of a thing. The pilot for MTV was called *The Edmond Bulldogs*. And I was pretty positive that our lawyer in L.A. had said that the name was our name of our group, and it pre-existed, and we'd retain the rights to it, and all those things. But when it came time to make the online shorts that we've been making, René's lawyer – same project, different lawyer – looked back over the contract, and it looked like MTV might own our name. It was like, "We don't want you, we just want to keep the name." But, no, they were really nice to us at MTV. So, better safe than sorry, we picked a new name.

**AC:** *And how'd you choose Backpack Picnic?*

**Baker:** It was just one of those "Which sounds are fun together?" things, where the first word's sound suggests the next word – kind of like some band names. We were thinking of calling ourselves Fake Cake Cookbook, then it was Fake Cake Cookbook Backpack Picnic. And we decided to go with just Backpack Picnic. For, you know, brevity's sake.

**AC:** *So you're saying that it had nothing to do with the potential for transporting a weaponized filovirus?*

**Baker:** Uh, no. I mean, yes, I am saying that: It had nothing to do with that. [Frowns.] What the fuck?

**AC:** *Okay, then. And how did McCormick and Lamb get involved with y'all?*

**David Bewley:** When Mitch and I started doing the Bulldogs, Shannon was the first guy we met in the Austin improv comedy scene. He was the guy who introduced us to everybody.

**Shannon McCormick:** I actually met them at a FronteraFest show, when they played the 2001 festival.

**Bewley:** So when we were doing the Bulldogs shows, if we ever needed a third guy, it was always Shannon. And that evolved into: If we needed a fourth guy, it was Jeremy. And so when we revamped ourselves as Backpack Picnic, we brought them on in a more official capacity.

**AC:** *And what about this DVD that's coming out?*

**McCormick:** That's seasons one and two of *Backpack Picnic*, with a lot of bonus material. It's almost two hours of material.

**Bewley:** I think there's actually more bonus material, length-wise, than there is seasons one and two. There are interviews with the cast and an alternate version of one of the videos; there's a karaoke version of one of the Splitstream songs that you can sing along with ...

**Jeremy Lamb:** It's got all the sketches, the first 24, which is the first six months that ON Networks signed us up for. And now we've just finished our third season – is that right?

**Baker:** Well, we've done two of the three shoots for the third season.

**AC:** *And the DVD's going to be, uh, you're going to release it at the Alamo?*

**Baker:** We're having a release party on May 4th. We'll be showing a combination of videos from the DVD and new videos that aren't on the DVD. We'll be doing some of the sketches live onstage, too, and there will probably be some improv and a Q&A.

**AC:** *And you'll be here for that? I mean, you're still based in L.A., right?*

**Baker:** I am. And Jeremy is, too, now. But we fly in for these shoots, and we'll all be at the release party.

**AC:** *So you're still pursuing opportunities in L.A.*

**Baker:** Well, there's auditions for regular things like commercials and TV shows.

**McCormick:** And he has another video sketch troupe – on SuperDeluxe – called Onesie.

**Baker:** Yeah, that's me and two other guys from the original One Hit Wonder team.

**McCormick:** And it's really cool that those guys are coming out to help us make the pilot for Fort Ricky, this new narrative project we're also working on. It'll be a nice merger of the Austin world and the old Oklahoma world into one cool thing.

**AC:** *So when you're out there, Mitch, in Hollywood, with all those movie stars and everything ...*

**Baker:** Yeah?

**AC:** *Have you ever noticed how Tobey Maguire has a scar on his right cheek that looks like a close-up of the Ebola virus? I mean, exactly like that? I could see it in all those close-ups in the Spider-Man movies, and it was really freaking me out.*

**Baker:** [Pauses.] You know, I find it strange that you'd happen to mention Tobey Maguire. Because we had lunch together just last week, and I asked him about that scar. And he said he thought it looked more like a loquat.



ELLEN CHOU

**AC:** *A what?*

**Baker:** Loquat. It's a type of small citrus fruit that grows out in California.

**AC:** *Are you serious?*

**Baker:** You can check Wikipedia.

**AC:** *No, I mean about Tobey Maguire.*

**Baker:** René, are we ready for the next scene yet? Can we get things rolling here, y'think? ■

Backpack Picnic episodes are available at [www.onnetworks.com/videos/backpack-picnic](http://www.onnetworks.com/videos/backpack-picnic), and Wikipedia has plenty of information on the Ebola filovirus at [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/ebola](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/ebola) and on loquats at [www.wikipedia.org/wiki/loquat](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/loquat). The Backpack Picnic DVD release party takes place on Sunday, May 4, 9:30pm at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz (320 E. Sixth). Admission is \$2. See [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com) for advance tickets.

## René Pinnell Direct(or) to Video



One of the first things you notice about *Backpack Picnic* shows is how well-made they are, how they translate the madcap sketches of Mitch Baker and friends from live performance into videos of solid impact. This isn't just another bunch of talented fools with a webcam; this is some professional industry going on. Long tracking shots, wide-angle outdoor scenes, diverse locations, note-perfect costumes, lighting that works. The man behind this excellence: René Pinnell.

"The reason the episodes look the way they do," demurs the native Austinite with the stylish glasses, "is because I work with some awesomely talented folks who let me abuse them terribly. George Morrow, who does our art direction and VFX [visual effects], is a robot workhorse that requires no sleep and only occasional watering. Everything in the frame – except the actors themselves and the clothes they wear – George is responsible for. We also have two very talented costume designers, Jessica Gilzow and Melisa McCawley, who work their asses off."

Yes, but the camerawork? The way a viewer experiences the viewing?

"Sure," says Pinnell, "you wouldn't be able to see any of this unless you had a camera and

someone who knows how to turn it on and point it at stuff. We're lucky enough to have two people who are experts at that: PJ Raval and Mike Simpson. One month, PJ will shoot, and then, the next month, Mike will shoot. We also have a great crew – Scott Snyder on sound, a whole bunch of people lifting equipment and positioning, and – I'm a lucky man."

He's a *humble* man, this 24-year-old UT grad (2004, a bachelor's in Radio-Television-Film), maybe because he's not exactly a reservoir of experience. "I hadn't done all that much video before *Backpack Picnic*, really. Just a couple of music videos – one for the Handsome Charlies, one for my buddy Elliot Cole. I think the Handsome Charlies are still around, maybe they're still playing together, but I've since started to work with their lead guitarist on another project. You never know what's gonna lead to what."

But now there's a feature-length movie in his résumé, too.

"*The King of Texas*, yeah, that was a really fun project," says Pinnell of his documentary that world-premiered at this year's South by Southwest Film Festival. "My girlfriend, Claire Huie, and I spent the last two years working on it. It's about

my uncle, Eagle Pennell – he spelled his last name differently – who was the first person to make a film in Texas and by Texans that wasn't a genre picture. *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* came out before his film, and a real obscure film that nobody's ever heard of, *The Tomato That Ate Cleveland*, but those are the only others before Eagle's *The Whole Shootin' Match* in 1979. And a lot of people in the Eighties sort of pointed at him as the guy who proved that you can do it here; you can make a movie here.

"Before we did *The King of Texas*, I didn't know anything about him at all. And I found out that he was a really talented filmmaker; I like his first two films tremendously. And he was just an interesting character, too. He was a hopeless drunk with a gigantic ego, you know, but he really inspired the people that he worked with. He could draw things out of people that they didn't know they had."

So maybe that's the one trait that runs in the family, maybe that's what's brought the young director this far?

"Well, I currently live eight blocks from the house I was born in," says Pinnell, smiling, "so I haven't made it that far yet." – W.A.B.



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# Exit Music for a Film Fest Producer

Sending off South by Southwest's Matt Dentler

TODD VAN LINDSEY

BY KIMBERLEY JONES

Matt Dentler didn't know at the time that the 2008 South by Southwest Film Festival – which he had labored at all year to produce – would be his last. “It's probably better that way,” he says. Otherwise, he would have moped around, maybe tried to process too grandiosely an experience that, for him, has always been about “the little moments” – when an audience loves a movie, or a festivalgoer takes the time to say thanks to Dentler for putting on a good show.

The call came shortly after the Festival wrapped. John Sloss, an entertainment lawyer who has made a name for himself repping indie filmmakers like Richard Linklater and Kevin Smith, wanted Dentler to join his company, Cinetic Media; specifically, he wanted Dentler to run Cinetic Digital Rights Management, which focuses on finding digital outlets for films. It's a new world, one in which theatrical distribution is no longer the end-all, be-all for an independent film, not when a wider, more enthusiastic audience may be found at any number of Internet hubs. It's a new world, and Sloss wanted Dentler to help conquer it.

“I was really flattered,” Dentler recalls, “but quite frankly, I told them: ‘I got a great thing at South by Southwest. I got a great thing in Austin. It's really gotta be something that I can get passionate about; it truly has to be something really exciting for me to completely change my life.’ And to their credit, everything that they presented to me and everything that I know about this world makes me feel like it's a really great opportunity.”

And maybe, at least in retrospect, it was time. Dentler began working for SXSW as an intern his freshman year at the University of Texas, where he was studying radio-television-film. A couple of years passed, he became more enmeshed in the Festival, and he stopped dreaming about becoming a filmmaker. “I was like: ‘You know, I'm just not that talented at this. Why waste my time?’” Filmmaking might not have been in his blood, but programming and promoting film were. Despite his young age, he moved up through the ranks.

“During a difficult time in South by Southwest Film history, Dentler was the pivot holding everything together and keeping the whole operation moving forward, although his then-

job-description was as a subordinate,” remembers SXSW co-founder (and *Chronicle* editor-in-chief) Louis Black. “It was an enormous amount of pressure, and he was relatively young. He handled it with a lot more skill and grace than I've ever had working in similar situations. He rose above and beyond any expectations.”

By 2003, Dentler was running the Festival. “In a way, it was almost hypnotic,” he says. “Something about all these elements was right, and much to the chagrin of ex-girlfriends, an ex-fiancée, and friends, this job really became my life.”

He likes to say he came of age alongside SXSW Film (when he moves to New York in June for the Cinetic job, he'll still be well shy of 30). When Dentler took the reins, SXSW Film was considered something of an afterthought in the crowded festival landscape – larky and “Austin weird.” Dentler made sure to retain those elements that drew people in the first place but to also hustle hard – what he calls “getting the vote out.”

“I [would go] door to door with all the distributors, all the agents, all the press, all these people, and just be like: ‘Hey! Please pay attention to us.’”

It worked. It helped that he was a tireless promoter – even more so, a savvy programmer. Either through dumb luck or a cool-hunting DNA (or, more likely, a mix of both), Dentler got in on the ground floor with two burgeoning and controversial trends in film – well, controversial, at least in film-geek circles, which are the only circles that matter when it comes to this kind of debate.

The first was the sometimes-mocked mumblecore, which is less a movement than a loose collective of DIY filmmakers who found each other at SXSW 05; its ranks include (but are not limited to) former Austinites the Duplass Brothers (*Baghead*), once and again Austin resident Andrew Bujalski (*Mutual Appreciation*), Ronald Bronstein (*Frownland*), and Joe Swanberg (*Hannah Takes the Stairs*). Certainly the most prolific in the group and perhaps its most public face, Swanberg responded to my e-mail query with an earnest, impassioned testimonial:

“Matt Dentler is directly responsible for the success that I have had in my career. If you remove him from the equation of my life, I am still making films right now, but nobody has heard of them and I am working a 9 to 5 job to

pay the bills. It's actually scary for me to imagine how different my life might be right now had Matt not programmed *Kissing on the Mouth* in 2005. I met so many of my future friends and collaborators at the festival that year, and it lit a fire in me that is still there. I am forever indebted to him for taking a risk and showing my first film. It changed my life.”

If the mumblecore movement is all team high-fives, then what to make of its spiritual opposite, that polarizing mishmash of sex and violence, the torture-porn film? Dentler caught Eli Roth's debut feature, *Cabin Fever*, at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2002; Lions Gate picked up the horror film but didn't seem to know how to market it. “I remember reaching out to Lions Gate, being like, ‘Can we show this movie?’” Dentler recalls. “And they were, like: ‘Really? [beat] Okay, sure.’”

“I remember Eli came down, and it was at that screening that [film critic] Elvis Mitchell saw it, and Elvis Mitchell wrote this big feature in *The New York Times* about how much he liked *Cabin Fever*, and Eli always says that it was that moment that Lions Gate was like, ‘Oh, we might actually have a hit.’” A hit and the launch of Roth's career; later works *Hostel* and *Hostel: Part II* became standard-bearers for torture porn.

Dentler laughs. “Some people may not be thrilled to know that we helped launch the career of Eli Roth. But I am, and I consider Eli a friend.”

There have been other triumphs over the years – sneaking *Knocked Up* in 2007, which Universal now credits as the kick-start to *Knocked Up*'s meteoric ascent – and also some disappointments. The films that never found an audience. The heroes he never managed to woo to the Fest. Spike Lee, especially, was one that got away – well, and that dream Billy Wilder retrospective. “I mean,” Dentler deadpans, “with him alive.”

And then, of course, there were – how should we put this? – well, there were the fanboy moments. Dentler wouldn't have gotten the gig in the first place if he wasn't an unabashed film lover, and his SXSW tenure is strewn with personal “geek-outs,” when he found himself face to face with an icon. When I ask him to name a few, he smiles.

“I remember my first year at South by Southwest when I was an intern. I remember the opening-night party was at GSD&M, and I remember the one person in the entire room that I was starstruck by was John Pierson,” Dentler laughs. The irony, of course, is that Pierson – who wrote the book *Spike Mike Slackers & Dykes* and repped some of the most important indie films of the Nineties – eventually moved to Austin and became both a fixture and a friend, along with his wife, Janet, who succeeds Dentler as SXSW Film producer. But back to the story.

“Because when I was in high school, just like a year before, [John's] book had come out, and I was like, ‘[That's] that guy who wrote that book I didn't understand!’ I remember going up to him and saying hi, and he kind of blew me off.” He laughs again. “It was always those kind of people that I got more starstruck by. Which I guess is telling. It was never the traditional celebrities of the world that got me excited; it was always like a producer or a studio head or a distribution executive, you know, that I was like, ‘Oh my God, I can't believe I'm meeting you.’ Those were the kind of people I always geeked out about.” ■

## SXSW SCRAPBOOK

**Never Again (2001):** This now-forgotten Eric Schaeffer comedy starred Jeffrey Tambor, thus kicking off a long relationship between the master thespian and SXSW.



**Spellbound (2002):** The crowd-pleasing spelling-bee doc got a big break at SXSW, winning the Jury Award and eventually netting an Oscar nomination.



**Cabin Fever (2003):** Torture porn takes its first steps.



**Assassination Tango (2003):** Dentler remembers picking up Robert Duvall from the airport and thinking, “Wow, this is my job?”



**The Puffy Chair (2005):** Mumblecore, freshman year.



**The Lookout (2007):** Scott Frank's gritty crime drama world-premiered at SXSW and earned an Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature but never gained the wide audience Dentler thought it deserved.



**Nights and Weekends (2008):** When IFC purchased *Nights and Weekends* mid-Fest, it became the first-ever feature to be acquired at SXSW; fitting, then, that it came from co-director Joe Swanberg, whose career Dentler helped launch in 2005.

# Spring in Swing

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

It's spring-cleaning here at the "TV Eye" desk. Here are a few things recovered from the inbox.

## Local Scene

The Radio-Television News Directors Association recently recognized local TV personalities for excellence. Local ABC affiliate **KVUE-TV** received "six regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for excellence in electronic journalism, more than any other local television station in Austin, and tied for the most in Texas," according to a recent press release. This was the fifth time KVUE received honors for overall excellence. Specific honorees include executive producer **Carlos Reina** for Best Newscast, **Christine Haas** and **Todd Rogenthien** for Investigative Reporting, **Mike Barnes** and **Nate Cardenas** for Sports Reporting, **Robert McMurrey** and **Kevin Peters** for Spot News Reporting, and **Todd Rogenthien** for Best Videography. The regional awards were given in April, and all winners are automatically entered into the national competition, to be awarded in June.

## More Green Scene

We recently talked about **Big Ideas for a Small Planet** in our Green Crush issue; the series continues on the Sundance Channel on Tuesdays at 8pm. Here's what you have to look forward to in May:

"Wear" (May 6): A look at how the apparel industry is creating fashion with a conscience, from using biodegradable textiles and dyes in the front end to swap-o-rama events, where people are not only exchanging their old favorites for new treasures but some designers are working exclusively with discarded clothing to create something entirely new and unique.

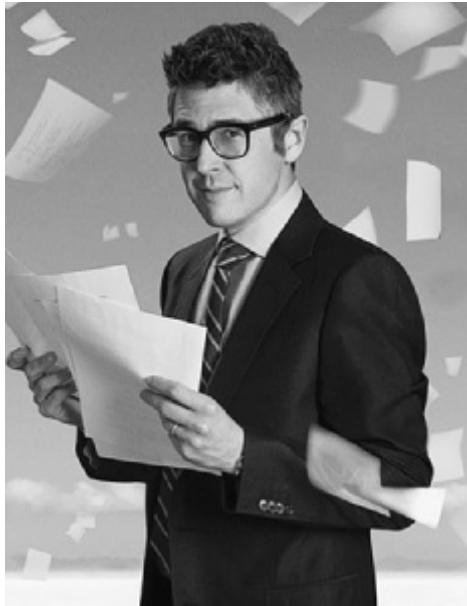
"Eat" (May 13): How do we eat, what do we put in our mouths, and just what is in that juicy burger? This episode looks at three entrepreneurs who care about how we eat while keeping in mind that most people still crave the convenience of fast food and urban living.

"Drive" (May 20): Alas, no love for mass transit, walking, or car-sharing. This episode looks at variations of the electric car, including cars converted from gas-guzzlers to clean driving plug-ins, as well as high-end sports cars.

"Furnish" (May 27): You will think twice before you leave that prefab furniture near the Dumpster. Three pairs of furniture designers are profiled, with a focus on how they take a green approach to their products, from materials to manufacturing to distribution.

## Second Chances

Practice your gritos. KLRU will air **Compañeras** on Tuesday (see "TV Eye," March 28). Slated for an earlier airdates on Independent



Get swept up by the second season of *This American Life*. It premieres Sunday on Showtime.

Lens, the documentary about the L.A.-based, all-female Mariachi Reyna got bumped to the wee hours of the morning due to the KLRU fund drive. Now you can watch it at its (almost) regular time slot on Monday, May 5, 10pm.

*This American Life* returns for a second season on Sunday. Alas, my request for a review screener went unanswered, but I can't imagine this series, inspired by the original radio show hosted by **Ira Glass**, won't have a second season as amazing as the first. I admit I was an early skeptic, defying anyone to convince me that the TV version would be as wonderful as the radio program. I was so very pleased to be proven wrong. If you haven't seen this series of "funny, surprising stories that happen to be true," the first season just came out on DVD. You can also watch the first season online at [www.sho.com](http://www.sho.com). No, it's not free, but it's worth every penny. *This American Life* airs Sundays at 9pm on Showtime.

Just in time for Cinco de Mayo: Comedy Central celebrates by serving up some belly laughs with some previously aired specials. **Gabriel Iglesias: Hot & Fluffy** starts off the night, followed by two helpings of **George Lopez: America's Mexican** (which originally aired on HBO). Another showing of Iglesias follows, with **Alex Reymundo: Hick Spanic** bringing your Cinco de Mayo evening to a close. Haven't seen Reymundo, but Iglesias' act is a scream, and Lopez is very, very funny (besides his act, Lopez can be seen starring as the mayor in **Reno 911**). The evening of laughs starts on Sunday at 7pm.

Speaking of laughs, get this description of an upcoming episode of **Lil' Bush**: "Lil' Vladimir Putin and Lil' George start a schoolyard rivalry, and it escalates to Lil' Putin poisoning Lil' George. After some training from former wrestling champ Barbara Bush, Lil' George faces off against Lil' Putin in a playground battle. Meanwhile, Lil' Cheney has been partnered with Lil' Nancy Pelosi and given a watermelon to care for as their child. When it becomes apparent that their watermelon is a lesbian, Lil' Cheney has some hard choices to make." *Lil' Bush* airs Thursdays at 9:30pm on Comedy Central.

As always, stay tuned.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at [tveye@austinchronicle.com](mailto:tveye@austinchronicle.com).



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# music

70 CAROLYN WONDERLAND 74 JAMES MCMURTRY 76 REISSUES 102 MUSIC LISTINGS

## OFF THE RECORD music news BY AUSTIN POWELL



ZZ Top, shown here at the Backyard last year, helps round out the venue's last season May 15.

GARY MILLER

### PAVE PARADISE, PUT UP A PARKING LOT

Last Thursday **Direct Events** owner **Tim O'Connor** announced that the **Backyard** will close following the completion of the venue's 16th season with the **Gipsy Kings** on Aug. 28. In an official statement, O'Connor cited the development of the **Shops at the Galleria** as the primary cause of the Backyard's diminished "magic," ironically surrounding the venue with the one thing that it's always lacked: ample parking (see "TCB," May 4, 2007). Direct Events is currently awaiting approval from the city of **Bee Cave** on supposed plans for a new location that would be protected from similar developmental issues. What the closure will likely mean, at least in the short term, is an increased emphasis on shows at the **Austin Music Hall**, where patrons have already proven their willingness to shell out high-end ticket prices for artists like **Van Morrison** and **Duran Duran**, despite the venue's acoustic issues. O'Connor declined to comment.

### RANDOM PLAY

Nothing will ever top witnessing the **Rolling Stones** paint **Zilker Park** black, but the new **Martin Scorsese**-directed *Shine a Light: The IMAX Experience* has been *Chronicle*-certified as the next best thing. This Saturday's screening is prefaced with a free tribute performance from the **Stone Ravers**, beginning at 6pm, in the Lone Star Plaza of the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**.

**Texas Heritage Music Foundation's** public radio series, *Whole Lotta Shakin'*, which documents the rise of rockabilly in the 1950s and is narrated by Austin's **Rosie Flores**, is one of 35 recipients of the **2007 George Foster Peabody Award**. The ceremony is slated for June 16, at New York City's **Waldorf-Astoria**. All 10 one-hour programs can be streamed at [www.rockabillyradio.org](http://www.rockabillyradio.org).

In its annual Best of Rock issue, **Rolling Stone** magazine gives appropriate nods to **Stubb's**, **Waterloo Records**, and **Explosions**



**in the Sky**, while senior scribe **David Fricke** recalls the **Black Angels'** appearance at **Roky Erickson's** annual South by Southwest Ice Cream Social at **Threadgill's** with "this medicine works wonders."

Funny how time slips away: When **Willie Nelson** headlined his first show at the **Armadillo World Headquarters** in 1972, who opened? The first two readers to e-mail the correct answer to [offtherecord@austinchronicle.com](mailto:offtherecord@austinchronicle.com) score a copy of **Joe Nick Patoski's** new biography, *Willie Nelson: An Epic Life*. For a refresher of the era, see an excerpt of Patoski's book, "Cosmic Cowboy Souvenir," *Music*, April 25.



Strange Relationship: Grupo Fantasma's JewMex horns back Prince at Coachella, April 26.

JEFF KRAVITZ/FILM MAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

### SIGN O' THE TIMES

**Prince** officially has **Grupo Fantasma** on speed-dial. Fantasma's **JewMex** horn section joined the **Purple One** in California for a week of rehearsals that culminated in a last-minute engagement on *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno* on Friday and a headlining set at **Coachella** the following evening. "There were people as far as I could see," recalls trumpeter **Gilbert Elorreaga**. Consider both occasions to be the unofficial kickoff party for ATX's third annual **Latino Music Month**, which comes this year with an impressive 20-song soundtrack, *The Sound Is Brown*, produced by the **Austin Latino Music Association** and the **Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau** and spotlighting artists from **Ruben Ramos** and **Alejandro Escovedo** to **Maneja Beto** and **Patricia**

**Vonne**. The celebration culminates May 31, with the inaugural **Pachanga! Latino Music Festival** in **Waterloo Park**, headlined by **Grupo Fantasma** and the **Nortec Collective's Bostich & Fussible**, with support from **Vallejo**, **Maneja Beto**, **Charanga Cakewalk**, **Girl in a Coma**, and **Kanko**, among others. "There's obviously a little Latino rock movement going on in Austin," says event organizer **Alex Vallejo**. "It's always been around, but the groups coming to the forefront now are mixing traditional styles with more alternative rock and pop. The exciting thing is going to be hearing all of these bands that are known throughout Texas together on one bill." A complete listing of Latino Music Month events can be found at [www.austinlatinomusic.com](http://www.austinlatinomusic.com).

SANDY CARSON



The fate of **Hacienda** was sealed Dec. 9, 2006, when the Austin- and Boerne-based quartet was a last-minute addition to the **Black Keys/Dr. Dog** bill at **La Zona Rosa**, per the request of the Black Keys' guitarist, **Dan Auerbach**. "No one knew about it," says pianist **Abraham Villanueva**. "We were pretty much playing only for him." The show ultimately resulted in an invitation for Hacienda – Villanueva brothers **Abraham, Rene** (bass), and **Jaime** (drums) and their cousin **Dante Schwebel** (guitar) – to record at Auerbach's home studio in Akron, Ohio, last summer and again in February. "The city is similar to Boerne in that it's a quiet, small town where everything closes at 5," recalls Rene. "We pretty much stayed at Dan's place the whole time with his family. We played everything live in the studio, but Dan wasn't afraid to stop us or step in with ideas." In fact, Auerbach lays down some *Thickfreakness* on opener "She's Got a Hold on Me," while members of **Dr. Dog** even flew in for the first session, adding off-kilter harmonies on tunes like "Angela" and "Little Girl." The end result, *Here Today*, is a 15-song collection of pastoral pop and *Rubber Soul*. Hacienda is now in talks with its collaborators' respective labels, **Fat Possum** and **Park the Van Records**, about a possible national release and hits the **United States Arts Authority** on Friday with the **Strange Boys** and **Gospel Truth**.

### LONG DISTANCE RUNAROUND

While most people under 30 are more familiar with 90210 than **Yes'** 90125, 18-year-old Austinite **Geena Spigarelli** recently backed the band's frontman, **Jon Anderson**, for a four-date tour of California with her fellow All-Stars from the **Paul Green School of Rock Music**. "I definitely studied up before I left," says Spigarelli, who's been enrolled in the local branch of the program since September 2005 and graduates this year. "He hasn't lost his ability to hit the high notes. He definitely still has his A-game." Expect Spigarelli to reunite with Anderson in August, when the Austin School of Rock opens for **Yes** in Houston and Dallas. In the meantime, the institution's end-of-semester showcases begin this Friday with a two-night homage to punk rock at **Emo's Lounge**, followed by tributes to **Aerosmith** and Texas rock on successive weekends at **Ruta Maya** and **Rock City Icehouse**, respectively.



# Miss Understood

Let's hear it for Carolyn Wonderland

BY MARGARET MOSER

TODD VAN NOSTROM

"It's the famous story, that I was out at the Backyard, hangin' with Dylan," booms Ray Benson jovially from his cell phone. "He goes: 'Hey, have you heard Carolyn Wonderland? She's something else!'"

"Those were his exact words. 'She stuck out. She should be nationwide! What's she doing?' 'Playing shitty clubs in Texas,' I told him."

"So I called her up in Houston and said, 'Dylan wants to see you.'"

"She drove 100 miles an hour here, and when he got off stage at the Backyard, he invited her down, and they jammed. That was a great little bit of hype."

As leader of the world's premier Western swing band Asleep at the Wheel, Benson knows music but admits that when it came to Carolyn Wonderland, he was an odd guest at the tea party.

"I love what you do," he pitched her. "I'm not known as a rock & roller, but I know this music, and I know what to do with you."

Wonderland couldn't refuse Benson's godfatherly offer. She'd grown up the child of a singer in a band and began playing her mother's vintage Martin guitar when other girls were dressing dolls. She'd gone from being the teenage toast of her hometown to sleeping in her van in Austin amid heaps of critical acclaim for fine recordings *Alcohol & Salvation*, *Bloodless Revolution*, and most recently, *Miss Understood* ("SXSW Platters," March 14).

The music-industry path ran through a dense, black rabbit hole, and Carolyn Wonderland's promise sometimes reflected darkly through Austin's looking glass. Maybe it needed viewing from another angle.

## Imperial Monkey Business

Carolyn Wonderland, 36, sits in Maudie's on South Lamar with chips and hot sauce and Chalupas Compuestas on the way. The turquoise of the eatery's porch frames her wine-colored mane, much bolder than the soft brown eyes above a dappling of pale brown freckles. She gazes off with a Cheshire grin at a Downtown skyline changing nearly as rapidly as her life.

"My pawpaw was a real good whistler," she offers. "Whenever *The Andy Griffith Show* came on, it would be a three-part whistle harmony. The problem is you can't look at anyone because you'll laugh, and if you laugh, you can't whistle. I close my eyes."

Along with the guitar and the multitude of other instruments she learned to play – trumpet, accordion, piano, mandolin, lap steel – Wonderland's ability to whistle remains most unusual. Whistling is a uniquely vocal art seldom invoked in modern music, yet it's among the most spectacular talents the human voice possesses.

"My grandfather could call birds. After he passed, I tried to imitate bird sounds, see if I could get them to come near me. Toward the last part of my stay in Houston, there was a birdcall I didn't recognize. I started giggling because I realized it was a mockingbird imitating a car alarm. It was so strange, so urban."

Wonderland whistles the alarm to illustrate the scenario, and her note-perfect performance causes a customer at a nearby table to check the parking lot for his car.

That vocal proficiency was well-established in the singer's midteens, landing her gigs at Fitzgerald's by age 15. She absorbed Houston

influences like Little Screamin' Kenny and soaked up the Mad Hatter of Texas music, Doug Sahm. The Lone Star State was as credible and fertile a proving ground for blues in the 1980s as existed, especially in Austin with Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Angela Strehli, Omar & the Howlers, and Lou Ann Barton all in their prime. By the following decade, Austin's blues luster thinned, but Houston, always a bastion of soul and R&B, boasted the Imperial Monkeys with the effervescent Carolyn Wonderland as ruler of the jungle.

In the Monkeys, she rattled cages everywhere she went and wore her crown with panache. A six-minute video clip of 20-year-old Carolyn and her band taking on Etta James' "Something's Got a Hold on Me" in 1992 ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKvz0Ez3uCG](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKvz0Ez3uCG)) is testament to her youthful confidence and swagger. Her vocal pyrotechnics in the first two minutes might well ensure her a finalist slot on *American Idol* today, but back then, it was all in a night's work. In a segment for a TV news show, the baby-faced singer sports bleached-blond hair dipped like a paintbrush in hot pink as she opines like a seasoned vet ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ\\_fpezM-M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ_fpezM-M)) and sings "Anyway."

The Monkeys didn't exactly play for peanuts and started copping top honors at the *Houston Press* Music Awards with cheeky blues-rock that churned country, surf, cumbia, jazz, and zydeco. Frontwoman and band caught the eye of two whose interest would change their lives.

"I was in Houston," recalls Susan Antone, "reading an article in the paper about her. I looked at her picture and said to Cliff, 'She's

right for the club.' Nineteen years old with pink hair and playing the hell out of the guitar. We fell in love with her."

Wonderland & the Imperial Monkeys were invited to the Guadalupe Street Antone's. There, they were treated like royalty with the singer as the queen of hearts in the club's post-SRV stable of the early 1990s, which included Toni Price, Johnny and Jay Moeller, Sue Foley, Mike and Corey Keller, and the Ugly Americans. It was a good bar for the Monkeys to hang, and Austin felt so comfortable that when the band called it quits a few years later, she set her sights on Austin at the start of the millennium.

## Salvation, Revolution, and Understanding

Living in Austin renewed Carolyn Wonderland's focus on her multiple talents, underlining luxurious vocals with fine guitar work, trumpet, and piano, as well as that remarkable ability to whistle on key. A series of each-better-than-the-next discs began with *Alcohol & Salvation* in 2003 ("songs about booze and God; records are a time capsule of what happened that year"). Her music played in television series such as *Time of Your Life* and *Homicide*.

Her circle of musician friends and admirers broadened to include not only Benson but the late Eddy Shaver, Shelley King, and yes, Bob Dylan, who likened her composition "Bloodless Revolution" to "a mystery movie theme." She began co-writing with locals Sarah Brown, Ruthie Foster, Cindy Cashdollar, and Guy Forsyth; sat in with Los Lobos, Robert Earl Keen, and Ray Wylie Hubbard; recorded with Jerry Lightfoot; and toured with Buddy Guy and Johnny Winter. She also claims membership in the all-girl Sis Deville, the gospel-infused Imperial Crown Golden Harmonizers, and takes aw-shucks credit for inspiring Amsterdam's annual WonderJam.

The music-industry path ran through a dense, black rabbit hole, and Carolyn Wonderland's promise sometimes reflected darkly through Austin's looking glass.

"The evolution of life shocks me all the time," Wonderland confesses. "When I think back on the crazy and beautiful things that have happened, it blows my mind, because I don't think I've done anything to deserve all these things. I'm still learning how to be appreciative and not be a jerk."

Jerks don't involve themselves with or support the wide range of socially conscious acronym organizations she does. SIMS, HAAM (Health Alliance for Austin Musicians), MPP (Marijuana Policy Project), NORML (National

Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws), WAMM (Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana), and ARCH (Austin Resource Center for the Homeless), as well as Farm Aid, Seattle Hempfest, Million Musicians March, Cindy Sheehan, SafePlace, Front Steps, Star of Hope, Casa Marianella, and food banks are all beneficiaries of Wonderland's talents. She's a traditional folkie, and her socially conscious politics are on view in her music: Houston NORML uses her biographical "Annie's Scarlet Letter" as its featured soundtrack for public-service announcements.

Many of those second-chance and helping-hand efforts support women, families, and the homeless. That latter substrata of society is one that strikes close to her activist heart.

"I don't consider that I was 'home-less'; I consider that I was 'van-full,'" chuckles Wonderland with black humor about her nearly two years without a street address. "In that situation, I never went hungry in this town. And we were on tour so much it wasn't that radical of a change. I booked us a whole lot on the road."

She also bartered with friends, taking care not to spend too long at any one place by trading out household chores, cooking, and tasks in exchange for laundry and shower privileges.

"It felt useful that way," she explains, her slender brows furrowing in emphasis. "I've realized a lot of material things aren't quite as necessary as I thought they were when I was a kid. I once had goals of playing music and working other jobs for money so I could do that, but there's no time. If you set out to do that, then you're no good to anyone else as an employee. Any straight job was always back-burnered, and that made me feel bad. Anywhere I worked, it was like, 'Sorry, you're second choice.'"

Benson admires Wonderland's frankness in not making music her second choice.

"Musicians need two things: They need time for their craft – to practice, write, play – and

of K.T. Tunstall and other new chick singers of the last couple of years, but she's got the range, the emotion. Comparisons to Janis [Joplin] are always there since she's rooted in blues and R&B, but it's still rock & roll, and like Janis, Carolyn can take it into country. She's also an incredible guitar player and a great person, so humble. The combination is disarming and totally real. That's magic."

It was magic in the studio, too, as *Miss Understood* came to life, a canny mix of Benson's production, Wonderland's compositions, and select covers of Terri Hendrix, J.J. Cale, and Rick Derringer that punched her sound up a notch. As soon as the album roared to life, it was clear the singer-songwriter-guitarist-whistler had delivered on her long-awaited promise.

"What a thrill it was to have the *Miss Understood* CD release at [Antone's]," Susan Antone effuses of that night. "She stood there with her long, red curled hair and still played the hell out of the guitar, tearing it up as fabulous as always. I felt compelled to go on stage and say how honored we were to have her there, because I know what Cliff would say, 'Let's hear it for Carolyn Wonderland.'"

### Nowhere but Texas

The check's been paid and plates swept off the table. A handful of tortilla chips lies in pieces in the basket, eyed by a rogue wren perched on the porch railing as Carolyn Wonderland rummages her purse for her keys. She's off like the White Rabbit, a little late to the Capitol, where Shelley King is being installed as state musician of Texas. Even though there's no gig tonight, every day is preparation for the next show.

The proclamation from Carolyn Wonderland Day last February is framed. The big tour begins this summer, with dates to the East Coast and New York, then west to Oregon and California.

**"You can talk of K.T. Tunstall and other new chick singers of the last couple of years, but [Carolyn's] got the range, the emotion. Comparisons to Janis [Joplin] are always there since she's rooted in blues and R&B, but it's still rock & roll, and like Janis, Carolyn can take it into country. She's also an incredible guitar player and a great person, so humble. The combination is disarming and totally real. That's magic."**

**– Ray Benson**

they have to be out there hustling. Nothing had happened with Dylan. He doesn't like people talking about his stuff, but you know what? Too bad, Bob. I told Carolyn: "Don't worry about budget. If you need to go in, go in. If we find a great tune, we go in and do it."

"My luxury is owning [Bismieux Studios]. It's not a great way to make money, but it's a great way to make music.

"And Carolyn's got that unbelievable, incredible voice, one of the great voices of our time, and that's not an overstatement. You can talk

In November, she's off to Amsterdam for another WonderJam. The accolades for *Miss Understood* are still pouring in with the *Houston Press* issuing a plea for her return home, but in June she's taping a segment for *Austin City Limits*. That very gig sums up her love and affection for the capital city.

"Here, it's like total camaraderie: A musician might be in a punk band Friday and blues band Saturday and picking during the week. Music doesn't sound like this anywhere else in the world." ■



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## ★ International Stage

Red River Northside

### SATURDAY MAY 3

NOON Texas Latin Dance  
1:00 The Ortega Elementary Superstar Choir  
2:00 Hawaiian Kona Isle Dancers  
3:00 Fuerza Latina  
4:00 Hungarian Dancers  
5:00 7 Seals  
6:00 Vudu Cafe  
7:00 The Batikum

### SUNDAY MAY 4

2:00 St. Edward's Ballet Folklorico  
4:00 El Tule  
5:00 Texas Latin Dance  
6:00 Sabaya Belly Dancers  
7:00 Klvis Klan

## ★ The Austin Stage

Trinity Northside

### SATURDAY MAY 3

11:00 Ars Supernova  
1:00 Aliens  
2:00 Korkus  
3:00 Ume  
4:00 No Mas Bodas  
5:00 Klvis Klan  
6:00 The Boxing Lesson  
7:00 The Jolly Garagers Pirate Band  
8:00 Les and the Funk Mob

### SUNDAY MAY 4

NOON The Bourbon Legends  
1:00 AfterMath  
2:00 The Noise Revival Orchestra  
3:00 Jackie Venson  
4:00 The Duane Carter Band  
5:00 Jennifer Grassman  
6:00 Leti De La Vega  
7:00 Venson Lee



## ★ The Performing Arts Stage

Red River Southside

### SATURDAY MAY 3

NOON The Banjo Club  
1:00 Chef Marko Food Comedy  
2:00 Lupe Arte Bilingual Theater Presents *She Flies*  
3:00 The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged by the UT Roundabout Players  
4:00 3rd Pecan Street Poetry Slam Qualifiers  
6:00 Lupe Arte *She Flies* Part 2

### SUNDAY MAY 4

NOON Clicketty Cloggers  
1:00 Chef Marko Food Comedy  
2:00 Lupe Arte *She Flies*  
3:00 Poetry Slam Finals  
4:00 Lupe Arte *She Flies* Part 2  
5:00 The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged by the UT Roundabout Players



## ★ Mrs. Baird's Main Stage

7th and Neches

### SATURDAY MAY 3

11:00 Paul Green School of Rock  
NOON Super Pal Universe  
1:00 Two Hoots and a Holler  
2:00 Sunset (feat. Bill Baird of Sound Team)  
3:00 The Boxing Lesson  
4:00 Loose Diamonds (the reunion show)  
5:00 Nelo  
6:00 Drum Jam  
7:00 The Lemurs  
8:00 Grupo Fantasma

### SUNDAY MAY 4

ALL DAY LATIN POP AND HIP HOP  
NOON Foco Rojo  
2:00 Organized Rhymes  
5:00 Intense Entertainment  
6:30 Boca Abajo



## ★ The KOOP Fundraiser Stage

Maggie Mae's

### SATURDAY MAY 3

NOON Jaunty  
1:00 Peel  
2:00 The Blacklisted  
3:00 The Banes  
4:00 Enrique Y La Guerilla  
5:00 Attack Formation  
6:00 Winchester Twins  
7:00 Bob Taylor's Latest Review  
8:00 The Bill Jeffery's  
8:30 The Easies  
9:00 Awesome Cool Dudes  
9:30 Daniel Francis Doyle

### SUNDAY MAY 4

NOON Appalachian String Band  
1:00 The Mad Dukes  
2:00 Public Offenders and The Cipher  
3:00 The Moonhangers  
4:00 Texas Sapphires  
5:00 Rod Moag  
6:00 The Mediums



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## ★ Children's Stage

San Jacinto Northside

### SATURDAY MAY 3

1:00 Puppet Show with Bob Abdou  
2:00 Magician Bobby Cordell  
3:00 Juggler Darren Peterson  
4:00 Magician Bobby Cordell  
5:00 Juggler Darren Peterson

### SUNDAY MAY 4

1:00 Puppet Show with Bob Abdou  
2:00 Juggler Jack Byrd  
3:00 Music by The Barnstormers  
4:00 Magician Bobby Cordell  
5:00 Ventriloquist Comedy by Ian Varella



## PowerFlicker

Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

### SATURDAY MAY 3

NOON Film School of San Antonio  
12:45 Austin Community College  
1:00 Storie Productions  
1:40 Reel Women  
2:55 Film Austin  
5:25 Renegade Reels

# Ruins of the Realm

James McMurtry's pissed

BY DAN OKO

Spring turkey-hunting in North Texas takes patience and skill. As the gobblers come into breeding season, the notoriously shy birds preen and strut with the hopes of getting a little loving. In the low light around the edges of the day, hens emerge to check on the mature toms making all the noise. A wrong step, a snapped branch, or a sneeze can send the colorful, cautious birds fluttering away. Hunting magazines come filled with tips about turkey behavior, calls to use, how to assess habitats, and the best ammo for success. Even then, no matter the hunter's talents, there will always be missed opportunities.

The same holds true for musicians looking to make it. Talent and hard work cannot account for the ever-changing zeitgeist in pop culture any more than scouting and a shotgun can make up for a shift in the wind or wildlife fleeing the presence of a predator. Not that anybody needs to remind veteran Austin-based musician James McMurtry about the parallels between hunting and a career in music.

Following McMurtry's lauded 1989 debut on Columbia Records, *Too Long in the Wasteland*, which was produced by John Mellencamp, he's received critical raves, but a broader audience has continued to elude him until recently. His 2005 release, *Childish Things*, was his bestselling album in a decade. This month's follow-up, *Just Us Kids* ("Texas Platters," April 11), arrives piled high with praise and talk that it should earn McMurtry, if not commercial success, at least a modicum of recognition. On the eve of a national tour, McMurtry agrees to a bite at Enoteca, a trendy Italian bistro a few doors down Congress Avenue from the Continental Club, where he's held down a Wednesday night residency for years.

Having just returned from a hunting trip on his grandfather's ranch outside of Fort Worth, the city where he was born, McMurtry rues missing his chance to bring home a turkey. With his ninth album, he's trying to warm up to some of the demands of the music business, including press encounters, but he still keeps his jaw clenched when talking.

"I meant to title it *Ruins of the Realm*," says McMurtry, his beard flecked with gray and his

signature fedora screwed down over his longish hair. "And I told people that's what I was going to title it, but they just said they couldn't get their head around it. So, it was like, maybe I'll title it *Just Us Kids*."

The title track, which arrives in the disc's second spot, is several years old, but McMurtry explains he had to rework the chord progressions before recording it. The song arcs from the narrator's adolescence through middle age, reminiscing on small-town dreams gone awry and the white-collar malaise that sometimes follows: "*It's a damn short movie, how did we ever get here? Not so skinny, not so free, not so many as we used to be.*"

For McMurtry, "How did we ever get here?" isn't merely a question asked by the indelible characters that inhabit his best songs but also a political inquest. *Just Us Kids* traces the struggles faced by everyday people, while McMurtry drew added creative energy from his disgust with the policies of the Bush administration. He takes Bush directly to task with the pungent, if somewhat ham-handed, poetry of "Cheney's Toy," painting the Iraq war as folly beyond compare with his thumbnail portraits of tortured prisoners and injured soldiers. Despite his efforts to make the message crystal clear, the author says he's been challenged by listeners who think the song addresses the troops as opposed to the president.

"A lot of people seem to think that," he admits. "I thought I put enough clues in there. Bush thinks he's the president, but he's Cheney's toy in my opinion. The whole point of 'You're the man' – I don't know where I read that; I think it was *The New York Times* – is that's what Cheney tells Bush so he'll go out there and act like the president. 'You're the man,' you know: Stay the course, bring 'em on – all that stuff.

"So yeah, the whole song's directed at Bush."

It goes without saying that McMurtry doesn't mind stirring a little controversy. In 2005, he was a regular fixture at Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas, where peace activist Cindy Sheehan sought to engage President Bush on his home turf. More recently,

With his ninth album, McMurtry's trying to warm up to some of the demands of the music business, including press encounters, but he still keeps his jaw clenched when talking.

TODD V. WOLFSON

McMurtry's written for political website *The Huffington Post* about his mistrust of the "euphoria" surrounding Barack Obama's presidential bid, while expressing qualified support for Hillary Clinton.

At the Continental Club, during the first night of the release party for *Just Us Kids*, April 15 – that's tax day, in case you missed it – he offered a biting version of "We Can't Make It Here," a long track off *Childish Things* that won the admiration of Stephen King, one of the few 20th century novelists who has outsold McMurtry's father, Larry, of *Lonesome Dove* fame. While a small crowd boogied to the rocking beat, McMurtry spat unblinking lyrics:

"Will work for food, will die for oil, will kill for power and to us the spoils. The billionaires get to pay less tax, the working poor get to fall through the cracks. Let 'em eat jellybeans, let 'em eat cake. Let 'em eat shit, whatever it takes."

"I just hope he gets heard more and more," says British rock legend Ian McLagan, who helped out on keyboards on *Just Us Kids*. McLagan made his name with the Faces and backed the Rolling Stones before settling in Austin. He hooked up with McMurtry thanks to drummer Darren Hess, who used to play with McLagan's close friend and former bandmate the late Ronnie Lane. Hess, along with bassist Ronnie Johnson, backs McMurtry in the *Heartless Bastards*. "They're not heartless, of course," laughs McLagan. "When James writes songs, he speaks for himself, but he also speaks for a lot of people. He speaks for the common man. You're not going to get that with Justin Timberlake."

Don't mistake McMurtry for some 1960s-minded folksy, however. He plays a mean electric guitar and remains deadly seri-

ous about the craftsmanship that goes into making an album, as well as how to re-create the strum and drang of a full band when the three-piece Heartless Bastards take the stage. (During recent shows, Tim Holt has joined the band as a second guitarist.) *Just Us Kids* is the fourth album in a row that McMurtry produced himself. In addition to McLagan, guests include guitarist Jon Dee Graham and Pat MacDonald of Timbuk 3, while the swamp-boogie opener "Bayou Tortous" features his 17-year-old son, Curtis McMurtry, playing baritone sax.

"Basically, what you're doing when you're producing is you're painting with sound," says McMurtry. "You give yourself a sonic palette to use. Once we get the record done, we have to figure out how we're going to play this live. You know, if you've got five guitar parts on the song, I'm not going to carry five guitars on the road. So when we decide we've got to get the essence of it as a three-piece or a four-piece, it can turn into a totally different thing."

Yet at his CD release, it isn't the rootsy vamps or the talking blues that McMurtry performs so well that seize the crowd by the throat. Rather, he stands alone with an acoustic guitar for "Ruby and Carlos," a new song of damaged lovers, and it's there the hunter draws the audience in like a fat tom turkey. Talk ceases, and all eyes turn to McMurtry as he quavers the bull's-eye finale: "*Holding back the flood, just don't do no good. You just can't unclench your teeth to howl the way you should. So you curl your lips around the taste of tears and the hollow sound that no one owns but you.*"

These are words sung with McMurtry's mouth wide open. ■

## McMurtry Says

### TOP 5 SONGS THAT AT LEAST TOUCH ON RELEVANT ISSUES

- 1) "Ohio," Neil Young
- 2) "Billy Austin," Steve Earle
- 3) "Good Christian Soldier," Kris Kristofferson
- 4) "Broken Freedom Song," Kris Kristofferson
- 5) "Rapid City, South Dakota," Kinky Friedman

### FIVE WHITE HOUSE LOW POINTS

- 1) **9/11/01:** Bush sits stiffly in front of a class of schoolchildren for seven minutes while people jump to their deaths from the burning towers.
- 2) **"By my order ...":** Commencement of "shock and awe," March 20, 2003
- 3) **"Bring 'em on,"** July 2, 2003: Bush taunts Iraqi insurgents from the safety of the White House
- 4) **"Mission accomplished,"** May 2, 2003
- 5) **"I, George W. Bush ..."** Jan. 20, 2001



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**MISSION OF BURMA**

*Signals, Calls, and Marches* (Matador)

**MISSION OF BURMA**

*Vs.* (Matador)

**MISSION OF BURMA**

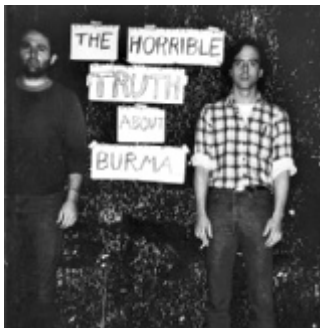
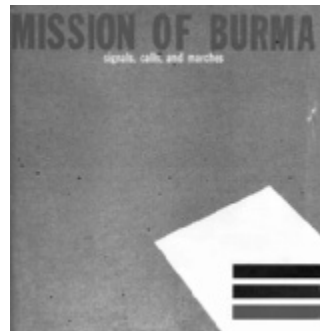
*The Horrible Truth About Burma* (Matador)

The second coming of Mission of Burma's Vs. goes down this summer at the Pitchfork Music Festival. The Boston quartet – guitarist Roger Miller, bassist Clint Conley, drummer Peter Prescott, and sound manipulator Martin Swope – defined innovation, and the fact that they created a sound imitated to this day in two albums speaks volumes. With these three LPs recently out-of-print, Matador's "definitive editions" of MoB's Ace of Hearts Records catalog are especially exciting, all three remastered by original producer/Ace owner Rick Harte. The tight, stabbing "Academy Fight Song" b/w "Max Ernst" 7-inch now opens 1981's *Signals*, along with two previously unreleased studio tracks, and '82's sprawling *Vs.* gets an additional four songs. *Horrible Truth*, the band's posthumous 1985 live release of their final 1983 tour, also features four bonus tracks from NYC and Detroit. The liner notes are flush with archival photos and gems such as Miller's audiology report from 1982 and a 1983 rejection letter from Warner Bros., but the group's feral, stop-on-a-dime Clash-like punk, buttressed by a new musical angularity that would come to define the emerging universe of post-punk, remains as disconcertingly primal as ever. The bull's-eye is, thus, three DVDs of live performances. *Signals'* black-and-white collection from '79 and '80 is pre-MTV in its artiness, but the two '83 sets from the Bradford Hotel in Boston are of particular interest. Though the band's clearly road-weary – Miller already wearing rifle-range earmuffs to protect his deteriorating hearing – they're unrelenting. The afternoon set accompanying *Vs.* starts with the two-minute punk killer "The Ballad of Johnny Burma" and keeps the pace from there, while *Horrible Truth's* evening show stretches a marathon 17 songs and ends with sweat and "Academy Fight Song," visualizing a band not at their peak but just getting started.

(*Signals, Calls, and Marches; The Horrible Truth*) ★★★★★

(*Vs.*) ★★★★★

– Audra Schroeder



**THE REPLACEMENTS**

*Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash* (Twin/Tone/Rykodisc/Rhino)

**THE REPLACEMENTS**

*Stink* (Twin/Tone/Rykodisc/Rhino)

**THE REPLACEMENTS**

*Hootenanny* (Twin/Tone/Rykodisc/Rhino)

**THE REPLACEMENTS**

*Let It Be* (Twin/Tone/Rykodisc/Rhino)

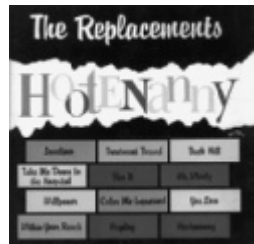
Generations have passed since the Replacements mattered, so it's difficult getting across to those who didn't have firsthand experience of the Minneapolis quartet's inebriated teenage angst and murky tenderness what all the ruckus was about. The group's first four albums have been reissued before, but with the addition of bonus tracks and well-crafted liner notes, this campaign fills in some of the blanks, a testament to the band's whimsical trek to nowhere in particular. 1981 debut *Sorry Ma*, a self-proclaimed burst of "power trash," blusters almost metal without the chops, fierce yet melodic. Among its 13 bonus tracks are four cuts from the original demo tape that brought the 'Mats to producer/manager Peter Jespersion's attention, plus the first single B-side, "If Only You Were Lonely," an acoustic performance by Paul Westerberg that hints at his later genius. Originally an EP, '82's *Stink* possesses an even more punk stance led by the obstinate "Kids Don't Follow" and "God Damn Job." Among the new additions, snot-nosed takes of Hank Williams' "Hey, Good Lookin'" and Bill Haley's "(We're Gonna) Rock Around the Clock" demonstrate the band's ability to tackle almost any pop song with a wink but no nod. *Hootenanny* ('83) finds the Replacements mulching a sink full of pop influences with nimble rocker "Color Me Impressed," the stifling heartbreak of "Within Your Reach," and the bonus glam boogie of "Lookin' for Ya" leading the way. One of the best rock discs ever, 1984's *Let It Be* is a raucous flurry of tunes like the blustering "I Will Dare," yearning "Unsatisfied," and thrashing "Answering Machine," not to mention an inspired cover of Kiss' "Black Diamond" and teenage anthem "Androgynous." Westerberg's songwriting is arguably his most insightful and poignant yet with an immature edge that's unparalleled. Additional covers of T. Rex and the Grass Roots bring little to an album that everyone should own at least one copy of already.

(*Sorry, Ma; Stink*) ★★★

(*Hootenanny*) ★★★★★

(*Let It Be*) ★★★★★

– Jim Caligiuri



**THE GEORGE MITCHELL COLLECTION: VOLUMES 1-45**  
(Fat Possum)

As a high school senior in 1962, George Mitchell began wandering Memphis back alleys and the rural roads of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi in search of the blues. He found them all right, as evidenced by this 7-CD collection of recordings spanning 20 years and including a few familiar names like R.L. Burnside, Robert Nighthawk, and Big Joe Williams, as well as dozens of virtual unknowns. Don't call

Mitchell a folklorist, however. In lively liner notes, Sam Sweet derides the field – John and Alan Lomax in particular – as "frosty, insular, uptight types." He contends that Mitchell "radiated warmth and eccentricity" and thus connected with bluesmen he recorded because of his generosity of spirit and a shared Southern culture. Purists offended by Burnside's rocking electro-infused collaborations with Jon Spencer and Kid Rock in the 1990s will no doubt prefer the four dirty Delta originals included here, the first-ever recordings of the Mississippi bluesman. Mitchell's recollections of the sessions are often hilarious and always honest. He remembers the one-string-bass- and kazoo-playing Dewey Corley, recorded 1967 in Memphis, as "a crotchety old motherfucker, very irritable." Cecil Barfield, also recorded that same year in Albany, Ga., provides four standout cuts highlighted by his hypnotizing if barely decipherable swampy howl. Excellent sides of Precious Bryant, Rosa Lee Hill, and Jessie Mae Hemphill are among the only known recordings of black female guitarists from the South in the 1960s. Percussion is generally limited to stomping of feet, and children playing and friendly chatter are par for the background on these intimate sessions. Clocking in at more than eight hours and 174 tracks, the collection might be overkill for the casual fan, but for the serious collector, *The George Mitchell Collection* comes available as 45 7-inches.

★★★★★

– Thomas Fawcett



**OTIS REDDING**

*Otis Blue/Otis Redding Sings Soul* (Collector's Edition) (ATCO/Rhino)

**LYNYRD SKYNYRD**

*Street Survivors* (Deluxe Edition 30th Anniversary) (Geffen)

**WHISKEYTOWN**

*Strangers Almanac* (Deluxe Edition) (Geffen)

Southern by birth, studio, and soul, these three musical institutions won't roll over upon having crucial chapters of their recorded legacies exhumed on respective 2-CD deluxe editions, but Dixie already sat up. Georgia's immortal esophagus peeler Otis Redding cut his third LP 1965's *Otis Blue/Otis Redding Sings Soul*, in Memphis backed by Booker T. & the MGs and Isaac Hayes during one 24-hour tear. Versions both in mono and stereo – the latter in Technicolor vs. the former's stoic black and white – come padded out with excerpts from ancient live albums, yet this R&B sacrament still beats the heart of its genre. Whether Redding's demanding "Respect," pleading "I've Been Loving You Too Long," or covering Sam Cooke thrice, soul-baring skillet knockouts abound. Jacksonville, Fla.'s Magnificent Seven recorded Southern rock poet laureate Ronnie Van Zant's 1977 swan song at Miami's Criteria Studios with *Otis Blue* overseer Tom Dowd before returning to Atlanta for take two. The second disc's original album recovers a spark ultimately sanded down into Nashville corners minus drummer Artimus Pyle's stiff plod, particularly "You Got That Right" and "I Never Dreamed," both on the 2001 expanded edition. *Street Survivors'* "Freebird," Teflon-coated chiller "That Smell," comes with a bonus pair of greater and lesser versions, though the real blue plate special is Van Zant's autobiographical rewrite of Merle Haggard's "Honky Tonk Night Time Man." Whiskeytown's sophomore slam and major label debut, 1997's *Strangers Almanac*, manages an emotional, lyrical, and musical certainty as sophisticated and true as Lucinda Williams' *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*, though it fades at the last. Thirteen original tracks balloon into 39, including a flat KCRW session, red-hot outtakes (the *Barn's on Fire* sessions), alternates takes ("Turn Around"), demos ("Houses on the Hill"), and covers of Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" and the True Believers' "The Rain Won't Help You When It's Over." Neil Young's unreleased archives equal one-tenth of those by former Whiskeytown North Carolinian Ryan Adams.

(*Otis/Lynyrd*) ★★★

(*Whiskeytown*) ★★★★★

– Raoul Hernandez

# World Wellness Weekend

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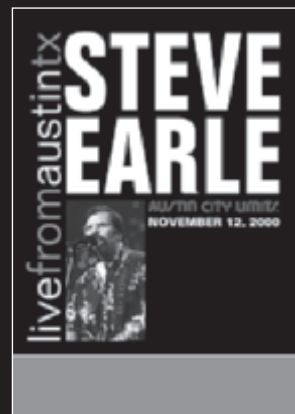
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# STEVE EARLE

When Steve Earle stepped onto the Austin City Limits stage on November 12, 2000, it had been 14 years since his first appearance in 1986. In between it must've seemed like he had lived several lifetimes.

His latest album at the time of this recording was *Transcendental Blues*. Of the record, *Rolling Stone* wrote, "These songs weave threads that bind Ireland and the American South, rockabilly and the Beatles, folk music and muscular rock and roll."



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## LEAD STORY

Update: Experimental "natural orifice" surgery might be health care's next big thing following its U.S. introduction last year at Columbia University (as reported also in "News of the Weird"), where doctors removed a woman's diseased gall bladder not by an abdominal incision but through her vagina. In March, doctors at UC-San Diego Medical Center removed a woman's appendix through her vagina and a man's through his mouth. (A microscopic camera must be inserted through the abdomen, however, to guide the surgeons.) Pain and healing time are usually less than half that of ordinary surgery, but the risk of internal infection is greater. The next step, doctors say, will be removing kidneys through the anus.

## GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

• A Maryland governmental fund created to assist "innocent" victims of violent crime has paid out nearly \$1.8 million since 2003 to injured (or deceased) "drug dealers, violent offenders and other criminals," according to an investigation by the *Baltimore Sun* published in March. Burial expenses were awarded for a carjacker, a victim of an inter-gang killing, and a sex offender who was fatally beaten in prison. The Maryland courts have ruled that as long as the applicant was not engaged in a crime at the time he was injured, he must be considered for an award.

• The Associated Press reported in March that "dozens" of locked-up sexual predators are receiving federal aid to take mail-order college courses through Pell grants, even though prison inmates normally are ineligible. Sex offenders who have completed their sentences but are held for "treatment," are not technically "prisoners," and many have spent their stipends on "living expenses" such as DVD players, in that they have no "room and board" expenses.

## GREAT ART!

• Graduate art student Matthew Keeney's latest piece of performance art, in February, called *The Waiting Project*, had him standing on streets in Syracuse, N.Y., waiting for someone to ask him what *The Waiting Project* is. In previous pieces, Keeney had held a "Super Bowl party for one" on a park bench, had earnestly watched ice sculptures melt, and had walked from the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C., to the Lincoln Memorial, stopping each time he heard a car horn and then starting again when he heard another.

# NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



**Earnest residents continue to destroy their homes accidentally: A house in Galveston had the roof blown off on Jan. 21 when the resident set out six bug foggers but neglected to turn off the gas stove's pilot light.**

• Two aggressive art pieces sexualizing Jesus' Last Supper were displayed earlier this year: Among the 74 plaster models shown in Gateshead, England, in January by British artist Terence Koh was one of Jesus and several disciples sporting generous erections. And in March, a retrospective of Austrian Alfred Hrdlicka went on display in the Cathedral Museum in Vienna, with the blessing of the archbishop of Vienna, even though it included a painting of the Last Supper as a "homosexual orgy," in Hrdlicka's description (because, he said, there were no women in the original Da Vinci painting that inspired it). (That piece was removed during the first week, after complaints.)

• Last year, Montreal, Quebec, artist Michel de Broin created, as art, the hollowed-out shell of an old Buick powered only by a four-seater bicycle (with hand brakes or, failing them, Fred Flintstone-type brakes). Nonetheless, when a group took the car out for a spin last October, an overzealous officer ticketed them for "driving" an unsafe "car," but in April, after a day-long court hearing, the charges were dropped.

## PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

Even though 20 states outlaw keeping monkeys as pets, the Humane Society of the U.S. estimates that there are 15,000 privately owned primates, with at least 200 Floridians licensed for pet capuchins, according to an April *Orlando Sentinel* report. Since experts warn that the animals are biters and scratchers and are very aggressive when agitated, the *Sentinel* asked what accounts for their popularity. Said the editor of *Monkey Matters Magazine*, it's their humanlike features and owners' desires to dress them up. "Believe me," said the editor, "if people could get their cats [into] outfits, a lot of those cats would be wearing outfits."

## POLICE BLOTTER

Latest Police Chases: 1) In Ocala, Fla., in March, Bret Wass, 28, scrambling from police investigating a sexual battery, commandeered

a tow truck and drove away, even though the truck had a car hooked onto it; during the chase, he hit the patrol car and was captured on foot nearby. 2) Police in Osaka, Japan, mobilized in January to apprehend fugitive Hirofumi Fukuda, 27, who was wanted for assaulting an officer (which tends to get the attention of fellow officers). By the end of the two-hour episode, a helicopter and 460 patrol cars, involving 2,240 law-enforcement officers, were on the case.

## WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND

Thirty years ago, before Wal-Mart became an international giant, a small video company made a "handshake" deal to shoot promotional footage of the firm's executives and was given free rein within the company. It made 15,000 tapes, including many, inevitably, showing Wal-Mart leaders in awkward situations. In 2006, an incoming Wal-Mart executive decided to end the relationship, devastating Flagler Productions' bottom line, and to compensate, the company began offering to research its library for historians and, more notably, litigants suing Wal-Mart on product safety, employment, and union-busting issues. According to an April *Wall Street Journal* report, a treasure trove of embarrassing moments is available.

## LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

In three incidents in March and April, robbers were arrested in the act after police were tipped off in advance. The source of the tip each time was a store employee who had been brazenly notified by the perp to expect a robbery soon. Daniel Glen, 40, was arrested in Windsor, Ontario, having called ahead to make sure there was enough money in the convenience store's cash register. An 18-year-old man was arrested in Chicago, having given his phone number to a Mufflers for Less employee and instructing him to call when the manager, with access to the safe, arrived at work. And two men were arrested near Traverse City, Mich., having described to a gas station employee two hours earlier exactly how they would soon rob him.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at [newssoftheweird.blogspot.com](http://newssoftheweird.blogspot.com) (or [www.newssoftheweird.com](http://www.newssoftheweird.com)).

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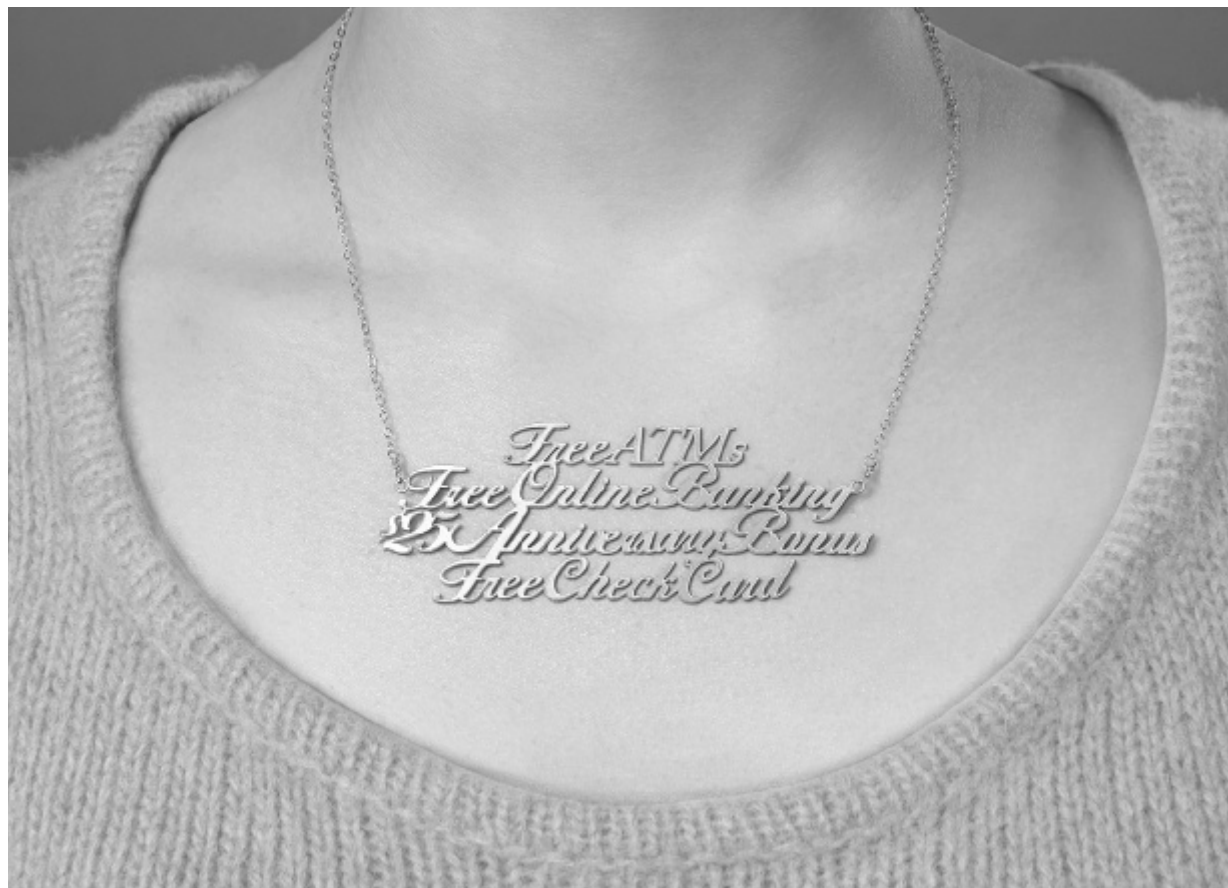


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**STRESS REDUCTION WORKSHOP** Bring a chair or mat and see how hypnosis can help reduce stress without getting sleepy. *Fri., May 2, 5:45 & 7:30pm.* Zilker Park, 587-3882. Free. [www.allthatbiz.com](http://www.allthatbiz.com).

**WARPED SIDE OF PHYSICS LECTURE** Kip Thorne wrote the book on gravitation, literally, and today he'll be talking about black holes, singularities, and other such time- and space-bending phenomena. Maybe *Bill & Ted* wasn't so far-fetched after all. 3pm. UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224. Free. [www.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu).

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE** (See Thursday 5/1.)

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts.)  
**Mexican American Cultural Center**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings.)  
**Bend and Break** @ Texas Union Theatre, 9:30pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings.)

**The Raconteurs** *Stubb's*  
**The Strange Boys, Hacienda, Gospel Truth**  
*United States Art Authority*  
**John Waite** *Cactus Cafe*  
**Tapes 'n Tapes** *Antone's*  
**Atmosphere** *Emo's*

## Saturday 03

**A TASTE OF LOUISIANA** Two days, two locations, one big plug for all things Cajun. Music, crawfish, and enough prepared food to empty your wallet. Sat., May 3, at Central Market's north location (4001 N. Lamar) Sun., May 4, at Westgate (4477 S. Lamar). Free. [www.centralmarket.com](http://www.centralmarket.com).

**ANTONE'S CINCO DE MAYO** Celebrate the Cinco and Latino Music Month with Del Castillo and Charanga Cakewalk. 9pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424. \$15. [www.austinlatinomusic.com](http://www.austinlatinomusic.com), [www.antonet.net](http://www.antonet.net).

**ASIA FEST** Seems like every cultural event this week is Cinco, Cinco, *Cinco!* Not so. Asia Fest has all the standard music, performances, food, and activities for the kids but steps it up with martial-arts demos, a sudoku contest, and a movie minifest. For more on the films being shown see "Asia Fest Mini Film Fest," p.60. 11am-9pm. Asian American Resource Center, 8301 Cameron. Free.

**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUMMIT** brings together council members, transportation planners, and representatives from CAMPO, TxDOT, and more. All they need is a little public input. 9am-4pm. UT cam-

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## Doubt

Zach Theatre Whisenhunt Stage, through June 8  
Running time: 1 hr, 20 min

"Innocence can only be wisdom in a world without evil," proclaims Sister Aloysius, principal of St. Nicholas. No one doubts whether evil exists or not. In *Doubt*, Zach Theatre's latest production, what's in question is who's masking their evil intents and who's acting in the name of good.

John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer- and Tony-winning drama is set in a Catholic church in the Bronx circa 1964 and focuses on the close relationship between a priest and an adolescent boy. Sister Aloysius runs the church's school and is your old-fashioned schoolmarm, a nay-saying nun who thinks satisfaction is a vice, pulls no punches, and knows exactly how the world turns. She bluntly dresses down her new teacher, Sister James. She never smiles. She's the woman you'd expect to slam a ruler on your knuckles.

The counter to her icy persona is Father Flynn, a progressive priest. He teaches basketball to the boys, preaches on the power of doubt, and altogether chafes the righteous chaps of Sister Aloysius. When the principal learns that Father Flynn has taken Donald Muller, the first black student at St. Nicholas, under his wing, she immediately jumps to the worst conclusions. Sister Aloysius unwaveringly claims certainty in her speculation, though her proof seems to be in her person-

al disdain for his peculiar habits: his use of ballpoint pens, the three lumps of sugar he takes in his tea, his affinity for secular songs like "Frosty the Snowman."

It's something we don't want to be true. Pederasty, abuse, defilement, corruption – it's much easier to believe these things don't happen, that the world is innocent and good, that warm-hearted men like Father Flynn would never do such unspeakable things. In fact, no character in *Doubt* is willing to use precise language to describe the incident. The most provocative phrase used is "inappropriate relationship." We don't want to give such terrible possibilities legitimacy.

And yet. Why is there a yet? Why does doubt linger? Part of it is our history, our knowledge of the sad, disturbing troubles that have plagued the Catholic Church. Part of it is our conservative desire to protect ourselves from that which we haven't experienced, the unknown, the potentially harmful. And part of it may be, sadly, that we've come to expect the worse in these situations.

And yet, as much as we want to write off Sister Aloysius and her holy high horse, we cannot. As much as we want the world to be clearly partitioned into good and evil – "that the world sometimes is black and white," as the nun puts it – deciding which side is the right one is far from an easy matter. Neither Father Flynn nor Sister Aloysius can live up to either ideal. Caught between the two power figures and schools of thought, young Sister James cannot sleep. The middle ground is torturous. The middle ground is doubt.

*Doubt* walks this line without exploiting the plot with scenes of melodrama or sensationalism, easy pitfalls with such subject matter.



Without intermission, director Steven Dietz's production constantly escalates in tension as gripping scene follows gripping scene. The action neatly shifts around the in-the-round Whisenhunt Stage, cleverly designed to house garden, office, and pulpit all at once.

Perhaps the scariest evil is the one that marches resolutely on in the name of good. So much is done in good's name, yet no one can hold claim to it. Who is good? Who is evil? "When you are lost, you are not alone," preaches Father Flynn. He's speaking of doubt. Losing the faith. In Shanley's compelling drama, though, the consequences of losing the right to be good are far greater. And losing that, well, nothing cures.

– Avimaan Syam

## Theatre

### OPENING

**AUSTIN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** The Bard's comedic "war of the sexes" gets a fresh and music-filled rendition in this ASF production, going all "Shakespeare Under the Stars" (hey, bring a pick-a-nick!) on the Zilker Park hillside. The play's classic hijinks and lovely badinage, directed by Ann Ciccolella, are abetted by parodies of pop songs on period instruments, as composed by Steve Saugey and sung by Kirsten Dorn. *May 1-25. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr. Free.*



TroublePuppet Theater Company gets historically hysterical with a visit to the Haymarket Riot.

**TROUBLEPUPPET THEATER: THE CASE OF THE HAYMARKET RIOT** Puppetmaster Connor Hopkin explores the issues of immigration and labor at a crucial point in American history, using, yes, puppets, live music (by Lauren Gugiolo of the Dialectones) and projections. *Fri.-Sat., May 3-10, 8pm. The Firehouse, 3002 Guadalupe. \$5. 423-5559. www.troublepuppet.com.*

**THE SPENCERS: THEATRE OF ILLUSION** This glamorous husband-and-wife team brings classic stage magic to its apotheosis with much choreography, comedy, scenery, lighting, and music. *Sat., May 3, 4 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$24.50-46.50. www.spencersmagic.com.*

### CLOSING

**TROILUS AND CRESSIDA** Japhy Fernandes directs this Shakespeare play "in all its sci-fi comic book glory." *BYOB. Through May 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Velvet Rut Theatre, 1612 E. Seventh. Donations accepted. 236-1092. www.myspace.com/thevelvetruttheatre.*

**STOP KISS** Different Stages presents Diana Son's bittersweet play about love, vulnerability, and risk between two women, directed by Karen Jambon. *Through May 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. www.main.org/diffstages.*

**LUNCH HOUR** Jean Kerr's screwball comedy about two married couples and their revealed shenanigans at a beach house in the Hamptons is directed by Jonathan Urso for the Onstage Theatre Company. *Through May 4. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 257-9832. \$10-30. www.citytheatreaustin.org.*

**BLITHE SPIRIT** Noel Coward's guh-guh-ghostly comedy of romance and afterlife scheming enlivens the Austin Playhouse stage. With David Stahl, Lara Toner, Bernadette Nason, Janet Hurley Kimlicko, Tom Parker, Mary Agen Cox, and Rachel Dendy under the direction of Don Toner. *Through May 4.*

*Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C. 476-0084. \$24-28 (half-price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

**SAY UNCLE, UNCLE SILAS** It's a sprightly spoof of old-timey melodrama, as the Spring Street Players stage Tim Kelly's comedy out in Bastrop. *Through May 3. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Bastrop Opera House, 711 Spring, Bastrop. 512/321-6283. \$10 (\$8, seniors; \$7, students; \$5, ages 14 and younger). www.bastropoperahouse.com.*

### ONGOING

**ON GOLDEN POND** The Way Off Broadway Community Players out in Leander present this Ernest Thompson family drama that you may know from the movie version, yes? *Through May 10. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Sun., May 4, 3pm. WOBOP Theatre, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy, Leander, 512/259-5878. www.wobcp.org.*

**MATT & BEN** Naughty Austin presents Kelley Estes and Breanna Stogner in this Hollywood-happy farce, written by Mindy Kaling and Brenda Withers, in which a certain pair of celebrity friends magically discover a screenplay to make a hit movie with. Tabloidable antics ensue. Directed by Blake Yelavich. *Through May 10. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$27 (\$20, students, seniors). www.naughtyaustin.com.*

**SPEED THE PLOW** David Mamet's fierce and fast-talking comedy casts a gimlet eye at the ethics (or lack thereof) of a pair of slick Hollywood execs. These showbiz sharks are well-played (we easily assume; we've seen what they can do) by Ben Wolfe and Ken Bradley, under the direction of Michael Stuart and Lara Toner for Austin Playhouse. *Through May 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (half-price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

**DOUBT** It's nun versus priest in this faith-rendering power struggle from John Patrick Shanley (author of the film *Moonstruck*), directed for Zach Theatre by Steven Dietz, as an intense game of cat-and-mouse unfolds in a Bronx Catholic school in 1964. *Through May 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachscott.com.*

### DINNER THEATRE

**THE FALSETTOS** Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players spoof a certain popular HBO series, in a venue featuring Italian cuisine (appropriately enough) that lets you twirl your vermicelli (or divide your veal Parmesan or what-have-you) while trying to sleuth out the culprit of this interactive comedy – and the best detective in your crowd wins a prize. *Saturdays, through May 31. 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.capcitymystery.com.*

### AUDITIONS

**WHAT I WANT RIGHT NOW** Different Stages is casting this Tom White play, to be directed by Norman Blumensaadt in June and July. Seeking: Men (ages 26-45) and women (ages 26-45). All ethnicities encouraged to apply. Scripts available at the ACoT offices, which is also where auditions will be held. *Sat.-Sun., May 3-4, 1-3pm. ACoT, 701 Tillery #9. 453-7943.*

### THEATRE CALL BOARD

**SBCT PLAYWRITING CONTEST** Sam Bass Community Theatre is soliciting submissions of original full-length plays. Submissions will be reviewed by a committee of experienced SBCT directors. The six finalists will each receive a two-performance reading open to the public. The winning play will receive a fully mounted production during SBCT's 2008-09 season. Submissions must be previously unproduced to be considered. See their website for details; send your plays to: *Frank Benge, P.O. Box 767, Round Rock, TX 78680. Deadline: May 31. www.sambastheatre.org.*

**SUMMER ACTS!** Because, we suppose, a city can never have enough festivals in a given year, the City Theatre Company is producing one that's meant to get "Austin theatre organizations and performers on stage and acting this summer." So almost a micro-FronteraFest sort of thing. Like this: 36 performances, six performances per company, two hours for each performance to set, perform, and strike. The City Theatre stage is yours, and you get a stage manager, lighting, etc., and you keep all the box office. They're charging "just over" \$100 for a show, and the fest runs July 7-20. Sound like a deal, thespian? Check their website for details. [www.citytheatreaustin.org](http://www.citytheatreaustin.org).

**DIVERSITY PHOTO-DOCUMENTARY CALL FOR MODELS** Ricardo Acevedo seeks models for US, a portrait project documenting Austin's multiracial families, couples, and individuals. Exhibition scheduled for July 2008. *1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. freaksamor07@yahoo.com.*

### SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 16 issue is Monday, May 5.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials. Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.  
[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.  
[dance-classical@austinchronicle.com](mailto:dance-classical@austinchronicle.com).

Ric Williams, litera. [litera@austinchronicle.com](mailto:litera@austinchronicle.com).

Benné Rockett, visual arts. [art@austinchronicle.com](mailto:art@austinchronicle.com).  
Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.  
[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

## Refraction Arts: Fuse Box 2008

Ron Berry and his Refraction Arts people are doing for live theatre, it seems, what South by Southwest does for music and film and Web stuff: bringing in groups and troupes and artists from beyond the Texas borders, from across these United States and over the Big Pond, to join with fierce locals in presenting, in venues all over this city, live theatre and dance and media-enhanced variations on the performative arts. (They've got a bit of excellent film and music, too.) Fuse Box used to be rather big – now it's getting huge – and, as always, it boasts a diverse slate of performances and panels and exhibitions sure to provide much unique entertainment and food for thought. See the website for details on tickets, passes, and even more ongoing shows. [www.refractionarts.org/fusebox](http://www.refractionarts.org/fusebox).

### THURSDAY, MAY 1

**7pm: Stacked Cow and Other Dances** from Hijack (Minneapolis) and Scott Heron (New Orleans), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**7:30pm: Woman's Work: Reconstructions of Self, Program 2** by Andee Scott (Austin), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

**8pm: Cape Disappointment** from the Debate Society (Brooklyn), by writers Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen and director Oliver Butler, *Blue Theater, 916 Springdale;* **Cardo** by CFW Poet Agency (Mexico City), directed by Iván Buenader, *Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St.*

**8:30pm: Vicious Dogs on Premises** from Witness Relocation (New York City), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**9:30pm: Reggie Watts** (Brooklyn), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

**10pm: Field Guide: Dance in the U.S., Part 2** with tEEth (Portland, Ore.), Elsewhere Dance Theater (Austin), Jordan Fuchs (New York City) & Sarah Gamblin (Denton), Heather Maloney (New York City), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

### FRIDAY, MAY 2

**6pm: B Scene** (Austin), *Blanton Museum of Art, Congress & MLK.*

**7pm: The Haymarket Project** TroublePuppet Theater (Austin), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**7:30pm: Woman's Work: Reconstructions of Self, Program 1** from Andee Scott (Austin), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

**8pm: Cape Disappointment** from the Debate Society (Brooklyn), by writers Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen and director Oliver Butler, *Blue Theater, 916 Springdale.*

**8:30pm: Stacked Cow and Other Dances** by Hijack (Minneapolis) and Scott Heron (New Orleans), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**9:30pm: Reggie Watts** (Brooklyn), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

**10pm: Vicious Dogs on Premises** by Witness Relocation (New York City), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.;* **Extravaganza #3** Austin Video Bee presents a performance and video showcase, *Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th.*

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

**Noon: Hope to See You There** by Sean Ripple (Austin), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**2pm: Vicious Dogs on Premises** by Witness Relocation (New York City), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**4pm: Stacked Cow and Other Dances** by Hijack (Minneapolis) and Scott Heron (New Orleans), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**6pm: Field Guide: Dance in the U.S., Part 2** with tEEth (Portland, Ore.), Elsewhere Dance Theater (Austin), Jordan Fuchs (New York City) & Sarah Gamblin (Denton), Heather Maloney (New York City), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.;* **Woman's Work: Reconstructions of Self, Program 2** Andee Scott (Austin), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

**7pm: Fuse Box Collaboration Project: Double Fantasy** Jared Steffensen (Utah) and Terry Plumming (Chicago/Austin); Lisa Choinacky (Austin) and

Jake Borndal (New York City); Armando Miguelez (Mexico City) and Lauren Tietz (Austin); Céline Foussadier (Paris) & Chris Cuellar (Austin); Mary Magsamen/Stephan Hillerbrand (Houston) and Kirk Lynn (Austin), *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**8pm: Graham Reynolds & Brannen Temple** *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside;* **Toneburst** 7 Church of the Friendly Ghost & Rick Reed (Austin), with Brent Fariss and others, *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.;* **Cape Disappointment** from the Debate Society (Brooklyn), *Blue Theater, 916 Springdale.*

**10pm: Reggie Watts** (Brooklyn), *Rollins Studio Theatre, Long Center, 701 W. Riverside.*

### ONGOING

**Etiquette Rotozaza** (London), *Through May 3. Thu.-Fri., 10am-10pm; Sat., 10am-6pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth.*

**Evolution Sonnet Blanton & Natalie George** (Austin), *Through May 3. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.*

**Changarrito Maximo Gonzalez** (Mexico City), *Through May 3. Various times and locations around Austin.*

**Extravaganza #3 Austin Video Bee**, *Through May 3. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th.*

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# Comedy

## IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com).

**Craig Shoemaker: The Lovemaster** The silver-tongued stand-up playboy of this Western world returns with his smooth and wooing ways, ready to charm the pants off any ladies special enough to pique his suave, manly interest. Right? Bwa ha ha ha! *May 1-3. Thu., 7:30pm; Fri-Sat., 7 & 9:30pm.*

**Dan Levy** Oh, the heavy burden of being the son of **Eugene Levy**, right? Maybe not, as this funnyman's got his own hilarious shit going on, regardless of his immediate progenitor. (Heh-heh, "progenitor.") But, yes, acclaimed from coast to coast and onscreen and now onstage in Austin, here's Levy the Younger, with opener **Brendon Walsh**. *May 7-10. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

**COLDTOWNE THEATER** 4803 Airport. [www.coldtowne.com](http://www.coldtowne.com).

**Improv out the Wazoo** Some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv in this weekly mix: **Uptowne** is ColdTowne's foray into sketch comedy. Foray? Foray change, like. *Thursday, 10pm. Parallelogramophonograph* They're fast, they're funny, they're totally *kawaii*, and this week they'll bring you their friends, **Starter Kit**. *Thursday, 12mid. Proctor* is hosted this week by **Lance Gilstrap** and **Nick Ramirez**. *Friday, 8pm. That Other Paper* presents **Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues. *Friday, 10pm. Stool Pigeon* features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Sat., 8pm. Cold, Cold Improv* The ColdTowne house troupe improvises up a conflagration with those loveable **Frank Mills**. *Sat., 10pm.*

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersollies.com](http://www.estersollies.com).

**Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild** The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ail! ail! ail!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

## 'La Caja Museo de Arte Contemporáneo'

Mexic-Arte Museum, through May 15

You know how your childhood bedroom or the space under a table seemed so large and spacious when growing up? But upon revisiting it years later, you wonder how you ever fit there so comfortably? Now that you're older, those spaces are small in relation to your body. It's all about perspective.

Currently at Mexic-Arte Museum is "La Caja Museo de Arte Contemporáneo," a museum within a museum. In the gallery hang works by contemporary Mexican artists. In the center, a dollhouse-sized display features tiny autonomous works of art. It is pointed out that they are not miniature replicas. In both instances, the artists have contributed a work. Some artists are instantly recognizable in both settings,



like Mario Torres Peña's *4 de Julio*. In the gallery, it is a young girl's dress made of paper, and in the display, it is a tiny dress made of paper encased in a small vitrine. Some artists have radically different works, like José Fors; his full-sized *Cielo y tierra II* is a diptych of clouds of lines with one panel on a dark ground and the other on a light ground. But Fors' corresponding small work is a sculptural, abstracted figure, *Mujer cilindro*. And then there is Luis Manuel Serrano, who doesn't seem to make a shift in scale at all between

*Los Pájaros homenaje a Alfred Hitchcock* and *La banda del automovil rojo*.

It is difficult trying to get a feel for the mini-exhibit within the display, but the larger exhibit definitely has a dreamlike quality to the works. A number of the works use surreal imagery, among them Serrano's *Los Pájaros* and Flor Minor's cartographically branded figure,



*Indigo Norte*. There are the works suggesting infinity. Teresa Zimbrón's *Antartida* has a single figure, minuscule in relation to the sea of ice platforms, stretching across the canvas. And then there is work that refers directly to our minds' nocturnal activities. Enrique Guillen's triptych features a reclined and contorted figure covered with a bedsheet. *Muerte (Death)*, *Pesadilla (Nightmare)*, and *Capullo (Cocoon)* provide the most representational images of sleep and dreams.

Between the suggested dream theme and the scale shifts between the exhibits, one can think of the absurdity of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Unless miniatures activate your interest, there is little whimsy to this show. There is some amusement in identifying the pairs of huge and small artwork, but it comes off as novelty. Besides making you bend over and strain your eyes, curator Martha Papadimitriou does not shift our perspective. There is plenty of absorbing engagement with the "regular"-sized exhibit. – Salvador Castillo

**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** 617 Congress, 443-3688.

**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:** Asaf Ronen and friends present a riotous group of comedians in a show called **Ka-Baam!!** – where new and unusual superhe-

roes (powered by *your* suggestions) come to life onstage. (See "First, Free Comic Book Day, and Then – Ka-Baam!!," p.46) *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.thevelveetaroom.com](http://www.thevelveetaroom.com).

**Open Mic Night** These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Mason Lerner**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

**Dave Little** The perennial Dallas "Top 6" comedian comes down from the misbegotten urban blight to the north of us to reign supreme as King of the One-Liners here at the Velv. Well, for this weekend, anyway. **Mark Agee** and **Mason Lerner** open. *Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

**KICK BUTT COMEDY OPEN MIC** This takes some bravery; it could be painful or hilarious; but we reckon the beverages are always good there in Gohring-sensei's martial-arts-inflected java joint. (Arrive early to sign up.) *Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

**FUNNIEST PERSON IN AUSTIN COMPETITION** See top talents and complete unknowns battle it out for the right to the coveted title. There's a diverse slate of comics each night, some hilarious, some unforgivably lame, all set on victory, their eyes weirdly ablaze with the lust for fame and fortune. *Through May 12. Mondays, 8pm. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.*

**COMEDY AFTER HOURS** Hey, it's a new venue for stand-up comedy, based in Dave and Buster's. Like this: "Each Friday night will feature a local MC, an opener, and the headliner running about an hour to an hour and half." This week: **Jim Holder** and **Ray Burnett**. *Fri., May 2, 8 & 10pm. Dave and Buster's, 9333 Research Ste. A-600, 346-8015. \$14 (\$12, students, military). www.comedyafterhoursaustin.com.*

**THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK** features the best comics in Austin, so they say – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, deep in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.*

## Dance

**DANCER'S EDGE: WRINKLE IN TIME** Body Talk Dance Company performs this dance history of how music has shaped the world's rhythms, fashions, beliefs, customs, and our acceptance of differing views and cultures. *Sun., May 4, 7pm. Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman. 797-4983. \$10 (\$8, students). dancersedge\_boxoffice@yahoo.com.*

**ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT** Two performance events close out the semester at Austin Community College: **Choreographers' Showcase** Student works and new works by dance faculty choreographers Darla Johnson and Allison Orr. *Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8pm. Mainstage Theater, 1212 Rio Grande. \$6 (\$3, seniors, students). Information* Students from the Choreography I class perform under the direction of faculty member Jessica Lindberg. *Tue., May 6, 6pm. Rm. 130 Dance Studio, 1212 Rio Grande. Free 223-3384.*

## 1,001 NIGHTS

**ARABIC MOTHER'S DAY BAZAAR** Experience the sights and sounds of the Arabic market and find that special something for that someone special. Belly dancing, henna tattoos, complimentary Arabic coffee and dessert, and a store full of beautiful and unique treasures imported directly from Syria, Egypt, and Morocco. *Sun., May 4, 11am-6pm (belly-dance shows at 2 & 4pm). Zein's Dance Studio, 51st & Duval Street. 533-9227. Free.*

**ARARAT: LUNA FEST ATX** Expect all manner of things Middle Eastern, including food and beverages (Hot Mama's coffee!), at this midtown arts and music festival. *Sat., May 3, 10am-2am. United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth. 476-MAMA. \$12. www.myspace.com/lunafestatx.*

## TWO LEFT FEET

**FLAMENCO CLASSES** For beginners and intermediate dancers. Beginner: *Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm. Intermediate: Thursdays, 7:30-8:30pm. Joyce Willett School of Dance, 5811 Berkman. \$14 each class.*

**DANCE INTERNATIONAL** Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. Also: **Volunteers sought**; help



The superhero-generating comedy improv show **Ka-Baam!!** unleashes its awesome might at the Hideout this Saturday.



out in exchange for dance lessons. *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.*

**ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES** Taught by Andrea Ariel. Open to all levels. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm; Thursdays, 7:15-8:45pm. Knabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. 458-4258. \$12.*

**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: 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.*

**FOLKLORE ARGENTINO** Introductory level *gato, chacarera, and more. Tuesdays, 7-45pm. EsquinaTango, 209 Pedernales. 524-2772. \$12 each class. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.*

**AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS** Learn 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); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.*

**SPEAKEASY: SALSA LESSONS** *Wednesdays, 9pm. Speakeasy, 412 Congress, 47-PARTY, 47-PARTY. Free. www.speakeasyaustin.com.*

**FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES** *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.*

**DANCE OFF ATX: CALL FOR ENTRIES** *ilove-mikelitt, a local Austin group that produces various events celebrating creative lifestyles, announces a call for entries for Dance Off ATX, which will feature a revue and friendly dance-off competition. Dancers of all styles and skill levels are sought. First, sign up on the event website. Dance Off date: Thu., May 1, 9pm-2am. United States Art Authority, 512 W. 29th, 480-9562. www.ilovemikelitt.com.*

## Classical Music

### OPENING

**AROUND THE VIOLA IN 80 MINUTES** Classical works inspired by folk idioms from around the world, by violist Aurelien Petillot, pianist Nikki Birdong, and friends, marking the finale of Viola by Choice's eclectic inaugural season. *Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8pm. Christ Chapel-Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, 606 Rathervue, 913-6554. \$15 (\$12, seniors; \$8, students; \$5, children). www.violabychoice.org.*

**EYES, EARS + FEET** Each spring the UT Department of Theatre & Dance and Electronic Music Studios collaborate to put on this multimedia presentation, which features dance, electro-acoustic music, and video. New works by a variety of composers, choreographers, and video artists. Preperformance installation: *Fri., May 2, 7pm. Winship Rm. 2.180. Performances: Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, Winship Bldg., UT campus. Free.*

**TEXAS CHORAL CONSORT: THERE IS A SEASON** Songs of life, death, love, and madness make up this TCC event. New Artistic Director Brent Baldwin leads TCC's auditioned ensemble in a lush array of pieces ranging from 16th century madrigals to contemporary songs by James Taylor and U2. *Fri.-Sat., May 2-3, 8pm. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center, 372-3233. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students; free, ages 9 and younger). www.txconsort.org.*

**"THE MUSIC OF LED ZEPPELIN" AT THE LONG CENTER** *Sat., May 3. 474-LONG (5664). \$35.50-\$55.50. www.thelongcenter.org.*

**AUSTIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND HILL COUNTY YOUTH CHORUS: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** The pair of youth choirs performs a pair of concerts, featuring world premieres by a pair of Grammy winners, Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel, including pieces sung in a variety of languages. *Sat., May 3, 4pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. Sun., May 4, 3pm. Evans Auditorium, Texas State University-San Marcos. 450-4395. \$10. www.austinchildrenschoir.com.*

**AN AFTERNOON WITH MOZART** Some of Mozart's most beautiful sacred music, including Missa Brevis in B flat Major, "Laudate Dominum" from Solemn Vespers, and an organ sonata. Featuring Camerata, the First English Lutheran church choir, with a chamber orchestra and guest soloists. *Sun., May 4, 2pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. 478-1933. Free. www.1stenglish.org.*

**AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: SPRING CONCERT** AYO's various student orchestras perform works familiar and fun in a family-friendly atmosphere. *Sun., May 4, 3pm. McGee Performing Arts Center, Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. Free. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

### CLOSING

**AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: FAMILY MUSIC FESTIVAL** Welcome to the first fun-filled, fast-paced full-family event at the new Long Center, in which ASO and some of the biggest names in kids' entertainment drop in for three days of music and merriment. **The Biscuit Brothers** Local lights Dusty and Buford bring Symphony Barn from Old MacDonald's Farm to the stage for a festival finale. *Thu., May 1, 6pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$12 (\$8, children). www.austinsymphony.org.*

### NOTES & ENCORES

**RECORDER AND PERCUSSION WORKSHOP** Nina Stern and Mauricio Molina teach two workshops of Renaissance dance and world music. Session one concentrates on the dance music of Renaissance Italy, France, and Germany. Session two is devoted to music from around the world. Advance registration is requested. Participants should bring a music stand and any recorders or drums they wish to play. *Renaissance Dance Music: Sun., May 4, 2-4pm. World Music: Sun., May 4, 4:30-6:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 458-8023. \$20 per session. www.main.org/austinars/announce.html.*

MAY 17<sup>th</sup>

# Annual PILATES DAY

Austin

The 5th Annual Austin Pilates Day is a city-wide event to promote the many benefits of Pilates. Join us on May 17th by contacting any of these participating studios for your FREE Pilates class. For more information, visit: [www.FreePilatesDay.com](http://www.FreePilatesDay.com)

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**THIS WEEKEND!** **Craig Shoemaker**  
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## Iron Man

D: Jon Favreau; with Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges, Shaun Toub, Faran Tahir, Leslie Bibb, Clark Gregg. (PG-13, 126 min.)

He has not lost his mind. He can see; he is not blind. He can walk; he will not fall. He is so alive you can see the thoughts in his head, and, boy oh boy, you should care because he's the best actor of his generation. Bloodied but unbowed, wounded but walking, Downey Jr.'s sly take on Marvel Comics' cold warrior *Iron Man* elevates everything about this film. The actor's real-life troubles merge with those of Iron Man's alter ego, Tony Stark, the billionaire playboy and military industrialist with a drinking problem, and the result is, no pun intended, riveting. As a comic-book

character, Iron Man never quite scaled the dime-store racks like Batman, Spider-Man, or any of Marvel/DC's other lantern-jawed megamen. His debut in *Tales of Suspense #39* in 1963 was cool, to be sure, but not quite as cool as, say, Jim Steranko's vivid, hallucinatory *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* But the iron Avenger-to-be quickly fine-tuned his original battleship-gray supersuit and, Dewar's in hand, repulsor beams at the ready, and call Friday Pepper Potts (played onscreen by Paltrow) by his side, went on to fight the good fight and stuck it out. Favreau's screen version is a magnificent origin story that holds its own just fine against Bryan Singer's convoluted *X-Men* and Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man*, and there are moments of both stunning action and earnest, subtle emotion. It's Downey Jr.'s show all the way, though. He twins the self-involved Stark with his own personal history to create a semi-autobiographical un-Superman. Both men, reel and real, were critically wounded by their own hands, had an epiphany, dropped by a Burger King for a noh, and then cleaned up their acts, but good. It's that subtext,



alongside Downey Jr.'s unyielding charm and subtle underplaying of his role, that lodges in your mind. Well, that and Iron Man's first battle, his jerry-rigged, flame-throwing escape from an Afghanistan cave. Kudos, too, to Bridges, who, as baddie munitions magnate Obadiah Stane, almost (but not quite) steals a scene or two out from under his clanking co-star. And Favreau? If you'd told me 12 years ago that *Swingers'* comic linchpin would end up helming one of the best, most visceral, and downright fun forays of all the comic-book franchises waiting in the CGI wings, I'd have told you to amscray, kid. But what the hell? Turns out irony's good for your blood.

— Marc Savlov  
 ★★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## New Reviews

### DECEPTION

D: Marcel Langenegger; with Hugh Jackman, Ewan McGregor, Michelle Williams, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Natasha Henstridge, Charlotte Rampling. (R, 108 min.)

Like so many sausages, Hollywood continues to grind out thriller after thriller, rehashing implausible twists and half-baked explanations without shame. Occasionally, the genre will produce something smart and provocative, like last year's *Michael Clayton*, but generally these movies are all the same, an indigestible concoction of ingredients thrown together without the benefit of any serious consideration of logic. Take, for example, *Deception*, a so-called erotic thriller in which a dweebish accountant (McGregor) stumbles upon a sex club of successful New York professionals, after mistakenly coming into possession of the cell phone of a handsome and charismatic attorney (Jackman) who has befriended him. But has he really "stumbled" upon this group of hot-to-trot Manhattanites? Was the phone swap really "mistaken"? Why do people seem to fail to recognize his "lawyer" pal? And what the hell kind of accent is McGregor using in this movie? Is he playing a Midwesterner by way of Scotland? The lies in *Deception* unfold in a manner which assumes that the revealed truth will surprise you, but only a numbskull would be misled by the

fishy turn of events that not-so-subtly telegraph, "There is more here than meets the eye." First-time film director Langenegger has no idea how to compensate for the screenplay's shortcomings; despite his background in television commercials, he has difficulty selling even the film's more accessible elements, like the sexual escapades of the upwardly mobile. While the accent-disabled McGregor at least has some idea of how to play his stock role, Jackman communicates the sociopathic tendencies of his bad-boy character by simply tautening his facial muscles, an acting trick that is much more effective when he's been in full lupine make-up in other movies. As the woman caught in the middle, Williams appears lost and foggy-headed, hardly the stuff of which femmes fatales are made. As written and performed, her character is not much more than a prop. Like most contemporary thrillers, *Deception* digs itself into a hole that gets deeper and deeper as it goes along. If you're to accept the dumbfounding finale of this film, which plays out in – of all places – a municipal park in Madrid, American passports can be issued on a day's notice and handguns can be easily transported on trans-Atlantic flights, notwithstanding 9/11. Whether you view it as intellectually dishonest or just plain sloppy, *Deception* is a movie that more than lives up to its title. — Steve Davis  
 ★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### GRADUATION

D: Michael Mayer; with Shannon Lucio, Riley Smith, Chris Marquette, Chris Lowell, Adam Arkin, Aimee Garcia, Glynnis O'Connor, Huey Lewis. (NR, 89 min.)

This high school bank-heist caper opens with a voiceover monologue that's typical of the meaningless blather that's yet to come. One of the speech's hollow lines resonates: "By senior year in high school, you either know what you want to do in life, or you don't." That sounds good but sums up little, and instead of using the line to prompt some kind of soul search – à la Richard Dreyfuss in *American Graffiti* – it kicks off a musing-free plot about four seniors who rob a bank during the cover of their graduation ceremony in order to get the money to pay for a life-prolonging bone-marrow transplant for one student's mom. Bad deed, good cause: If that's the film's moral, then the film's ultimate finale completely contradicts that message. The script by D. Cory Turner is muddy at best, and some of the choices made by first-time feature director Mayer further cloud the scenario. Often the viewer is left grasping for a nonexistent conduit or line of explanatory dialogue that might help smooth over some unnecessarily rough transitions. Then, once the heist occurs, there are numerous overlooked and unquestioned details that suffuse the entire movie with the patent air of improbability. The film stars a quartet of young TV thespians: Lucio (*The OC*), Marquette (*Joan of Arcadia*, *Alpha Dog*), Lowell (*Veronica Mars*, *Private Practice*), and Smith (*Freaks and Geeks*).

All perform quite well, although they're all a bit worn to be playing high schoolers. Arkin also gets a fair amount of screen time as both the bank president and one student's dad; however, anyone coming in order to see Lewis onscreen should be advised that he appears in only one short scene. *Graduation* is another in Landmark Dobie Theatre's recent trend toward presenting theatrical runs of small indie films due for DVD release in the week after leaving the theatre. (See *The First Saturday in May*, *Zombie Strippers*, and *Backseat* for recent examples.) *Graduation* opens this Friday exclusively in Austin, Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, and Minneapolis; it's set for DVD release on May 13. — Marjorie Baumgarten  
 ↗ Dobie

### ★ HAROLD & KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

D: Jon Hurwitz, Hayden Schlossberg; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Rob Corddry, Jack Conley, Roger Bart, Neil Patrick Harris, Danneel Harris, Eric Winter. (R, 102 min.)

The main problem with controversial gross-out comedies is that it doesn't take long after one taboo has been scratched off the list for the next one to appear on the horizon. Just ask the producers of *American Pie* or *There's Something About Mary*: Today's shock cinema quickly becomes tomorrow's in-flight entertainment, which makes the success of *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay* so impressive. Sequels to lowbrow cult-stoner-bathroom-sex comedies aren't supposed to work; they're supposed to be dry, lifeless retreads straining to shock. *Guantanamo Bay*, however, breaks the mold, following in the outlandish footsteps of *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* while expanding on its predecessor's mandate to push the boundaries of racial insensitivity. Once again the lion's share of the credit for this goes to Penn as Kumar, who is pure, unfiltered, unapologetic id: Come rain, come shine, come political internment, Kumar never stops seeing the world as his own private pleasure dome. Unfortunately for the more straight-laced Harold (a wonderfully deadpan Cho), his friend's devotion to self-indulgence often leaves them both in a lurch, as it does when Kumar brings a homemade bong on their flight to Amsterdam. A little post-9/11 paranoia and a lot of racial confusion later, and Harold and Kumar are on the run from the now-infamous military prison and setting off on a road trip across the American South to prove their innocence. Along the way, they run into a whole cavalcade of American racial stereotypes, and none of them – not the whites in the KKK, not the blacks playing ghetto basketball, not the Jews coveting a bag full of coins – is safe from mockery. But what truly elevates *Guantanamo Bay* out of the realm of a typical brainless, harmless stoner comedy is that it saves its most stinging comic attacks for the ultrapatriotic, post-9/11, willfully ignorant American male, personified by federal law-enforcement agent Ron Fox (Corddry). Fox is the portrait of modern-day, topsy-turvy neoconservative logic: Like his heroes in

the Bush administration, he's willing to destroy America in order to save it (in one interrogation scene, he literally wipes himself with the Constitution). In other words, he's the perfect foil for our heroes, who defuse geopolitical anxiety with post-racial, apolitical lust fulfillment. It's the triumph of instinct over ideology, and it's not a little bit brave. Anyone can come up with jokes about incestuous rednecks or pubic hair that "looks like Osama bin Laden's beard," but it takes guts to make a comedy in which the Indian-American hero accuses an African-American TSA agent of racial profiling, all so he won't get caught smuggling weed onto a plane. — *Josh Rosenblatt*

**MADE OF HONOR**

D: Paul Weiland; with Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd, Kadeem Hardison, Chris Messina, Busy Philipps, Sydney Pollack. (PG-13, 101 min.)

I don't know the first thing about first-time writer Adam Szykiel, but it's easy enough to imagine your average struggling screenwriter holed up in his apartment, bouncing a red rubber ball off the wall, and trying to come up with that killer idea that will get him out of debt and into celebrity sit-downs at the Chateau Marmont. And then ... eureka: *Made of Honor*. "Get it? It's like 'maid of honor' ... only with a dude playing the bridesmaid ... and he's in love with the bride, who's his best friend, so it's like his best friend's wedding. This thing totally writes itself!" Well, writes itself into a lie. Dempsey (TV's Dr. McDreamy) plays Tom, a slick playboy who, having previously invented the "coffee collar," now passes his days playing pickup with the boys and picking up chicks at Starbucks — chicks he will then subject to a ruthless set of dating rules meant to maximize his weekly influx of sexual encounters and minimize any messy emotional involvement. Best friend Hannah (Monaghan) is the

**Openings**

- Graduation* (NR)
- Iron Man* (PG-13)
- Made of Honor* (PG-13)
- Meet Bill* (R)
- Priceless* (PG-13)

**Ratings**

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- La bomba



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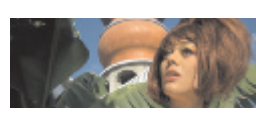
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**Strange Boys**  
Hacienda, Gospel Truth

5/3, 11a - 2a  
Art! Music!  
**LUNA FEST**

5/5, 7p  
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**FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL**  
Fri: (4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 9:30  
Mon-Thurs: 7:00, 9:30

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Dennis Quaid Sarah Jessica Parker Ellen Page  
**SMART PEOPLE**  
Fri, Mon-Thurs: 7:10; Sat/Sun: (1:10) 7:10

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Jackie Chan Jet Li  
**THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM**  
Fri-Sun: (4:10) 8:40; Mon-Thurs: 8:40

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**MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY**

D: *Bharat Nalluri*; with *Frances McDormand, Amy Adams, Shirley Henderson, Lee Pace, Mark Strong, Giardán Hinds*. (PG-13, 92 min.)

The Blitz was not all chip-rationing and stiff-upper-lipness for the Londoners who endured it — there was also the West End, gin, and the promise of non-Nazi-induced blackouts and sasstacular American movie stars, or at least that's what we have here. As Miss Pettigrew, the unflappable, always appealing McDormand submerges her sense of style and her not inconsiderate wit into the titular character first created by novelist Winifred Watson in 1938. Miss Pettigrew is an unemployed nanny with a no-nonsense streak and an exceedingly dour sense of couture, who bluffs her way into a job as the "social secretary" for the brain-dead, proto-fashionista, Yank-on-holiday starlet Delysia Lafosse (Adams), with appropriately hilarious results. Or maybe not so hilarious. The comedic success of this pair of dramatic archetypes, the radiant flibbertigibbet and the gray, lumpen elder spinster, in a lightweight bit of piffle such as this is a testament to both Adams' and McDormand's smarts. (03/07/2008) — Marc Savlov  
★★★ Arbor

**MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS**

D: *Wong Kar-wai*; with *Norah Jones, Jude Law, David Strathairn, Rachel Weisz, Natalie Portman, Chan Marshall, Frankie Faison*. (PG-13, 90 min.)

"The stories have all been told before," Norah Jones croons in the opening and closing of Wong's English-language debut. Indeed, the stories told within — of heartbreak and addiction and addiction to heartbreak — uniformly have an also-ran feel to them, something I never would have accused the Hong Kong filmmaker of before. As a first-time actress, Jones is entirely pleasant, and pleasant to look at in her retro heels, but is frankly a terrible choice to play Elizabeth, a woman undone by a straying boyfriend. The script (by Wong and mystery writer Lawrence Block) leans almost entirely on the obvious. It all looks gorgeous, but here, too, we're in familiar territory, the Wong romantic lexicon of slo-mo and time-lapse, red-light-district gels and iconic songs on endless replay, not to mention a high-fashion fetish. *My Blueberry Nights* can be sexy as hell, but for the first time in a Wong film, I felt duped for being so easily seduced. (04/25/2008) — Kimberley Jones  
★★★ Arbor

**NIM'S ISLAND**

D: *Jennifer Flackett, Mark Levin*; with *Abigail Breslin, Jodie Foster, Gerard Butler, Michael Carman*. (PG, 95 min.)

Boys adventure stories are a dime (store novel) a dozen, but girls adventure tales are rare things indeed. *Nim's Island*, which is adapted from Wendy Orr's young-adult novel, comes to the rescue with

its South Seas setting and message to girls of all ages about the need to become the heroes of their own life stories. The film details the parallel adventures of Nim Rusoe (Breslin), a motherless girl who lives on an otherwise deserted South Pacific atoll with her scientist father (Butler), and Alexandra Rover (Foster), a San Francisco agoraphobe who writes adventure novels about the escapades of her imaginary alter ego, Alex Rover (an Indiana Jones-type fellow who is also incarnated by Butler). It's lovely to watch Foster in this role, taking a comedic breather from all the high-tension thrillers she's been appearing in of late. Breslin tones down the perky effusiveness of her *Little Miss Sunshine* character and proves her versatility. (04/04/2008) — Marjorie Baumgarten  
★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

**THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL**

D: *Justin Chadwick*; with *Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson, Eric Bana, Jim Sturgess, Mark Rylance, Kristin Scott Thomas, David Morrissey, Ana Torrent*. (PG-13, 115 min.)

*The Other Boleyn Girl*, adapted from Philippa Gregory's novel, resembles a tragicomic reality show imported from some other, more fashion-forward past. Done in high style but with serious attention to detail, if not the historical record, Johansson plays Mary, the sibling to Anne (Portman), whose socially ambitious father, Sir Thomas Boleyn (Rylance) seeks to marry off (or pimp out) the more spirited Anne to Bana's Henry VIII. As fate would have it, the king favors Mary over Anne and promptly beds this *other* girl. The film is an engagingly sordid meditation on profeminism. Director Chadwick and production designer John Paul Kelly take pains to re-create the broody, conniving atmosphere of the court of Henry VIII (there's some impressively invisible CGI work), and the pairing of Johansson and Portman (besides being the wettest of fanboy dreamings) is deliciously inspired. (02/29/2008) — Marc Savlov  
★★★ Movies 8

**PENELOPE**

D: *Mark Palansky*; with *Christina Ricci, James McAvoy, Catherine O'Hara, Reese Witherspoon, Peter Dinklage, Richard E. Grant, Simon Woods, Ronni Ancona*. (PG, 102 min.)

To be fair, *Penelope* isn't a bad movie. It isn't a particularly good one, either, but for viewers who are susceptible to modern-day fairy tales that are heavy on whimsy, sweeping soundtracks, and easily digestible life lessons about the importance of inner beauty, I can see how it might be seductive.

Penelope (Ricci) has a pig's snout instead of a nose, the result of an age-old curse placed on her blue-blood family by an angry witch. Legend has it that until Penelope finds "true love with one of her own kind," she'll continue to be half woman, half pig. The problem, however, is that entire plot strands crop up from out of nowhere only to disappear without explanation, never to be heard from again. It's as if debuting feature-screenplay writer Leslie Caveny had so many ideas that she simply couldn't bear to leave any of them crumpled up on her office floor. (02/29/2008) — Josh Rosenblatt  
★★ Movies 8

**PROM NIGHT**

D: *Nelson McCormick*; with *Brittany Snow, Scott Porter, Jessica Stroup, Dana Davis, Collins Pennie, Johnathon Schaech, Idris Elba, James Ransone*. (PG-13, 88 min.)

This do-over of the 1980 *Prom Night* isn't so much an improvement over the original as lousy in a whole new direction, a nearly bloodless slasher film with fewer surprises than a broken jack-in-the-box. It's blandly scripted by J.S. Cardone, who adds nothing new to a genre that has already expired and been resurrected more times than Jason Voorhees. *Hairspray*'s Snow plays high school senior Donna, whose entire family was gutted three years earlier by maniac teacher Richard Fenton (Schaech), who has since been locked away, presumably, in the same inescapable madhouse Michael Myers keeps escaping from. Now, with the big night at hand, Donna, dull beau Bobby (Porter), and a quartet of their BFFs are stalked and ceremoniously exsanguinated (offscreen, no less), with nary a shred of suspense or even mild annoyance as the still-statutory crush'n prof carves a virtually goreless path toward his favorite coed. (04/18/2008) — Marc Savlov  
✶ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**THE RUINS**

D: *Carter Smith*; with *Shawn Ashmore, Jena Malone, Jonathan Tucker, Laura Ramsey, Joe Anderson*. (R, 97 min.)

*The Ruins*, based on Scott Smith's bestselling horror novel, is a riff on the perils of leaving the main trail and venturing off on one's own, especially if you're young, white, and American. Medical student Jeff (Tucker) gets a highly specialized crash course in field surgery and why cell phones are fundamentally evil little *diabolus ex machinas* when he and girlfriend (Malone) and their best friends (Ransley and Ashmore) end up trapped atop an ancient Mayan pyramid — along with a fellow German tourist — which harbors a dark, sinewy secret. Smith's singularly bizarre novel managed what this film cannot: fear and sympathy. Stripped of the novel's horror by its own overreliance on grisly imagery and a quartet of protagonists who you barely care about, this is not nearly as unique a horror film as it thinks it is or it could have been. (04/11/2008) — Marc Savlov  
★ Tinseltown South

**SHUTTER**

D: *Masayuki Ochiai*; with *Joshua Jackson, Rachael Taylor, Megumi Okina, David Denman, John Hensley, James Kyson Lee, Maya Hazen*. (PG-13, 85 min.)

*Shutter* is Japanese director Ochiai's Americanized-yet-shot-in-Tokyo do-over of Thai filmmakers Banjong Pisanthanakun and Parkpoom Wongpoom's sublime, melancholy, and ultimately ghastly (and identically titled) 2004 T-horror take on Franco Zeffirelli's *Endless Love* by way of Antonioni's *Blow-Up*. Ochiai's "photo-montage" (a couple sees mysterious images in photographs) suffers from the presence of everyone but the ghostly Okina (also seen stateside in *The Grudge* lite) and some shivery camerawork from the masterful eye of director of cinematography Katsumi Yanagijima — a favorite of both Takeshi "Beat" Kitano and Kinji Fukasaku (*Battle Royale*). But the

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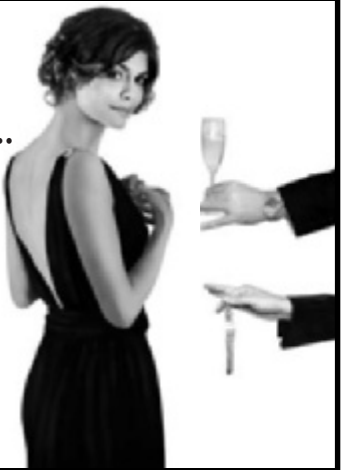
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## Tapes 'n Tapes ANTONE'S, FRIDAY 2

Still riding the buzz of 2006 debut *The Loon*, Minneapolis quartet Tapes 'n Tapes ups the ante with latest *Walk It Off* (XL), reeling in rambunctious indie rock with help from Mercury Rev's Dave Fridmann. Local trio White Denim, hot off a European tour, returns with its freewheelin' blend of neopschedelia and soulful garage pop. Grab a copy of the trio's *Fall Tour '08* LP. — Austin Powell

## The Raconteurs STUBB'S, FRIDAY 2

Despite hit-or-miss debut *Broken Boy Soldiers*, Jack White and the Raconteurs stormed Austin City Limits Music Fest 2006 like a seven-nation army, even firing off a cover of Nancy Sinatra's "Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)." The supergroup reloads Friday night (Saturday is sold out) with latest *Consolers of the Lonely*, a dynamic combination of Brendan Benson's best melodramatic ballads and garage blues. Raleigh, N.C.-based retro-rockers Birds of Avalon fly first. — Austin Powell

## Atmosphere EMO'S, FRIDAY 2 & SATURDAY 3

Two nights of Minneapolis duo Atmosphere on the outside stage make for some of the best live hip-hop around. As Rhymesayers royalty, MC Slug brings his no-holds-barred storytelling to life over DJ Ant's array of beats, ranging from the backyard breaks of 2007's *Strictly Leakage* EP to '02's morose *God Loves Ugly*. Their sixth LP, *When Life Gives You Lemons, You Paint That Shit Gold*, is a steady dose of both moods. — Chase Hoffberger



## Daedelus WHISKY BAR, SATURDAY 3

Club-hop rips through Granddad's vinyl collection when L.A. producer Daedelus hits the Whisky, chopping swing and big band cuts with a beat box. The Ninja Tune spinner's track record includes collabs with Busdriver, Madlib, and MF Doom, and he's putting final touches on new LP *Love to Make Music To*, out in June. San Antonio beatmaker Ernest Gonzales gets the party started. — Chase Hoffberger

## Old Pecan Street Festival

DOWNTOWN, SATURDAY 3 & SUNDAY 4

The 30th anniversary of Pecan Street keeps it weird with five stages and 20 locals. Saturday beams with Bill Baird's Sunset, the Lemurs, Ume, Attack Formation, Daniel Francis Doyle, and more before setting off fireworks (literally) with Grupo Fantasma at 8pm. Sunday sets an ethnic vibe with a Latin stage, St. Edward's Ballet Folklorico, and Sabaya Belly Dancers, plus a country stage for good measure (the Moonhangers, Texas Sapphires, et al.). See [www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com](http://www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com) for complete lineups. — Darcie Stevens

## In-Stores

Saturday: **Ghost of the Russian Empire**, End of an Ear, 6pm

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Austin's ambient ambassadors return.

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Randy Reynolds stomps out *Love & Harm*.



## Torche EMO'S, THURSDAY 8

"What's that sound?" wondered my buttoned-up acquaintance with a mixture of dread and curiosity.

As I gestured to the Orange amps filling the front half of the Longbranch Inn during South by Southwest 08, that low, heavy rumble increased until the windows of the tiny Eastside bar were rattling. When Torche struck its first cilia-stirring note, the bangs blew off my forehead.

"I saw one of the taxidermied animals on top of the bar fall over, too," recalls the group's guitarist Juan Montoya.

Torche may be the first band to frighten dead animals. The quartet's pedigree from Miami's noise and metal scene might have something to do with their sonic ferocity. Montoya and guitarist Steve Brooks played together in 1990s underground sludge heroes Floor, which disbanded after a decade and left its footprint for Torche in 2004. Now rounded out by drummer Rick

Smith and bassist Jonathan Nuñez, the foursome stands on the verge of breaking out with sophomore effort *Meanderthal* (Hydra Head). Recorded in Salem, Mass., by Converge guitarist Kurt Ballou, it's poppier than 2005's self-titled debut, a perfect balance of massive and catchy.

"The music's very primitive and simple but punchy," Montoya explains. "We play so much that now the songs come easier, but they've definitely matured. We're from the school of Melvins; we make up our own language."

Nonstop touring with acts as diverse as Mogwai and Austin's the Sword no doubt sharpened their tongue, though Montoya agrees that volume's the great equalizer.

"We've had people pass out — say they feel their organs trembling. It's intense. When I'm up there, it's like being in a blender. The whole room is like a giant vibrator." — Audra Schroeder

*Philly's Stinking Lizaveta and locals Canyon of the Skull open.*

## The Breeders EMO'S, MONDAY 5

The Breeders take their time, as witnessed by the three LPs Dayton, Ohio, sisters Kim and Kelley Deal have released since 1988. The title of fourth LP *Mountain Battles* (4AD) no doubt sprung partly from Kim's stints in rehab and 2004's Pixies reunion, I-saw-the-light moments rubbing up against Kim's balmy purr for a mellow patchwork. Mississippi boys Colour Revolt grime out the opening slot. — Audra Schroeder



## Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt, & Lyle Lovett

PARAMOUNT THEATRE, MONDAY 5 & TUESDAY 6

With four candidates for the Mount Rushmore of American singer-songwriters, there's guaranteed to be one heart-stopping moment after another. Expect plenty of interplay and a few new tunes, especially from John Hiatt, whose latest studio disc drops soon. This much honesty, poetry, and inspiration on stage deserves reverence, dignity, and a nice cold beer. — Jim Caligiuri

## Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin

MOHAWK, WEDNESDAY 7

Though the Springfield, Mo., quartet has begun to outgrow its quirky name, SLYBY capitalized on dubious nostalgia for the former Russian leader and sunk smooth pop hooks into Polyvinyl for sophomore effort *Pershing*. Oakland quintet Port O'Brien rides a nautical wave of folk-pop on upcoming official debut LP *All We Could Do Was Sing*. Locals Loxsly shine *Flashlights*. — Doug Freeman



## DAM SCOOT INN, THURSDAY 8

Middle East meets West as Palestinian rap trio DAM drops into Austin. Pioneers in their native Israel, Mahmoud Jreri and brothers Tamer and Suhell Nafar evoke brutal urban honesty, heard on 2006's international English/Hebrew debut, *Dedication*. They also appeared in *Slingshot Hip Hop*, a recent doc about Palestine's rap scene. Locals Southbound open. — Chase Hoffberger

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AUSTIN'S OWN  
**JIMMY LAFAVE**

TUE • MAY 13 • 8PM

THE AUSTIN RETURN

**ZOE LEWIS**

www.cactus@union.edu

6.5 ED MILLER	6.11 TOM RUSH
BRIAN MCNEAL	BILL STAINES
6.7 DANNY BARNES	6.12 MATTHEW RYAN
6.9 MIKE MCLURE	6.13 HAYDEN
6.10 UNDERGROUND	6.19 ANAIS MITCHELL
KERRVILLE REVUE	6.20 ELIZA GILKYSON

All Ages All The Time

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.cactus@union.edu



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"TWO DOLLARS"  
\$2 DRINK SPECIALS  
EVERY THURSDAY ALL NIGHT LONG  
SUNDAY  
ALL NIGHT HAPPY HOUR  
FRI & SAT UNTIL 11PM  
\$2 DOMESTIC & WELLS

THURSDAY 5/1  
\$2 DRINK SPECIALS  
ALL NIGHT LONG  
DJ DIAMOND TIP  
10PM-CLOSE

FRIDAY 5/2  
ELEVEN FINGERED  
CHARLIE  
10PM-2AM

SATURDAY 5/3  
MAGGIE MAE'S AND KOOP RADIO'S  
OFFICIAL PECAN STREET FESTIVAL PRESENTS  
12PM DJ JUANTY  
1PM PEEL  
2PM THE BLACKLISTED  
3PM THE BANES  
4PM ENRIQUE Y LA GUERRILLA  
5PM ATTACK FORMATION  
6PM WINCHESTER TWINS  
7PM BOB TAYLOR'S LATEST REVIEW  
8PM THE BILL JEFFERY'S  
8:30PM THE EASIES  
9PM AWESOME COOL DUDES  
9:30PM DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE  
KENTUCKY DERBY RUN FOR  
THE ROSES \*IN THE GIBSON  
ROOM WITH MINT JULEPS  
AND MOJOITOS.

SUNDAY 5/4  
12PM APPLALACHIAN STRING BAND  
1PM THE MAD DUKES  
2PM PUBLIC OFFENDERS  
& THE CIPHER  
3PM THE MOON HANGERS  
4PM TEXAS SAPPHIRES  
5PM ROD MOAG  
6PM THE MEDIUMS

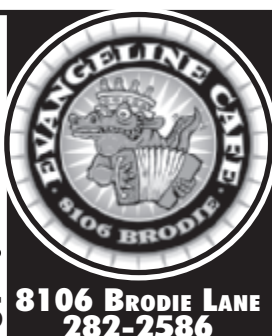
MONDAY 5/5  
MIKE MILLIGAN  
AND THE ALTAR BOYZ  
BLUE MONDAY 8PM-12AM

TUESDAY 5/6  
ELEVEN FINGERED  
CHARLIE  
NO COVER 10PM-2AM

WEDNESDAY 5/7  
JORDAN TANNER 9PM-1AM

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THURSDAY, MAY 1 • 7PM  
**LIZ MORPHIS**  
FRIDAY, MAY 2 • 10PM • \$5  
**MIKE BARFIELD**  
WITH  
**HORTON BROS.**  
SATURDAY, MAY 3 • 3PM  
**SUNSET VALLEY BOYS**



8106 BRODIE LANE  
282-2586

MONDAY, MAY 5 • 6:30PM  
**CHARLES  
THIBODEAUX**  
TUESDAY, MAY 6  
**BRENNEN LEIGH** 6PM  
**KEVIN GALLAUGHER** AND  
**GREG ANDERSON** 8PM  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 • 6PM  
**COWBOY JOHNSON**



fever tree  
RISING

AUSTIN TEXAS  
SAXON PUB  
MAY 10TH,  
SATURDAY, 8:00 PM  
JUNE 7TH,  
SATURDAY, 8:00 PM

HOUSTON TEXAS  
DAN ELECTRO'S  
WITH A KPFT SIMULCAST  
AUGUST 16TH, SATURDAY, 4:30 PM  
CONTINENTAL CLUB  
AUGUST 16TH, SATURDAY, 1:00 PM





**THURSDAY MAY 1**

**IAN MOORE**



**NAKIA**  
OPENING

DOORS 8 • SHOW 9  
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY MAY 2**



**TAPES 'N TAPES**  
with *White Denim*

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**SATURDAY MAY 3**

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION!  
**DEL CASTILLO**



OPENING: **CHARANGA CAKEWALK**

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**COMING SOON**

**SATURDAY MAY 24**

**GARY CLARK JR.**



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**SUNDAY MAY 25**

**BOB SCHNEIDER & MITCH WATKINS**

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**FRIDAY MAY 30**

**DIRTY WORMZ**

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**SATURDAY MAY 31**

**BOB SCHNEIDER BAND**

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**SUNDAY JUNE 1ST**

**HOMER HICCOLM & THE ROCKETBOYS**

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**WEDNESDAY JUNE 4**

**AUGUSTANA**  
w/ WILD SWEET ORANGE AND PADDY CASEY

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**SUN MAY 4**  
SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAY

**BRUCE SMITH**  
MARIO MATTEOLI • AIMEE BOBRUK

**WEDNESDAY MAY 7**

**Eric Tessmer ZAPATA**

DOORS 8 / SHOW 9

**MONDAY MAY 5**  
SUPER SOUL MONDAYS

**F.L.Y. JACK**  
AKINA ADDERLY & THE VINTAGE PLAYBOYS

DOORS 7 • SHOW 8

**THURSDAY MAY 8**  
SUREFIRE PRESENTS

**MURDOCKS** 12+

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS** 11+

**LALALAND** 10+

**FALCON BUDDIES** 9+

**FRIDAY MAY 9**

**PATRICE PIKE & HER BAND**




**CAROLYN WONDERLAND & HER BAND**



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**SATURDAY MAY 10**



**What Made Milwaukee Famous**  
WITH THE WHIGS  
THE DEAD TREES • DEAD BLACK HEARTS

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUESDAY MAY 6**  
AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY

**BLUESJAM**  
LATER BLUE TUESDAY BAND WITH DEREK & MALFORD

**WED 14 MAY**

HONORING **STEPHEN MOSER**

**STEPHEN IS ONE IN A MILLION!**

W/ KATHY VALENTINE • BOBBY WHITLOCK  
COCO CARMEL • SARA HICKMAN  
RAY BENSON • CHIP TAYLOR & MORE SURPRISES

ADVANCE TICKETS & VIP TABLES AVAILABLE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRIDAY MAY 16**

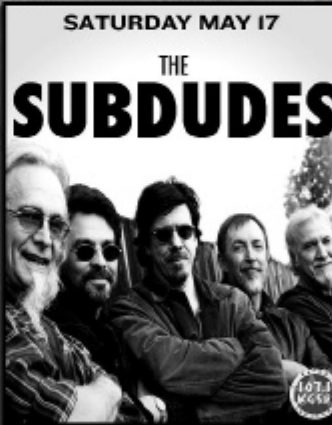
**GUY FORSYTH**  
CD RELEASE PARTY  
w/ THE BLUEBONNETS  
NATHAN SINGLETON



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**SATURDAY MAY 17**

**THE SUBDUDES**



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**FRIDAY JUNE 6**

**poi dog pondering**  
w/ abra moore

ON SALE NOW AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SATURDAY JUNE 7**

**ALPHA REV**

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**SUNDAY JUNE 8**

GREAT GUITARS ROCK FOR VAN WILKS  
**ERIC JOHNSON**  
**CAROLYN WONDERLAND**  
**DAVID GRISSOM & MORE**

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**THU 15 MAY**

**YOUNG GUNS** FEATURING **WES JEANS & ERIC TESSMER**

**SUNDAY MAY 18**

**AUSTIN BLUES SOCIETY 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

starring  
**MARCIA BALL**  
**ANGELA STREHLI**  
**CAROLYN WONDERLAND**  
WC CLARK • OMAR KENT DYKES  
ALAN HAYNES & MANY MORE

ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB** MAY 19



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**REMEMBERING CLIFFORD**

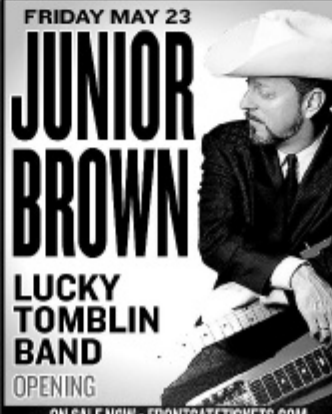


STARRING HIS MANY FRIENDS  
**MAY 22**

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**FRIDAY MAY 23**

**JUNIOR BROWN**



**LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND**  
OPENING

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**THU JULY 10**

**Edwin McCain**




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**WED JULY 16**

**JAMES HUNTER**



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PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH

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## club listings

### Thu 01

- 219 WEST** Acoustic Jungle (8:00)  
**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)  
**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Brent Adair  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Manuel "Cowboy" Donley (3:30)  
**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET** Tracy Conover (1:00)  
**ANTONE'S** Ian Moore CD Release (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Paul Glasse, Rick McRae, Gary Hartman  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Herman the German (8:00)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Tumbleweed Racer  
**BEERLAND** McMercy Family Gospel Band, Skeletons, Two Hoots & a Holler, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five
- THE BELMONT** The Weathermen (8:00)  
**BENNIGAN'S** Andy Fiegal (7:00)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Shawn Nelson  
**BOULDIN CREEK COFFEEHOUSE & CAFE** CampCamp May Day w/ Rebecca Havemeyer, Rudy Ramirez, Jeanne Stern, Beliza, Chainbow (8:00)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton  
**THE BROWN BAR** DJ gmau  
**CACTUS CAFE** Slide-o-Rama w/ Nate Rowe, Gurf Morlix, Steve James, Jon Dee Graham, Cindy Cashdollar (8:00)  
**CAFE MUNDI** Jonathan Doyle (6:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Wiretree, Jauquin Taw  
**CEDAR STREET** Kent Mayhew, LC Rocks (6:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Shotgun Party (6:30)

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.

## roadshows

- ### MAY
- THU 1**  
**The Weathermen**, the Belmont  
**Ron Wilkins Quartet**, Elephant Room  
**Awen**, Elysium  
**The Lonely H**, Emo's  
**The Hatch**, Flamingo Cantina  
**Kenny Chesney**, Leeann Rimes, Frank Erwin Center  
**M.I.A.**, Holy Fuck, La Zona Rosa  
**Dignan**, Lucy's on the Square  
**Under the Gun**, Barbie & the Hookers, Red 7  
**Dave Insley's Careless Smokers**, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten  
**O.A.R.**, Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, Stubb's
- FRI 2**  
**Tapes 'n Tapes**, Antone's  
**The Old Haunts**, Beerland  
**John Waite**, Cactus Cafe  
**Earn to Anon**, Cafe Mundi  
**Mt. Righteous**, Club de Ville  
**Eleven Hundred Springs**, Continental Club  
**Ex-Voto**, Opulent, Elysium  
**Atmosphere**, Abstract Rude,  
**DJ Rare Groove**, Emo's  
**Maze w/ Frankie Beverly**, Frank Erwin Center  
**Leo Kottke**, Paramount Theatre  
**Dignan**, the Parlor  
**Bugs Henderson**, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill  
**Pickled Punks**, Red 7  
**Straightfork**, Room 710  
**The Raconteurs**, Birds of Avalon, Stubb's
- SAT 3**  
**Kevin Welch**, **Audrey Auld-Mezera**, **Andrew Hardin**, Cactus Cafe  
**Meat Beat Manifesto**, **Raz Mesinal's Badawi**, Club de Ville  
**Atmosphere**, **Abstract Rude**, **DJ Rare Groove**, Emo's  
**Rodney Hayden**, Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon  
**Bent Eye Bolt**, Hanover's  
**Devious Public**, Headhunters  
**Michale Graves**, Hole in the Wall  
**Rosewood Thieves**, The Balcony, Mohawk  
**Off With Their Heads**, El Guapo, Mohawk  
**Western Civilization**, Archer Avenue, Momo's  
**Kritickill**, Rock City Icehouse  
**Bugs Henderson**, Saxon Pub  
**The Raconteurs**, Birds of Avalon, Stubb's  
**Willis Alan Ramsey**, Threadgill's World HQ  
**Nanosmash**, United States Art Authority  
**Daedelus**, Ernest Gonzales, Whisky Bar
- SUN 4**  
**Bugs Henderson**, **Andrew Hardin**, Gruene Hall  
**One-Minute Halo**, Headhunters  
**Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano**, Long Center for the Performing Arts  
**The Fundamentalists**, the Oaks
- Mostly Dead**, Trophy's  
**Hacienda**, United States Art Authority  
**Atmosphere**, Waterloo Records
- Tower of Power**, One World Theatre
- ### MON 5
- The Breeders**, **Colour Revolt**, Emo's  
**The Harlequins**, **Focus Group**, Hole in the Wall  
**Lyle Lovett**, **John Hiatt**, **Guy Clark**, Paramount Theatre  
**Robert Ellis**, the Parlor
- ### TUE 6
- Tattooed Millionaires**, **Sybilla**, **Voice of Glass**, Headhunters  
**Interstates**, **Foxhole**, Mohawk  
**Lyle Lovett**, **John Hiatt**, **Guy Clark**, Paramount Theatre  
**The Lovers**, the Parlor  
**Colbie Caillat**, **Trevor Hall**, Stubb's
- ### WED 7
- Ladyfingers**, Beerland  
**Matt Wilson**, the Belmont  
**Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin**, **Port O'Brien**, Mohawk  
**Dead Science**, Salvage Vanguard Theater
- ### THU 8
- Heist at Hand**, Beauty Bar  
**We March**, **Blood Royale**, Beerland  
**Jon Langford**, Continental Club  
**The Nasty Rumors**, **Torche**, **Stinking Lizaveta**, Emo's  
**Tran Woodburns**, Headhunters  
**Homefront**, Red 7  
**DAM**, **Mohammed Al Farrar**, **Dred Scott**, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten  
**Fy Fan**, Trailer Space Records & Events Center

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT KOOP RADIO

\$10 COVER

AUSTIN'S OWN  
**LARRY LANGE**  
 AND THE LONELY KNIGHTS

FROM LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA  
**L'ANGELUS**

# GULF COAST EXTRAVAGANZA

Live at  
**THREADGILLS**  
 WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
 301 WEST RIVERSIDE DRIVE

91.7 FM  
**koop**

## SUNDAY, MAY 4TH FROM 4-8 PM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT KOOP RADIO

for your benefit See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

- THU 01**  
**Room to Read Benefit** w/ the Lennings, **Hot Mama's Espresso Bar**  
**KVRX Space Prom Benefit** w/ Reverse X-Ray, School Police, Record Breakers, Kevin Adickes, **the Parish**
- FRI 02**  
**Zilker Elementary Backyard Concert**, **Fundraiser** w/ the Bobkats, Moving Blues, Robin Wiley, Joe McDermott, Matt the Electrician, Jimmy LaFave, **Zilker Elementary School**
- SAT 03**  
**SIMS Benefit**, Outside Stage: Reverse X-Ray, Rabbit Fist, Hollywood Gossip, Low Line Caller; Inside Stage: Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey, Country Willie & the Cosmic Debris, Elvis, Dirty Hearts, **Black & Tan/Orchid**
- Invisible Children Music Fest** w/ Off With Their Heads, the Bubbles, the Politics, Bright Light Social Hour, Frank Smith, Stella Rose, Built by Snow, Frontier Brothers, the Lemurs, **Mohawk**
- Town Lake Animal Center Benefit** w/ Kid on Holiday, Trains to Holland, Prayer for Animals, Facing Fiasco, Follow That Bird!, **Texas Union**, **UT campus**
- SUN 04**  
**Perros de Mayo**, **Blue Dog Rescue Benefit** w/ Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines, Hilary York, Seela, Graham Wilkinson, Susan Gibson, Sally Allen, PorterDavis, **the Ginger Man**  
**Paul Holman Benefit** w/ Odyssey, Foot Foot, Tumbleweed Racer, Pocket FishRmen, Pong, Cedar Fever, **Scoot Inn & Bier Garten**  
**KOOP Radio Fundraiser** w/ L'Angelus, Larry Lange's Lonely Knights, **Threadgill's World HQ**

DATES & BANDS:

UPCOMING:

<p><b>@CENTRAL PARK</b></p> <p>FRIDAY MAY 2 <b>EPHRAIM OWENS</b> JAZZ</p> <hr/> <p>SATURDAY MAY 3 "A TASTE OF LOUISIANA" <b>L'ANGELUS</b> 6-9PM <b>GULF COAST PLAYBOYS</b> 12:30-3PM CAJUN</p> <hr/> <p>SUNDAY MAY 4 <b>A.I.S.D MIDDLE &amp; HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ COMBO &amp; BIG BAND CONCERT</b> MANY SCHOOLS PERFORMING ALL DAY LONG</p> <hr/> <p>FRIDAY MAY 9 <b>BOURREE TEXANE</b> CAJUN</p> <p>FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY 6:30 - 9 PM SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 PM</p>	<p><b>@WESTGATE</b></p> <p>THURSDAY MAY 1 <b>SHOTGUN PARTY</b> VAUDEVILLE AMERICANA</p> <hr/> <p>SUNDAY MAY 4 <b>BOURREE TEXANE</b> CAJUN</p> <hr/> <p>WEDNESDAY MAY 7 <b>TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS</b> BLUES</p> <hr/> <p>THURSDAY MAY 8 <b>JIMI LEE BAND</b> BLUES</p> <p>WEDNESDAY &amp; THURSDAY 6:30 - 9 PM SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3 PM</p>
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AT NORTH LAMAR: SATURDAY, MAY 3  
"A TASTE OF LOUISIANA"  
Taste & Sample Cajun/Creole in the store by Louisiana Companies.  
Cafe Specials prepared by Central Market's Cajun Executive Chef Larry Guilbeau.  
FROM LAFAYETTE, LA: MUSIC BY L'ANGELUS 6-9PM GULF COAST PLAYBOY 12:30-3PM  
SPONSORED BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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40th & North Lamar  
CAFÉ OPEN 7 AM - 9 PM SUNDAY - THURSDAY  
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Call 512-899-4300 for details  
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4477 South Lamar  
CAFÉ OPEN 7 AM - 9 AM SUNDAY - THURSDAY  
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FREE MUSIC & GREAT FOOD

**A LIMITED AMOUNT OF \$18  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
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**MAY 31, 2008**  
**WATERLOO PARK, AUSTIN, TEXAS**  
FOR TICKETS AND INFO VISIT [WWW.PACHANGAFEST.COM](http://WWW.PACHANGAFEST.COM)

COMPLETE CALENDAR AT [AUSTINLATINOMUSIC.COM](http://AUSTINLATINOMUSIC.COM)

- MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
LATINO MUSIC MONTH KICK-OFF & CD RELEASE PARTY FEATURING JOEL GUZMAN & SARA FOX, VALLEJO  
RSVP to [almamail@msn.com](mailto:almamail@msn.com)
- MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
TRAVIS COUNTY/CITY OF AUSTIN CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION  
Waterloo Park, 11 AM - 2 PM
- MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
OVER 10 LATINO ACTS AT OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL ON SIXTH STREET



Latino  
*Music*  
Month

**THE SOUND IS BROWN  
MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup>**

LATINO MUSIC LEGENDS PERFORM IN AUSTIN'S LANDMARK MUSIC VENUES.

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- MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
104.3 FM & 107.7 FM CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION & EDUCATION FAIR AT TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER, NOON
- MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
AUSTIN CONJUNTO FESTIVAL/CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION  
Fiesta Gardens, 4 PM

**NORTEC COLLECTIVE PRESENTS  
BOSTICH + FUSSIBLE  
GRUPO FANTASMA, VALLEJO  
MANEJA BETO, CHARANGA CAKEWALK  
GIRL IN A COMA, PISTOLERA  
MASTER BLASTER SOUND SYSTEM  
BOMBASTA, LA CONQUISTA, KANKO  
ANGEL FERRER, CARABELAS COLLECTIVE  
DJ MANNY, BOCA ABAJO, KALUA, EL TULE  
FRENETICA, BOCASTRIA, EDO, LOS GALLOS**



# WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

**THU MAY 1**

**O.A.R.**  
LIVE IN CONCERT

**JONATHAN TYLER & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI MAY 2**

**THE RACONTEURS**

WITH BIRDS OF AVALON

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**TUE MAY 6**

**Colbie Caillat**

WITH TREVOR HALL

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**THU MAY 13**

**SHE WANTS REVENGE**

WITH BE YOUR OWN PET  
THE VIRGINS • SWITCHES

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**FRI MAY 16 & SAT MAY 17**

**TEXAS ROCKABILLY REVIVAL**

and Car Shows

PRESENTED BY **GRETSCH**

FEATURING **JEVE JEND FIO TOM HEAT**

SATURDAY NIGHT

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**THU MAY 22**

**Rock n' Restock**

Benefiting The Capital Area Food Bank & Right Course

7PM THURSDAY MAY 22

**BOB SCHNEIDER'S Texas Bluegrass Massacre**

With Special Guests FEEDING 3000 & SUPERRAL UNIVERSE

STUBB'S BBQ AUSTIN, TEXAS

www.rocknrestock.com

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**FRI MAY 30**

**BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**SUN JUN 1**

**THE DRESDEN DOLLS**

WITH **SMOOSH**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**WED JUN 4**

**SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI JUN 6**

**Leytron**

WITH **DATAROCK**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**WED JUN 11**

**INDIGO GIRLS**

ACOUSTIC DUO IN CONCERT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST **brandi carille**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**FRI JUN 13**

**Loretta Lynn**

WITH **SUNNY SWEENEY**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

Tickets Available at Stubb's & stubbs.frontgatetickets.com

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801 RED RIVER 480-8341

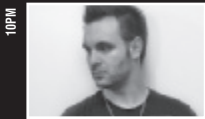


Live Music  
Early ...

Late Night  
Loungin'

# Lucky lounge

NO COVER • FREE SHOWS



THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR  
FEATURING 'THE LEGENDARY'  
**IAN MCLAGAN  
AND THE  
BUMP BAND**

LATER:  
**MIKE MAVEN  
& THE GOODLIFE  
CELLUS &  
THE LOOSE GRIP**

**PRIMM  
CINCO DE  
Modelo  
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BEER SPECIALS  
ALL NIGHT!!!**

DJ RAPID RIG OPENS FOR  
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**THURSDAY MAY 1 / \$5**  
**NATHAN SINGLETON**  
& HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY 10  
**PHIL WISEMAN** 11:15

**FRIDAY MAY 2 / \$8**  
**UT ETHNOMUSICOLOGY SHOW**  
UT MARIACHI PAREDES W/ ADOLPH ORTIZ 8  
UT CONJUNTO W/ JOEL GUZMAN & JJ BARRERA 9  
UT S. AMERICAN ENS. W/ JOSH TUCKER 10  
UT MIDDLE EASTERN ENS. W/ SONIA SEEMAN 11  
UT CARIBBEAN ENS. W/ ROBIN MOORE 12

**SATURDAY MAY 3 / \$5**  
**JOSH ALLEN  
& THE WHISKEY BROTHERS**  
CD RELEASE PARTY / \$5 COVER (\$10 W/ CD) 12:30  
**FATBACK CIRCUS** 11:15  
**WESTERN CIVILIZATION** 10:15  
**ARCHER AVENUE** 9  
**IAN TURNER** 8

**SUNDAY MAY 4 / \$5**  
**WARREN HOOD  
& THE HOODLUMS** 9:30-12  
**THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT** 8  
**MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND** 6  
DENNIS LUDIKER & NOAH JEFFRIES 12:15

**MONDAY MAY 5 / \$5**  
**DUSTIN WELCH  
& THE HOUSE BAND** 10:45  
**JEREMY NAIL & THE INCIDENTS** 12:15  
**NATHAN SINGLETON  
& HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY** 9:30  
**JOSH GRIDER** 8  
**LATIN AT HEART** 6:30  
NO COVER HAPPY HR. **MICHAEL DART** 5:15

**TUESDAY MAY 6 / \$10**  
**CARRIE ELKIN** 11:15  
**LA TAMPIQUENA** 8  
**BUKKA ALLEN** 8:45  
**SALLY ALLEN** 7:45  
NO COVER HAPPY HR. **RANDY WEEKS** 6-7:30

**WEDNESDAY MAY 7**  
**NATHAN HUBBLE** 11:15  
**DREW SMITH** 9:30  
**SARAH SHARP** 8  
**TRAVIS DAMRON** 7  
NO COVER HAPPY HR. **SARAH HUGHES** 5:30

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
**SOUTH AUSTIN  
JUG BAND** 05 09  
**MOTHERS  
ANTHEM** 05 09

**MON-JUN-16**

**IN THE CLUB**

THU MAY 1 — DOORS 11PM  
**ELEVEN  
FINGERED  
CHARLIE**  
O.A.R. AFTERSHOW FREE WITH O.A.R. TIX  
SUN MAY 4

GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH  
**THE BELLS OF JOY**  
-HOLY- Rock n' Roll!

FRI MAY 9  
**SOUNDS  
UNDER  
RADIO**  
WITH ARS SUPERNOVA  
AND JETS UNDERFIRE

SAT MAY 10  
**THE HARD LESSONS**  
WITH THE STORY OF  
AND THEY WERE STARS

WED MAY 14  
**NORTHERN  
STATE**  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS  
**AMERICAN PRINCES**

WED MAY 21  
**SHAWN FUSSELL**

FRI MAY 23  
**THIS WILL  
DESTROY YOU**  
WITH LYMBIC SYSTEM AND MOM

TUE MAY 27  
**OUTLAW NATION**

THU MAY 29  
**SNOWDEN**  
WITH LIVING BETTER ELECTRICALLY

SAT MAY 31  
**THE SWEET HEARTS**  
WITH DE LOS MUERTOS  
AND PINATA PROTEST

**RILO KILEY**  
SPRING TOUR 2008  
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS  
**THAO WITH THE GET  
DOWN STAY DOWN**  
AND BENJI HUGHES

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EARL  
KEEN**

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SA **JON WOLFE**

SU **GRANT MAZAK BAND 4-8 PM**

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WE **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE**

TH **BEN DANAHAR BAND**

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DUB MILLER & MATT SKINNER

5/12 CORB LUND 5/22 JOE ELY

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Sunday 05/04 **Shut Up & Sing!**

Wednesday 05/07 **Zak Perry Band**

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**club listings << FROM THURSDAY**

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Jeremy Miller (9:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; Mike Vernon, Eve Monsees, Mike Buck & Homer Henderson; Denny Freeman, Kent "Omar" Dykes, Redd Volkaert, Nick Curran, Rosie Flores, John Reed, Thierry LeCoz, Pat Collins: 3 Guitar Rumble, 3 Balls of Fire (6:30)

**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

**DALLAS** DJ Fabian, Salsa Lesson w/ Tony, Lise (7:30)

**DETOUR BAR & GRILL** Sonny Wolf

**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

**EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Son Five (7:30)

**ELEPHANT ROOM** Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites w/ Ray McCarty, Ron Wilkins Quartet (6:00)

**ELYSIUM** Awen, Limiter, Gabhar

**EMO'S** Inside: Leatherbag, Lomita, the Lonely H, the Black; Lounge: Kitty Kitty Bang Bang Burlesque

**END OF AN EAR** W-S Burn (6:00)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Liz Morphis (7:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** The Hatch (9:00)

**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

**FRANK ERWIN CENTER** Leeann Rimes, Kenny Chesney (7:30)

**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Graham Wilkinson (6:00)

**GIBSON GUITAR SHOWROOM** Latino Music Month, CD Release w/ Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox, Vallejo (6:00)

**GIDDY UPS** Open Mic w/ Roy

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Billy Dee (9:00)

**GRUENE HALL** Dale Watson (8:00)

**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames w/ Ruben Ramos (6:00)

**HANOVER'S** Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

**HEADHUNTERS** Chinga Bueno, Charlie Hurlin', the Schoolyards, Chinga Bueno, Charlie Hurlin' & the Hecklers

**HI-LO** Trey Stapleton (10:30)

**HILL'S CAFE** Brent Allen (7:00)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Juan Hitter, Twanguero CD Release, Phoenix Down (9:00)

**HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR** Room to Read Benefit w/ the Lennings (7:00)

**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Doug Andrew (8:00)

**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LA PALAPA** Steven Franks (7:00)

**LA ZONA ROSA** Holy Fuck, M.I.A.

**LAGUNA GLORIA** Amigos de las Americas Benefit w/ the Crying Monkeys (6:30)

**LAMBERTS** Glover Tango (6:30), the Ruckus, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township (10:30)

**LATITUDE 30** Jordan Tanner (9:00)

**THE LOADING DOCK** Open Mic (7:00)

**LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** Austin Symphony Orchestra Family Concert w/ the Biscuit Brothers (6:00)

**LOUIE'S 106** Mac Bynum (6:30)

**LOVE** Ginger Leigh (7:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Mike Maven & the Good Life (6:00)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Ethan Durelle, Davey Knows, Dignan, Mira Loma

**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

**MOMO'S** Nathan Singleton's Sideshow Tragedy, Phil Wiseman (10:00)

**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Carport Cassanovas

**THE OAKS** Ebb & Flo, Rick Dinsmore & Jocelyn Callard, the Love Band, Clepper George & Norm Ballinger (7:00)

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Malford Milligan & Tim Dyer (10:00)

**THE PARISH** KVRX Space Prom Benefit w/ Reverse X-Ray, School Police, Record Breakers, Kevin Adickes (9:00)

**THE PARLOR** Twangzilla (9:00)

**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Jim Stringer (8:00)

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Stop the Truck

**QUACK'S MAPLEWOOD BAKERY** Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists, Infinite Partials (9:00)

**RED 7** Barbie & the Hookers, Under the Gun

**RED FEZ** Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)

**ROCK CITY ICEHOUSE** 8 Ball Down, Unnamed Project for Revenge, Fear Control

**ROOM 710** Whore of Babylon, Bound, Sabbath Crow, Thunderosa

**RUTA MAYA** Meagan Tubb & Shady People, Aciable, Muse Oasis (7:00)

**SAXON PUB** Sons of the Revolution (6:00), Band of Heathens, George Devore, Chip Dolan (8:00)

**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Fatman & Little Boy, Dave Inslay's Careless Smokers, JWW & the Prospectors, Leo Rondeau, Dave Inslay (9:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D.

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Afrofreque

**SPEAKEASY** Diasporic (9:30)

**STUBB'S** Outside: Jonathan Tyler & the Northern Lights, O.A.R.; Inside Later: 11-Fingered Charlie

**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Jason Marbach

**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** The Belleville Outfit (8:00)

**THE TRIANGLE** Trey Haney (7:00)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Mark Jungers, Riley & Mama Wolf, John Vinyard, Boonesboro (6:00)

**VICTORY GRILL** Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

**Z'TEJAS** Kat's Meow (6:00)

**Fri 02**

**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Mark Stuart (3:30)

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Bocastria (3:30)

**ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS** Craig Marshall (1:00)

**ANTONE'S** White Denim, Tapes 'n Tapes (9:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** George Enslé

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Venson & Lee

**BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN BAR** Michael Samuels (7:00)

**BB ROVERS** Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench (7:00)

**BEERLAND** Dikes of Holland, YellowFever, Daniel Francis Doyle, the Old Haunts, the Golden Boys

**THE BELMONT** The Busta' Moovalators (9:00)

**BESS BISTRO ON PECAN DJ** Mahealani (11:00)

**BOAT HOUSE GRILL** Hosea Hargrove (6:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** About: Blank

**BOUT TIME** DJ Element

**BROKEN SPOKE** The Cornell Hurd Band

**CACTUS CAFE** John Waite (7:30, 10:00)

**TWANGUERO**

**BIG BEND**

**THURSDAY, MAY 1ST**

**KUT - 2pm**

**Hole in the Wall - 10pm**

With special guests  
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Spring 2008

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**



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All dates, acts and ticket prices subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket. Produced by Sam Houston Race Park and Live Nation.



club listings ◀◀ FROM FRIDAY

**CAFE MUNDI** Ear to Anon (7:00)  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (9:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Ephraim Owens (6:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Wes Nickson (9:30)  
**CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR** David Nathan, Eddy Highway (8:30)  
**CLUB DE VILLE** Alexander's Dark Band, Mt. Righteous, the Unbearables, the Boxing Lesson  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Eleven Hundred Springs, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (10:00)  
**COTTON CLUB** Johnny Lyon (8:30)  
**DETOUR BAR & GRILL** Victoria & the Zeda 5  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**DRY CREEK SALOON** Damon Bramblett (8:00)  
**EL JACALITO** Ritmo Tejano w/ Jesse Botello  
**EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Oliver Rajamani (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Tony Airolidi & the Lounge Gypsies, the Brew (6:00)  
**ELYSIUM** Opulent, Lust Murder Box, Ex-Voto  
**EMO'S** Outside: DJ Rare Groove, Abstract Rude, Atmosphere (10:00); Lounge Early: Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00); Lounge Later: In Situ Sound; the Shake 'Em Ups; She, Sir; Ghost of the Russian Empire CD Release; Inside: Silky Shoemaker; Fiction; Amy Annelle; Hello, Lovers (10:00)  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Mike Barfield, Horton Brothers (10:00)  
**FAJITA WAREHOUSE** Blue Mist (7:30)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Inner Vision (9:00)  
**FRANK ERWIN CENTER** Maze w/ Frankie Beverly (8:00)  
**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Chad Tracy (6:00)  
**FURR'S FAMILY DINING** Carlton Lombard (6:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Will Knaak  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Brennen Leigh (9:00)  
**GREEN MESQUITE BBQ & MORE** Will T. Massey (7:00)  
**GRUENE HALL** The Gourds (8:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoi Brothers (6:30)  
**HANOVER'S** Bruce Smith, Brewer Nation (7:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Barry Whitesnake, Duke, Disfigured, Method of Destruction (9:00)

**HILL'S CAFE** Bill Rice  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Code Named Code, Monuments, the Anchor, Radioland Murders (10:00)  
**HOT MAMA'S ESPRESSO BAR** DJ Bullet (6:00)  
**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Dreaming Aloud (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Dan Raza, Shane Parker, American Graveyard (6:30)  
**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)  
**LAMBERTS** Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Moonhangers, the Gunhands (10:30)  
**LATITUDE 30** Tish Lancaster & the Mizbehavin Band (9:00)  
**LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR** Ma Ferguson  
**LOUIE'S 106** Kenny Luna (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Cellus & the Loose Grip (9:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Gold Teeth & Gucci, the Egress, Fever Dreams  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)  
**MOHAWK** DJ Manolo Black, the Corto Maltese, Mice & Rifles, Maneja Beto  
**MOMO'S** UT Ethnomusicology Department  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Dale Watson  
**THE OAKS** Buttercup 2000 (8:00)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Goldcure (10:00)  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE** John Lennon Anthology Concert (7:00)  
**THE OPERA HOUSE** Gary Barfitts, Dromez (7:00)  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Leo Kottke (8:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Davey Knows, Dignan, Mira Loma (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Texana Dames (8:00)  
**THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS** The Lizards  
**PLUSH** Hump! Loft Party w/ Tego (10:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Leo Rondeau, Bugs Henderson  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)  
**RED 7** The Skeletons, Pickled Punks  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)  
**ROCK CITY ICEHOUSE** Ya Yo, Devola, Bound  
**ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield  
**ROOM 710** Doug Morrison, Straightfork, Drifter, Adrenaline Factor, New Disaster  
**RUTA MAYA** Lost Pines, Wonderland Avenue, Good Luck Academy, the Mercers, Monster Girl (7:00)  
**SÃO PAULO'S** Three Jazz Collective (7:30)

**SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), The Resentments, Meagan Tubb (9:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Karaoke Apocalypse (9:00)  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** LC Rocks  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Dewayne Davis (9:00)  
**SKI SHORES** Amy & the Bullets (6:00)  
**SPEAKEASY** Detroit Steel (9:30)  
**STUBB'S** Birds of Avalon, the Raconteurs  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Li'l Steph & the Chromatics  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Gurf Morlix, Slaid Cleaves (9:00)  
**TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS** Han Ho & the Rebellion (6:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa Hawgs, Prayer for Animals, Falcon Buddies, Silver Pines  
**TROPHY'S** Every Other Fate, Fatback Circus, Mostly Dead  
**UNITED STATES ART** AUTHORITY The Gospel Truth, Hacienda, the Strange Boys  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Hollywood Indians (7:00)  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Atmosphere (signing only) (5:00)  
**ZILKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** Zilker Elementary Backyard Concert, Fundraiser w/ the Bobkats, Moving Blues, Robin Wiley, Joe McDermott, Matt the Electrician, Jimmy LaFave (5:30)

**Sat 03**

**ANTONE'S** Latino Music Month Kickoff w/ Charanga Cakewalk, Del Castillo (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Buffalo Grass  
**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN** Paula Held (10:00am)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Altar Boyz  
**BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN BAR** Michael Samuels (7:00)  
**BB ROVERS** Byrd & Street (9:00)  
**BEERLAND** Teenage Bees, Flametrick Subs (10:00)  
**THE BELMONT** Bruce James Soultet  
**BLACK & TAN** SIMS Benefit, Outside Stage: Reverse X-Ray, Rabbit Fist, Hollywood Gossip, Low Line Caller; Inside Stage: Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey, Country Willie & the Cosmic Debris, Elvis, Dirty Hearts (8:00)  
**BOAT HOUSE GRILL** Bo Porter  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Aimee Bobruk  
**'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Bruce Robison  
**THE BROWN BAR** DJ gmau

**JOHN WAITE**  
legendary lead singer of *The Babys* and *Bad English*; #1 chart smashes "Missing You", "When I See You Smile"

In a rare acoustic performance with Tim Hogan, bass Jimmy Leahey, guitar

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**  
DOORS AT 7:00 PM  
TWO SHOWS

**7:30 PM** with special guest David Grissom  
**10:00 PM** with special guest Charles Alberty

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**SAT 3 MAY** **INVISIBLE CHILDREN**  
**BENEFIT**  
LEMURS, FRONTIER BROS,  
BUILT BY SNOW,  
FRANK SMITH  
ROSEWOOD THIEVES  
THE BALCONY, AND MORE

**SUN 4 MAY** **BROTHERS O' HAIR**  
+ GUEST OPENERS

**MON 5 MAY** **METAL.**  
AND MORE METAL.  
introducing:  
METAL MONDAYS@THE MOHAWK

**TUE 6 MAY** **INTERSTATES**  
FOXHOLE, SECRET SLIDESHOW  
PAPERWORK, MOTION DECAY

**WED 7 MAY** **SOMEONE STILL LOVES U...**  
**...BORIS YELTSIN**  
PORT O' BRIEN, LOXSLY, TBA

**THU 8 MAY** **LEATHERBAG**  
[ CD RELEASE ], GARY NEWCOMBE  
SUMMER WARDROBE

**FRI 9 MAY** **DAVID DONDERO**  
**UNFORTUNATE HEADS**

**SAT 10 MAY** **LANGHORNE SLIM**  
NIC ARMSTRONG PLUS  
AMY LEVERE

→ **UpStairs**

★ ALL ARE WELCOME ★

**Mohawk**  
**Green Room**  
OPEN MOST OF THE TIME

**HAPPY HOUR**    **LATE NIGHT**

**USE DOOR ON 10TH STREET**

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**THE SCOOT INN**

**BIER GARTEN**  
11 Local Drafts  
2 full bars \* 2 stages

**Thursday, May 1, 9pm**  
**Leo Rondeau**  
**JWW and the Prospectors**  
**Dave Insley and the Careless Smokers**  
**Fatman & Littleboy**

**Friday, May 2, 9pm**  
**Karaoke Apocalypse**  
**Vinyl Throwdown -**  
**Bring your own wax;**  
**YOU be the DJ!**

**Saturday, May 3, 8pm**  
**Lick Lick**  
**Foot Patrol**  
**Invincible Czars**

**Sunday, May 4,**  
**EARLY 2pm-10pm**  
**Food! Fun and Games!**  
*A benefit for Paul Holman with*  
**Pong**  
**Odyssey**  
**Foot Foot**  
**Pocket Fishmen**  
**Tumbleweed Racer**

**Wednesday, May 7, 8pm**  
**Austin Poetry Slam**  
**Izzy Cox 11pm**

**Thursday, May 8, 7pm**  
**DAM (Hip-hop from Palestine!)**  
**Mohammed Al Farrar**  
(from Gaza)  
**Southbound**  
**Dred Scott**  
**DJ Rhyme**  
**DJ Rapid Ric**

**Friday, May 9, 9pm**  
**Crash Gallery**  
**Prom Nite**  
**L.A.X.**  
**Taunto**

**Saturday, May 10, 9pm**  
**Lonesome Heroes**  
**CD Release Party with**  
**Li'l Cap'n Travis and Guests**

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**M**

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**2538 GUADALUPE**

**THURSDAY May 1st** .....

Phoenix Down 12am  
Twanguero (cd release) 10:30  
Juan Hitter 9pm  
On the Patio: Mario & Todd Walmac (Comedy)

**FRIDAY MAY 2nd** .....

Radioland Murders 12:50am  
The Anchor 12am  
Monuments 11pm  
Code Named Code 10pm, \$5 COVER

**SATURDAY May 3rd** .....

Michale Graves (of The Misfits)  
w/Hotrod Hillbillies & Sober Daze  
GetTix.Net \$8, (\$10 DOS)  
Doors at 9pm, Show at 9:30pm

**SUNDAY May 4th** .....

Jane Bond 12am  
Shawn Nelson 11pm  
No Show Ponies 10pm

**MONDAY May 5th** .....

The Harlequins 12:30  
Danny Malone 11:30  
Focus Group 10:30  
Bourbon Legend 9:30

**TUESDAY May 6th** .....

The Bread 11:30pm  
Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business 10pm  
Roger Wallace 8pm  
On the Patio: The Austin Comedy Trainwreck  
"A- List Showcase" \$5

**WEDNESDAY May 7th** .....

Lonesome Heroes 12am  
Tom Vanden Avond 11pm  
Jim Trainer & His Workingmans Blues Band 10pm

**477-4747**  
**21 + open 3p -2am**  
**www.myspace.com/holeinthewallaustin**

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**SALSA DANCE LESSONS**  
WED & THUR - 8PM  
FRI & SAT - 9PM

**LIVE SALSA MUSIC**  
**RITMO 3**  
05/01  
9PM

**SAHARA NIGHTS**  
**SABAYA**  
**BELLYDANCERS**  
05/10 - 10PM

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**ACADEMICOS DA OPERA**  
**PRACTICE SESSION**  
7 - 9PM

217 Congress Ave. | 479-5002

# The Continental Club

**THURS MAY 1**  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
**MIKE FLANIGN'S 8-3 TRIO**  
 FEATURING **DENNY FREEMAN**

**LINK WRAY'S B-DAY BASH**  
**\*13 GUITAR RUMBLE!**

**12:30AM**  
**3 BALLS OF FIRE**

**12AM**  
**13 GUITAR RUMBLE**  
**DENNY FREEMAN, KENT "OMAR" DYKES, REDD VOLKAERT, ROSIE FLORES, JOHN REED, THIERRY LECOZ & PAT COLLINS**

**10:30PM**  
**MIKE VERNON, EVE MONSEES, MIKE BUCK AND HOMER HENDERSON**

**FRIDAY MAY 2**  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
**THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS**

**12AM**  
**CHAPARRAL**

**10PM**  
**Eleven Hundred Springs**  
**SATURDAY MAY 3**  
**REDD VOLKAERT**

**MATINEE 3-7PM**  
**TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER**

**10PM**  
**EYE & THE EXILES**  
**SUNDAY MAY 4**  
**WITH REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE**

**HEYDALE**  
**AND EARL POOLE**

**MONDAY MAY 5**  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
**UPTOWN SWINGERS**

**10PM**  
**DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS**  
**TUESDAY MAY 6**  
**PLANET GASPER**  
 WITH **SCRAPPY JUD NEWCOMB AND DAVID GRISSOM**

**12AM**  
**Frogleg**  
 WITH **GARY CLARK, JR AND ANTHONY FARRELL**

**10PM**  
**EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**  
**WEDNESDAY MAY 7**  
**SHELLEY KING**  
 HAPPY HOUR **DIRECT FROM THE GALLERY... THE GREYHOUNDS**

**10PM**  
**DAN DYER**

**10PM**  
**MOTHER TRUCKERS**  
**SHINYRIBS**  
**THURSDAY MAY 8**  
**JON LANGFORD**

**12AM**  
**MIKE HALL**  
**FRIDAY MAY 9**  
**HAPPY HOUR**  
**THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS**

**12AM**  
**DEP TORRES**  
**10PM**  
**Fabulous Harmonaires**

**MATINEE 3-7PM**  
**JAMES HAND**  
**12AM**  
**GARY CLARK JR.**

**10PM**  
**JAKE ANDREWS**

**10PM**  
**JAKE ANDREWS**

**club listings** ◀◀ FROM SATURDAY

**CACTUS CAFE** Audrey Auld-Mezera w/ Andrew Hardin, Kevin Welch (8:30)  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Nicole  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Lennings, the Archibalds  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** L'Angelus (6:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Jon Wolfe (9:30)  
**CLUB DE VILLE** Raz Mesina'i's Badawi, Meat Beat Manifesto  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Redd Volkaert (3:00), Eve & the Exiles, Two Hoots & a Holler (10:00)  
**COTTON CLUB** Dave Jorgenson (8:30)  
**DELI WERKS** George Gusman (8:30)  
**DETOUR BAR & GRILL** Stone Free, Shelley Knight  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Nash Hernandez Orchestra  
**DOWNTOWN AUSTIN** Old Pecan Street Festival w/ the Lemurs, Nelo, Loose Diamonds, the Boxing Lesson, Sunset, Two Hoots & a Holler, Grupo Fantasma, Jolly Garogers, Les & the Funk Mob, Ars Supernova, Awesome Cool Dudes, the Bill Jeffreys, Winchester Twin, Attack Formation (11:00am)  
**EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Crash Bam Boom (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Tenor Madness w/ Paul White & Tony Campsie (9:30)  
**EMO'S** Outside: DJ Rare Groove, Abstract Rude, Atmosphere; Inside: Pink Nasty, the Blue Four; Lounge Early: Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00); Lounge Later: Calm Blue Sea, the Georgian Company, Peel, the Midgetmen CD Release; Inside:  
**END OF AN EAR** Ghost of the Russian Empire CD Release (6:00)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Sunset Valley Boys (3:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Colin Gilmore (9:00)  
**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Josh Allen & the Whiskey Boys (6:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** L.C. Parker, Weldon Henson  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Rodney Hayden (9:00)  
**GREEN MESQUITE BBQ & MORE** Dear Henry, Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)  
**GRUENE HALL** Shawn Pittman (1:00), Charlie Robison (9:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Suzanne Smith (6:30)  
**HANOVER'S** 3 Kisses, Motionside, Freebleeder, Bent Eye Bolt (8:30)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Devious Public, Sore Losers, Reagan Era, Hit by a Car, Grinding Wheel  
**HILL'S CAFE** Wes Nickson  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Sober Daze, Hotrod Hillbillies, Michale Graves  
**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Chavcer (7:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Myrna Cabello, Sister Sister y Los Misters CD Release (7:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Mac Bynum (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Primm (9:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Spank, Funkotron  
**MAGGIE MAE'S** Rick Harvey's Blues Jam (6:00)  
**MOHAWK** Invisible Children Music Fest w/ Off With Their Heads, the Bubbles, the Politics, Bright Light Social Hour, Frank Smith, Stella Rose, Built by Snow, Frontier Brothers, the Lemurs (noon), The Balcony, Rosewood Thieves, Frank Smith (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Ian Turner, Archer Avenue, Western Civilization, Fatback Circus, Josh Allen & the Whiskey Boys (8:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:30)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Funky Old Soul  
**OILCAN HARRY'S** Splash Day Dance Party w/ DJ LTD (10:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Deadly Companions, Pepperonis, Scrabble Robot (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Jon Emery (8:00)  
**THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS** Summer Erickson  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Poodie de Mayo w/ Jane Bond, Alan Haynes, the Gougiers, Andrea Marie & Magnolia, the Jitterbug Vipers (2:00)  
**QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE** DJ Chicken George (9:00)  
**RABBIT'S LOUNGE** Moving Blues (9:00)  
**RED FEZ** LaVonne, DJ Kurv (8:00, 10:00)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)  
**ROCK CITY ICEHOUSE** Kritikkill, Van Wilks, Elixir  
**ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN** Kirk Hale (6:30)  
**ROOM 710** Marshall Dylan, Gentlemen's Social Club, Amplified Heat  
**RUTA MAYA** Spooney CD Release, Aaron Cuadra, Lies a Bloom, Bankrupt, the Borrowers, Jabberwalkie (6:00)  
**SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER** Toneburst 7 w/ Rick Reed  
**SAXON PUB** Bugs Henderson, Van Wilks (8:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Lick Lick, Foot Patrol, Invincible Czars (8:00)

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**MAY 14 DOUG MORELAND**  
**MAY 21 CHARLIE ROBISON**  
**MAY 28 BAND OF HEATHENS**

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9/17 NIGHTWISH W/ SONATA ARTICA

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**FRI JUL 25** ON SALE FRIDAY AT 10AM

Artist **Squeeze**  
**FIVE LIVE**  
ON TOUR IN AMERICA  
**FRI SEP 05** ON SALE SATURDAY AT 10AM

**STEVE MILLER BAND**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST **JOE GOKKER**  
**SUN JUN 01** on sale now

**MASON JENNINGS** & **MISSY HIGGINS**  
**FRI MAY 09** on sale now

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**the Paula Nelson Band**  
Herald and Mod  
**SUN MAY 11** on sale now

**mindless self indulgence**  
**FRI MAY 16** on sale now

**Friday Morning**  
**TUE JUN 17** on sale now

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WITH **chimaira**  
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**SAT AUG 02 & SUN AUG 03**



WHERE LIVE MUSIC & SPORTS COLLIDE

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Purple Room 9PM  
8 Ball Down 10PM  
Unnamed Project for Revenge 11PM  
TBA Midnight

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Grave Eden 9PM  
Blacklist 10PM  
YaYo 11PM  
Devola Midnight  
Bound 1AM

SATURDAY, MAY 3

The Big Naturals 9PM  
Kritikill 10PM  
Elixer 11PM  
Echos Orbit Room Midnight

SUNDAY, MAY 4

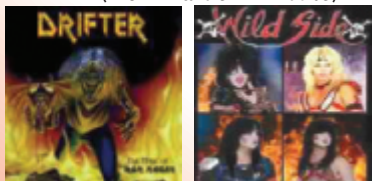
Ted Hall Blues Church/Jam  
8:30 pm-12:30am (Every Sunday)

MONDAY, MAY 5

Live Band Karaoke with the  
"Rock City Iceholes" 9PM-1AM  
"If our singer sucks, it's because it's you!!!"

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Still Sic 9PM  
Drifter (Iron Maiden Tribute) 10PM



Wild Side (Motley Crue Tribute) 11PM

FRIDAY, MAY 9

After Glow 9PM  
Love Hate Love 10PM  
Deejer 11PM  
Exit the Sun Midnight

SATURDAY, MAY 10

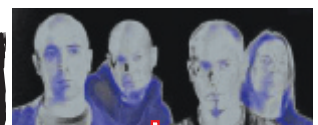
Spank 9PM  
Freight Train Troubadour 10PM  
Dork Star 11PM  
Mighty Org Midnight  
Tody Castillo 1AM

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meat beat manifesto (11PM)

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stars of the lid

[SOLD OUT!]

wed 5/07/08

@ ALAMO RITZ



wed 5/07/08

+ PORT O'BRIEN, LOXSLY

@ MOHAWK

dj melee pt 2

[FREE!]

fri 5/09/08

@ BEAUTY BAR



blood on the wall

+ TILL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY, MINIPOP

fri 5/09/08

@ CLUB DEVILLE

coming soon:

5/9 DAVID DONDERO [HAWK] • 5/10 LANGHORNE SLIM [HAWK] • 5/10 SWEET & TENDER HOOLIGANS (MORISSEY/ SMITHS TRIBUTE ACT) [DEVILLE] • 5/16 LIARS [RED 7] • 5/17 NASHVILLE PUSSY [RED 7] • 5/20 EFTERKLANG/ SLARAFFENLAND [HAWK] • 5/20 KATE WALSH [LAMBERTS] • 5/28 SUBTLE • 5/30 GRUPO FANTASMA CD RELEASE [HAWK] • 5/31 RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS [RED 7] • 6/2 THE BELLRAYS [HAWK] • 6/5 FRENCH KICKS • 6/6 HELIO SEQUENCE [HAWK] • 6/12 FROG EYES/ EVANGELICALS [DEVILLE] • 6/12 JOAN OF ARC [HAWK] • 6/14 BUSDRIVER [HAWK] • 6/15 EXTRA GOLDEN [DEVILLE] • 6/18 EEF BARZELAY (OF CLEM SNIDE) • 6/20 FAUN FABLES [HAWK] • 6/20 ACACIA STRAIN/ ALL SHALL PERISH [RED 7] • 6/21 DEVON WILLIAMS/ CRYPTACIZE [HAWK] • 6/27 FUCK YEAR TOUR: MATT AND KIM & MORE [HAWK] • 6/28 BORIS [HAWK] • 7/2 FLEET FOXES [HAWK] • 7/4 CASUALTIES [RED 7] • 7/6 KING KHAN AND THE SHRINES [HAWK] • 7/10 HARRY AND THE POTTERS [HAWK]

mission trans

calendar >>> COMMUNITY >>> FILM >>> MUSIC

club listings <<< FROM SATURDAY

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** LC Rocks  
**SKI SHORES** Bob Livingston (6:00)  
**SPEAKEASY** Raywon (9:30)  
**STUBB'S** Birds of Avalon, the Raconteurs  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Jason Marbach & Barbarosa  
**TEXAS STATE CAPITOL** Outgrow Big Bro w/ the Jitterbug Vipers (1:00)  
**TEXAS UNION** Town Lake Animal Center Benefit w/ Kid on Holiday, Trains to Holland, Prayer for Animals, Facing Fiasco, Follow That Bird! (8:00)  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Alison Rogers, Willis Alan Ramsey (9:00)  
**TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS** Danny Fast Fingers (7:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Rootbug, Word Association  
**TRIUMPH CAFE** Brian MacLeod (7:00)  
**TROPHY'S** Perfect Pants, Bloodshot Pyramid, Blackholicus  
**UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY** Luna Fest w/ HipNautica, Supa Phat, Beta Valentine, Nanosmash, Crash Gallery, Single Frame (10:00am)  
**WHISKY BAR** Ernest Gonzales, Daedelus

**BB ROVERS** Open Mic w/ Boomer Norman, Buster Gutbucket (7:00)  
**BEERLAND** Robert Banta, Horse Operas, Mallory Valentine  
**BOTTICELLI'S** The Graduate 'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke w/ Brian  
**CANVAS BAR & GALLERY** Service Industry Sunday Funday w/ DJ Julio  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Ray Donnelly (2:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Battle of the Middle School & High School Bands (12:30)  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Bourree Texane (12:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Grant Mazak (9:30)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Heybale! w/ Red Volkaert & Earl Poole Ball (10:00)  
**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)  
**DOLCE VITA GELATTO & ESPRESSO BAR** Paul Sonnenberg (7:00)  
**DOWNTOWN AUSTIN** Pecan Street Festival w/ Boca Abajo, Foco Rojo, Venson Lee, Noise Revival Orchestra, Bourbon Legends, the Mediums, Rod Moag, Texas Sapphires, Moonhangers, Public Offenders, Appalachian String Band (11:00am)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** About: Blank (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice  
**END OF AN EAR** 7-Inch Stitch (5:00)  
**FREDDIE'S PLACE** Graham Wilkinson, Sarah Hughes (5:00)  
**FRIENDS** Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

**THE GINGER MAN** Perros de Mayo, Blue Dog Rescue Benefit w/ Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines, Hilary York, Seela, Graham Wilkinson, Susan Gibson, Sally Allen, Porterdevia (1:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (4:00)  
**GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)  
**GRUENE HALL** Audrey Auld w/ Andrew Hardin (12:30), Bugs Henderson (8:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Tex Thomas & the Dangling Wranglers (3:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Devo & the Dwarves, One-Minute Halo, Nova Kota  
**HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE** Danny Fast Fingers (noon)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** No Show Ponies, Shawn Nelson, Jane Bond (10:00)  
**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Kinktet (11:00am)  
**JOHNNY FINS** Andrea Marie & Magnolia (2:00)  
**JOVITA'S** St. Andrews Jazz Band, Hot Vanilla, Dr. Beat & the Timekeepers, Front Porch Gypsies (2:00)  
**LAMBERTS** Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)  
**LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR** Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:30)  
**LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** Dell Hall: Cinco de Mayo w/ Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano (7:00)  
**LOVE** Idgy Vaughn (5:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Quickwidit  
**MANUELS** Paul Glasse (11:30am)  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)

Sun 04

**ANTONE'S** Bruce Smith (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Swing Kings  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Catfish Hunters (9:00)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

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**SABBATH CROW**  
**BOUND**  
**WHORE OF BABYLON**

**NEW DISASTER**  
**ADRENALINE FACTOR**  
**DRIFTER**  
**STRAIGHT FORK**  
8pm: Doug Morrison

**TurboJugend Vondotta's Party**  
**AMPLIFIED HEAT**  
**GENTLEMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB**  
**MARSHALL DYLAN**  
**ROBERT ALLEN CALDWELL**

**TXR D**  
**AFTER BOUT**  
**PARTY**

**Mon 5.5**  
**HEART & SOUL**  
**SOUND SYSTEM**

**HAVOC DOSE**  
**BLOODPALM**  
**AUTONS**  
8pm: The Invincible Czars

**Wed 5.7**  
**DR. ZOOM**  
**REAL BOOK FAKE BOOK**  
**RED LINE RIOT**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
5.8 Critical Assembly, Dirt Leg Barbi, 5.9 Grand Champers, Ripe, 5.10 The Drunks, Grinding Wheels, 5.14 Gordi Fock, Dumb, Seven Black Tomatoes

**RED 7**  
611 E. 7TH STREET  
myspace.com/redsevenaustin

**Thu 5/1**  
Inside: **OTEP** w/A New Revolution  
Eyes Set To Kill, Within Chaos

Outside: Under The Gun, Expiration Unknown  
Hazard of Industry, Barbie + the Hookers

**Fri 5/2**  
Inside: **Johnny Hootrock** (CD release)  
Black Irish, Dagna, Trash Rocketts

Outside: Klub Sin Psycho First Friday w/  
Pickled Punks, The Skeletons  
and DJ Destin

Early Show (4pm-8pm):  
**Set Alfame, Cast Pattern**  
Knives Exchanging Hands + more!

Late Show (9pm):  
**Bleed The Sky, Course of Ruin**  
Rend, Negative 263, Sons of Oblivion

Late Show (out):  
**Vatos Locos, Flamin' Hellcats**  
Rogers Porn Collection, Ese, Cobretti  
Micah Omega

**101X Homegrown Live** w/  
Beyond Gods and Empires  
Demonio, Rise Thy Ruin

**Wed 5/7**

**Beauty BAR**  
MAY

**2nd** THE LEMURS w/  
THOSE PEABODY'S

**3rd** Car Stereo Wars w/  
When Dinosaurs Ruled  
The Earth / Pataphsics

**5th** SOUNDCHECKS RESIDENCY PARTY

**6th** DanLaLune w/  
HMS Foolhardy / Vinyl Dharma

**10th** THE KNUX  
w/ DJ MEL

WE NOW HAVE BOTTLE SERVICE  
617 E 7th myspace.com/beautybaraustin  
www.beautybar.com 512.391.1943

**BEER LAND TEXAS**  
711 1/2 RED RIVER 479-ROCK

**th 1** Mr. Lewis & the Funeral five, Two  
Hoots and a Holler, Skeletons,  
McMercy / family

**fr** Golden Boys, Old Haunts, Daniel  
**2** Francis Doyle, Yellow Fever, Dikes  
of Holland

**sa 3** Flametrack Subs, Teenage Bees

**su 4** Atomic Honky Tonk Nite-  
Mallory Valentine, Horse Opera,  
Robert J. Banta

**mo 5** BEERLAND'S LEGENDARY  
ROCK N ROLL KARAOKE!

**tu 6** The Carrots, The Strange Boys,  
Follow That Bird, Bear Clas

**wed 7** Ladyfingers, The Archibalds,  
Cellar Door, and more

BROWSE OUR INTERACTIVE WEBSITE @  
**BEERLANDTEXAS.COM**  
& CHECK OUT A BAND YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

**HEADHUNTERS**  
720 Red River www.headhuntersclub.com (512) 236-0188

5/1 THUR: 12:30 THE SCHOOLYARDS, 11:30 CHARLIE HURTN, 10:30 CHINGA BUENO, 10:25 KARAOKE & DJ (Patio)

5/2 FRI: 12 M.O.D.(METHOD OF DESTRUCTION), 11 DISFIGURED, 10 DUKE, 9 BARRY WHITESNAKE

5/3 SAT: WORKING CLASS CLOTHING SHOWCASE: 1 GRINDING WHEELS, 12 HIT BY CAR,  
11 REAGEN ERA, 10 SORE LOSERS, 9 DEVIOUS PUBLIC

5/4 SUN: 12:30 NOVA KOTA, 11 ONE MINUTE HALO, 10 DEVO & THE DWARVES LIVE-DVD (Patio)  
5/5 MON: OPEN MIC NIGHT-SIN \$2 WELLS \$2 DOMESTICS

5/6 TUE: 12 TATTOOED MILLIONAIRES, 11 SYBILLA (ITALY), 10 VOICE OF GLASS

5/7 WED: 12 DEVOUR THE WORLD, 11 BAZOOKA JILL, OPEN MIC (PATIO)

Kitchen Open Fri/Sat 7p-2a • Brisket-Chicken-Burgers "Great Food That Rocks!" Liquor Catering 512-825-5600

**RED EYED FLY**  
Live Music  
715 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS  
WWW.REDEYEDFLY.COM

**THURSDAY MAY 1** **FRIDAY-MAY 2**

**ANDERSON** (CD RELEASE)  
**THE SCOTLAND YARDSALE**  
**THE MACHINER'S GHOSTSHIP**  
**THE SELF-CONGRATULATORY**  
**ONE MAN REACH AROUND**

**HEARTBREAK IN ACTION**  
**THE SKINNY**  
**DISCONNECTED**  
**BLIND PETS**  
**LAST RIDE IN**

**SATURDAY-MAY 3** **SUNDAY-MAY 4**

**ONE-EYED DOLL**  
**THE MOTHER STREET MASSIVE**  
**VEGAS WIDOW**  
**LOUDER THAN LUNACY**

**MONDAY-MAY 5** **TUESDAY-MAY 6**

**BUG'S GOING AWAY SHOW**  
**BEAUTIFUL MISTAKES**  
**JUST BUGGIN'**  
**DRIDER**  
**GREEN SHOE POLISH**

**WEDNESDAY-MAY 7** **THURSDAY-MAY 8**

**FRIDAY-MAY 9** **SATURDAY-MAY 10**

**EMBER**  
**SHAKESKIN PRISON**  
**SLICKFIST**  
**DESERTS OF MARS**  
**AXLE - WOLF**

**UPCOMING SHOWS**  
05/16 - FOR SAKE OF THE RUINS, COBRETTI, THE NONNICES  
05/17 - LUG, SCRAPS OF LIFE, VICE, BY A LONG SHOT  
05/18 - VAST  
05/24 - DIVIDE THE DAY, DEEJER CD RELEASE PARTY  
05/29 - GRAVEYARD BBQ  
05/31 - DANGEROUS TOYS

**ELYSIUM**  
705 RED RIVER ST.

**Thursday • May 1** **SPECIAL EVENT!**

**Awen 12:00 AM**  
www.myspace.com/awenmusic (Dallas, TX)  
**Gabbar 11:00 PM**  
www.myspace.com/gabbar  
**Limitier 10:00 PM**  
www.myspace.com/limitier

**Friday • May 2** **LIVE MUSIC!**

**Ex-VoTo 12:00 AM**  
www.myspace.com/exvotoband (N.O., LA)  
**Lust Murder Box 11:00 PM**  
www.myspace.com/lustmurderbox  
**Opulent 10:00 PM**  
www.myspace.com/opulent (Houston, TX)

**Saturday • May 3** **HAVEN**

goth, INDUSTRIAL, synthpop, & EURO DANCE  
**HAVEN** WITH DJS VOID & THE GOTHFATHER  
special guest DJ PROPHET

**Sunday • May 4** **REGRESSION**

**RETRO 80's** **RETRO 80's** **RETRO 80's**  
**REGRESSION** WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

**Tuesday • May 6** **90'S NIGHT**

**So LAST CENTURY... 90's Night**  
WITH DJS BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

**Wednesday May 7** **MID-WAVE**

UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth  
WITH DJS PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Thu. May 8 • Live!** **COLONY 5**  
w/ Head-Less & Before Dawn  
tickets available now at Secret Oktober

**Fri. May 9 • Live!** Ram-Z, Happy Panjoma,  
Dubnautica, In-Fin\_It

**Thu. May 15 • Live!** The Last Humans,  
Automusik, Production Unit Zero

**Fri. May 16 • the CURE TRIBUTE - Live!**  
Rescue Mission, Seaholm Electric, Christian Hicks

**BROKEN SPOKE**  
THE MOST FANCY. BUT WE'RE DAMN SHURE COUNTRY!

PHOTO BY M. DAPRA  
**3201 SOUTH LAMAR • 442-6189**

**THU, MAY 1** **JESSE DAYTON** 9PM  
DANCE LESSONS 8-9PM

**FRI, MAY 2** **CORNELL HURD**

**SAT, MAY 3** **BRUCE ROBISON**

**TUE, MAY 6** **HARDCORE COUNTRY W/ ALVIN CROW & JAMES M. WHITE**

**WED, MAY 7** **LUCKY TOMBLIN**

**Riley's TAVERN** SINCE 1933

**THU 5/1** **ERIC BRENDAN**

**FRI 5/2** **BILLY DEE**

**SAT 5/3** **ROD'S @ RILEY'S**  
SEAN CASTILLO & THE HUBCAPS 4-7PM  
TURBO 350 9PM

**SUN 5/4** **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**

**MON 5/5** **FREE POOL & JUKEBOX**

**TUE 5/6** **SHAWN LINE**

**WED 5/7** **MOLLY HAYES**

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WWW.RILEYSTAVERN.COM

**club listings ◀ ◀ FROM SUNDAY**

**MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER** Cinco de Mayo w/ Los Texas Wranglers (noon)

**MOHAWK** Brothers O'Hair (10:00)

**MOMO'S** Marshall Ford Swing Band, the Belleville Outfit, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums (6:00)

**NUOVO LEÓN** 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 OAKS** The Shake 'Em Ups, Mike & the Moonpies, Dustin Welch, Brennen Leigh, the Fundamentalists, Leo Rondeau, JWW & the Prospectors, Rosie Flores, Shotgun Party, Steve James (noon)

**THE OASIS** The Brew

**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Funky Jazz Sunday w/ Greg Williams (10:00)

**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Tower of Power (6:00, 8:30)

**THE PARLOR** The Squirrels, the Dialtones

**THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS** Roger Len Smith

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Nathan's Train Stage Jammers (3:00)

**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

**RAIN ON 4TH** Hedda Layne (6:00)

**RED FEZ** DJ Krupt (10:00)

**RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen

**ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield

**RUTA MAYA** Jungle Jill & the Jaybirds (10:30am), Monster Big Band (7:00)

**SAXON PUB** The Resentments, Wicked Brew, the Salingers (7:00)

**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Paul Holman Benefit w/ Odyssey, Foot Foot, Tumbleweed Racer, Pocket FishRmen, Pong, Cedar Fever (2:00)

**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D

**SKI SHORES** Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (5:00)

**STUBB'S** Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (11:00am)

**THINGS CELTIC** Celtic Song Session (2:30)

**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** KOOP Radio Fundraiser w/ L'Angelus, Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights (4:00)

**TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Jim's Country Jam (7:00)

**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Underwater Sleep Project (8:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Young Guns Song Swap (9:00)

**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Rich Demarco (6:30)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Uptown Swingsters (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)

**DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

**EMO'S** Colour Revolt, the Breeders (10:00)

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

**FIESTA GARDENS** Conjunto Festival w/ Los Texas Wranglers (4:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Funktronica (10:00)

**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T.** Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiano (6:30)

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Bourbon Legends, Focus Group, Danny Malone, the Harlequins (9:00)

**LA PALAPA** Baby Dallas

**LATITUDE 30** Jordan Tanner (9:00)

**LOUIE'S 106** Red Young (6:30)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

**MOMO'S** Michael Dart, Latin at Heart, Josh Grider, Nathan Singleton's Sideshow Tragedy, Dustin Welch, Jeremy Nail & the Incidents (5:00)

**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson & Joley Flowers

**MUGSHOTS** Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

**NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Ray McCarty, Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites (8:00)

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt & Lyle Lovett (8:00)

**THE PARLOR** Robert Ellis (9:00)

**Mon 05**

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Cabo Bay (3:30)

**ANTONE'S** Akina Adderley & the Vintage Playboys, Flyjack (8:00)

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Rhinoroom del Norte (8:00)

**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Eric Heard Showcase

**BEERLAND** Karaoke w/ John Chapman

**THE BELMONT** Cinco de Mayo w/ Cienfuegos (7:00)

**BOTTICELLI'S** Dr. Skoob

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Clayton Adams

**CACTUS CAFE** Open Stage w/ Graham Weber & Abi Tapia (7:00)

Austin's "Original Swanky Joint" Austin Chronicle's BEST OF AUSTIN WINNER SINCE '97

# speakeasy

CALL 47-PARTY

**THURSDAY, MAY 1** **DIASPORIC** 9:30PM

**FRIDAY, MAY 2** **DETROIT STEELE** 9:30PM

**SATURDAY, MAY 3** **RAYVON** 9:30PM

**MONDAY, MAY 5** **S.I.N. JONATHAN TERRELL ON TERRACE 59** 9:30PM

**TUESDAY, MAY 6** **GIRL FART** 9PM  
**BUS STOP STALLIONS** 11PM

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7** **LATIN WEDNESDAY**  
**THE BREW** 9:30PM  
SALSA LESSONS 9PM

**412-D CONGRESS AVE. • 476-8017**  
(entrance in the alley) • [speakeasyaustin.com](http://speakeasyaustin.com)  
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Austin, Tx. 78750

ARTIST APPEARANCE & CD SIGNING

**THURSDAY MAY.8.2008**  
6PM

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**Rumba** Wed, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008  
8PM-12AM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF  
**PREMIER RUM SAMPLING**  
OF RUMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**Cuba Libre**

LIVE LATIN SOUNDS FROM **CADAQUES**

Tickets: \$10 PRESALE \$13 AT THE DOOR

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1933  
**North** 512.451.5440  
6416 N. Lamar Blvd.  
New, New Old No. 1

**Grand Re-Opening Season**

**Thurs 05/01 | Ray Benson Trio**  
9:30pm \$2!!

**Friday 05/02 | Denim**  
9:30pm \$5

**Sat 05/03 | Miss Lauren Marie**  
The Horton Brothers  
Benny & the Fly By Nifers  
9:30pm \$5

**Friday 05/30 | Dixie Bee-Liners**  
9:30pm \$10

[www.threadgills.com](http://www.threadgills.com)

**Hanovers**  
DRAUGHT HAUS  
670-9617 OUTDOOR BIER GARTEN  
TRAVIS COUNTY SMOKING ALLOWED  
\*NEW AIR CONDITIONING\*

**THU 5/1 | KARAOKE 8:00PM**  
COME DISPLAY YOUR BIKES IN OUR BACKYARD  
& ENJOY DRINK SPECIALS ALL DAY & ALL NIGHT

**FRI 5/2 | BRUCE SMITH 7:30PM**  
**BREWER NATION** 10PM

**SAT 5/3 | 3 KISSES 8:30PM**  
**MOTIONSIDE 9:45PM**  
**FREEBLEEDER 11PM**  
**BENT EYE BOLT 12:15AM**

**SUN 5/4 | FREE POKER 5 & 8PM**

**EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, & WEDNESDAY | SIN NIGHT 10PM-1AM**

**TUES 5/6 | KEVIN HAVRON & STEVEN FRANKS 8:30PM**

**WED 5/7 | OPEN MIC WITH CARSON ALEXANDER 8PM**

**SAND BEACH VOLLEYBALL**

**POOL • DARTS  
HORSE SHOES**

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[myspace.com/hanoversbar](http://myspace.com/hanoversbar)

**THREADGILL'S South**  
512.472.9304  
301 West Riverside Dr.  
World Headquarters

**Thurs 05/01 | Belleville Outfit**  
9:00pm \$7 Cover

**Friday 05/02 | Slaid Cleaves**  
**Gurf Morlix**  
9:00pm \$15 advance/\$15 door

**Sat 05/03 | Willis Alan Ramsey**  
**Allison Rogers**  
9:00pm \$15 advance/\$15 door

**Sun 05/04 | Gospel Brunch**  
**Durden Family**  
11:00am No Cover

**Sun 05/04 | Gulf Coast Extravaganza!**  
Larry Lange & The Lonely Knights, L'Angelus  
All proceeds benefit KOOP Radio  
4:00-8:00pm \$10 Cover

**Mon 05/05 | Lee Duffy & Friends**  
Will Sexton, Joe Manuel, Floyd Domino, Marvin Dykhuus  
8:00pm Indoors, Free

**Friday 05/09 | The Greencards**  
**Sarah Jarosz**  
9:00pm \$15 advance/\$15 door

**Friday 05/11 | Mandolin Mayhem**  
Benefit for Juvenile Diabetes  
Kym Warner, Dennis Ludiker, Sarah Jarosz  
5:00pm \$15 advance/\$15 door

**Weds 05/14 | Shinyribs**  
Starring Kevin Russell from the Gourds  
8:00pm \$5 Cover

*Coming Soon!*

May 18 - Paul Thorn  
w/ Angela Strehli  
May 23 - Fastball  
May 24 - Hayes Carll  
May 31 - The Waybacks  
& The Dixie Bee-Liners!

[www.threadgills.com](http://www.threadgills.com)

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME  
**Emo's**  
alternative lounging  
477-EMOS  
603 RED RIVER

**THURSDAY, MAY 1**

**INSIDE: THE BLACK**  
THE LONELY H (WA) • LOMITA • LEATHERBAG

**LOUNGE: KITTY KITTY BANG BANG**  
BURLESQUE SHOW

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**

**OUTSIDE:**

**ATMOSPHERE**  
2 NIGHTS! MAY 2 & MAY 3  
ABSTRACT RUDE • DJ RARE GROOVE  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**LOUNGE 7-9PM: PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK**

**LATER, IN THE LOUNGE:**  
**GHOST OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE**  
(CD RELEASE)  
SHE, SIR • THE SHAKE EM UPS  
IN SITU SOUND

**INSIDE: HELLO LOVERS (RECORD RELEASE)**  
AMY ANNELLE • FICTION • SILKY

**SATURDAY, MAY 3**

**LOUNGE 7-9PM: PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK**

**LATER IN THE LOUNGE:**  
**MIDGETMEN** CD RELEASE  
PEEL • THE GEORGIAN COMPANY • CALM BLUE SEA  
TEAM FABRICATION DJ'S

**INSIDE: THE BLUE FOUR**  
(FEATURING SOUND TEAM'S MATT OLIVER  
AND JORDAN JOHNS)  
PINK NASTY

**MONDAY, MAY 5**

**OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS**

**THE BREEDERS**  
COLOUR REVOLT TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**THURSDAY, MAY 8**

**INSIDE: TORCHE**  
STINKING LIZAVETA • CANYON OF THE SKULL  
LOUNGE: THE NASTY RUMORS • MY EDUCATION  
THE PAPER SOUTH • WINE AND REVOLUTION

**FRIDAY, MAY 9**

**INSIDE:**

**THRONES**  
TIA CARRERA • THE ROLLER • EXPENSIVE SHIT

**LOUNGE: BIG STAR BURLESQUE**

COMING SOON: •5/20 FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS, METRO STATION, THE MAINE, DANGER RADIO, THE CAB (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •5/21 TRACHTENBURG FAMILY SLIDESHOW PLAYERS / BELAIRE •5/23 CLING, BBQ (OUTSIDE) / NEVA DINOVA, LADYHAWK (INSIDE) •5/24 MURDER BY DEATH, DIOS, GASOLINE HEART (INSIDE) •5/30 THE BLACK ANGELS (OUTSIDE) / MARGOT & THE NUCLEAR SO & SO'S (INSIDE) •6/1 LOCAL H, HE IS LEGEND (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •6/3 SWERVEDRIVER •6/7 SINGER (ON SALE NOW) •6/8 65WAYSOFSTATIC, CRY BLOOD APACHE (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •6/9 DECON PRESENTS FRESH RHYMES AND VIDEOTAPE STARRING DILATED PEOPLES / THE ALCHEMIST • ACEWONE / THE 88-KAYS •6/10 MARIA TAYLOR (OF AZULRE RAY) / JONATHAN RICE, NIK FRETAS (TEAM LOVE) (LOUNGE) / BELAIRE, THE CARROTS (INSIDE) •6/11 RZA AS BOBBY DIGITAL FEATURING STONE MECCA (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •6/12 FRESHWATER (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •6/13 MATES OF STATE (OUTSIDE, ON SALE 5/31) •6/19 DOSH, ANATHALLO (LOUNGE, ON SALE NOW) •6/23 ISLANDS / CRAYONSMITH (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •7/1 NO AGE •7/4 THE BRONX •7/5 ROONEY W/ LOCKSLEY & BRIDGES (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) / SKY EATS AIRPLANE AND A SKYLT DRIVE W/ BREATHE CAROLINA AND MILLIONAIRES (LOUNGE, ON SALE NOW) •7/8 RX BANDITS W/ PORTUGAL THE MAN / FACING NEW YORK (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •7/11 101X FLASHBACK LUNCH PRESENTS... PETER MURPHY (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW) •7/12 BOB LOG

**\*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [emosaustin.com](http://emosaustin.com), Waterloo Records, End of An Ear records, Trailer Space & Sound On Sound records**

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**

**INSIDE: HAUNTING OBOE MUSIC**  
RED LEAVES CD RELEASE  
CRY BLOOD APACHE • MONSTER SLEEPS QUIET

**LOUNGE: THE BANNER YEAR**  
TUNGSTEN COIL • SHE CRAVES  
FOREVER FALLS • THE VEHICLE REASON

**SUNDAY, MAY 11**

**OUTSIDE: PENNYWISE**  
STRUNG OUT • AUTHORITY ZERO  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**INSIDE: CARNEY & THE BRAKES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**

**HOMEGROWN 101X: LOUNGE:**  
**NOISE REVIVAL ORCHESTRA**  
STORY OF • FICTION

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**

**INSIDE: CHAOS IN TEJASI 8PM**  
**HARD SKIN** (ENGLAND)  
**FY FAN** (SWEDEN)  
WORLD BURNS TO DEATH  
UNDER PRESSURE (CANADA)  
NO FUCKER • IRON AGE

**LOUNGE: MR. LEWIS AND THE FUNERAL FIVE**  
MR. AND MRS. MAYS • SINGLE FRAME • TBA

**OUTSIDE: CHAOS IN TEJASI 8PM**  
**ROKY ERICKSON**  
& THE EXPLOSIVES • THE STRANGE BOYS  
PINK REASON • AMPLIFIED HEAT

**FRIDAY, MAY 16**

**OUTSIDE: CHAOS IN TEJASI 7PM**  
**DILLINGER FOUR**  
LEATHERFACE • THE MARKED MEN  
STRAIGHT JACKET NATION (AUSTRALIA)  
IRON LUNG • HATRED SURGE  
BRAIN HANDLE • SACRED SHOCK

**LOUNGE: 7-9PM NATURAL EAR MUSIC SCHOOL**  
LOUNGE: VISITORS • L.A.X. • YADIRA  
BROWN • BLACKLISTED INDIVIDUALS  
DJ TAKO

**INSIDE: HEROINE SHIEKS**  
WE'LL GO MACHETE • CAMP X-RAY

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**

**OUTSIDE: CHAOS IN TEJASI 7PM**  
**LOS CRUDOS** (REUNION)  
CRUDE (JAPAN) • TRAGEDY • INMATES  
INVASION (SPAIN) • REPERCUSSIONS • DESKONOCIDOS

**INSIDE:**  
**NEW BOMB TURKS**  
**QUADRAJETS**  
SPACE COOKIE

**LOUNGE: MAGNET SCHOOL • THE CRASH THAT TOOK ME**

# CHRONTOURAGE

Sunday May 4, 3pm

## AUSTIN WRANGLERS VSSOUTHGEORGIA

YOUTH SPORTS DAY

Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River

[www.uterwincenter.com](http://www.uterwincenter.com)



Monday May 5, 7pm

## SPEEDRACERCARTOONSSCREENING!

Revisit the original cartoon before seeing the movie!

Prizes, \$1 Select Draft Beers, \$2 Wells, \$3 Mach 5's

United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth St.

[www.unitedstatesartauthority.com](http://www.unitedstatesartauthority.com)



Thursday May 8, 5-7pm

## ON THE CHRON HAPPY HOUR

Buffalo Billiards, 201 E. 6th St.

[www.buffalobilliards.com](http://www.buffalobilliards.com)



**You DESERVE Free Stuff!** [austinchronicle.com/contests](http://austinchronicle.com/contests)

Check out photos of what you missed at [austinchronicle.com/whatyoumissed](http://austinchronicle.com/whatyoumissed).



[austinchronicle.com/chrontourage](http://austinchronicle.com/chrontourage)

# Girls Rock Camp Austin

Where girls go to rock!

SESSION ONE:

**July 7-11, 9am-5pm**

**Showcase July 12**

SESSION TWO:

**July 21-25, 9am-5pm**

**Showcase July 26**

@ The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, 2206 Prather Ln.

**GUITAR BASS  
DRUMS VOCALS  
KEYBOARDS**

Space is limited!  
Ages 10-17

To learn more and to register:  
go to [www.girlsrockcampaustin.org](http://www.girlsrockcampaustin.org)  
e-mail [director@girlsrockcampaustin.org](mailto:director@girlsrockcampaustin.org)  
call 809-7799



club listings ◀◀ FROM MONDAY

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie  
**RED FEZ** DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)  
**ROOM 710** Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Breck's Stormy Open Blues Jam (8:30)  
**SAXON PUB** Monte Warden & Colin Byrd, Brewer Nation, Chris Hawkes  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Brent Wood  
**SPEAKEASY** Jonathan Terrell  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Lee Duffy, Will Sexton, Floyd Domino, Marvin Dykhuis (8:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Gerry's Kids (6:00)

Tue 06

**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Sarah Temple (3:30)  
**ANTONE'S** Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)  
**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)  
**BB ROVERS** Billy Eli's Jollyville Hayride (7:30)  
**BEERLAND** The Carrots  
**THE BELMONT** Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (7:00)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White  
**CACTUS CAFE** Annoying Instrument Orchestra, Mundi (8:00)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Coffee Sergeants, Burden of Proof  
**CHAIN DRIVE** Brash Boys, Jerry Signfeldz Atropheed Sac, My Fascist Pussy  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Jordan Minor & the Bottom Dollar Band (9:30)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Planet Casper w/ Casper Rawls, David Grissom (6:30), Ephraim Owens, Frogleg (10:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith (6:00), Tony Campise (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** 90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh, Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (6:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Space Heaters

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jim Stringer (9:00)  
**GRUENE HALL** Bret Graham (7:00)

**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Trio Indiana (6:30)  
**HANOVER'S** Kevin Havron & Steven Franks (8:30)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Voice of Glass, Sybilla, Tattooed Millionaires  
**HILL'S CAFE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Roger Wallace, Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business, the Bread (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Jodi Adair, Robert Banta, Horse Operas (6:00)  
**LAMBERTS** The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Mac Bynum (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Longfall  
**MOHAWK** Paperwork, Secret Sideshow, Foxhole, Interstates  
**MOMO'S** Randy Weeks, Sally Allen, Bukka Allen, La Tampiquena, Carrie Elkin (6:00)  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** Fallen All-Stars, Ady Hernandez (10:00)  
**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt & Lyle Lovett (8:00)  
**THE PARLOR** The Lovers, Barebones Orchestra (9:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos  
**RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)  
**ROOM 710** Invincible Czars (8:00)  
**RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Nate Vancil (9:00)  
**SAXON PUB** Sunny Sweeney, Bruce Hughes, Ricky Stein  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Chris Cruz  
**SPEAKEASY** Girl Fart, Bus Stop Stallions (9:30)  
**STUBB'S** Trevor Hall, Colbie Caillat  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Cody Richardson, Doomsday Device  
**TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Bill Davis, Sonny  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Will Dunlap (7:00)  
**Z'TEJAS** Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)

See [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) for complete listings.

Wed 07

**219 WEST Breezy** (7:00)  
**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Matt the Electrician (3:30)  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Mary Welch y los Curanderos (3:30)  
**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET** Stephanie Fix (1:00)  
**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ** Stars of the Lid  
**ANTONE'S** Erin Jaimes, Eric Tessmer (9:00)  
**APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL** Marty Linville  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** Lonesome Dave Fisher (8:00)  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Hosea Hargrove  
**BEERLAND** Ladyfingers  
**THE BELMONT** Matt Wilson (7:00)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** PJ. Herrington  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Lucky Tomblin  
**CAFE MUNDI** Luke Balencia (7:00)  
**CANVAS BAR & GALLERY** 11-Fingered Charlie  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Swingsters, Cool Blood Trio  
**CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave, the Spazmatics (6:00)  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Texas Eastside Kings (6:30)  
**CHAIN DRIVE** Brash Boys, Jerry Signfeldz Atropheed Sac, My Fascist Pussy  
**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Jacinta (7:00)  
**CLUB DE VILLE** Psychotropic w/ DJ Scorpio, DJ Whiplash, Big Black Smoke (9:00)  
**THE COCKPIT CLUB** Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan, DJ Miah Love (9:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Shelley King Band (6:30), Dan Dyer, Greyhounds (10:00)  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Seu Jacinto (7:00)  
**CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Kill the DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib, Ghettoch w/ DJ Orion (9:30)  
**CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Albert & Gage  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Leah Zeger (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharaohs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

# Detour

BAR AND GRILL

TUE Open Mic Night

FOND KISER 8PM

THU Sonny Wolf

FRI WELDON HENSON AND THE ZEDA 5

SAT Shelly Knight WITH STONE FREE (OPENING)

SUN Karaoke 8PM

1113 R.R. 620  
IN LAKEWAY, TX  
266-2279

# CHILDREN OF UGANDA

BENEFIT CONCERT

Sat., May 3  
12-8PM

The Lemurs  
Golden Bear  
El Guapos  
Frank Smith  
Stella Rose  
The Daze

and more! at Mohawk

All Ages Show  
Admission:  
\$6 21+, \$8 minors

912 RED RIVER



**B.D. Riley's**  
Irish Pub



6TH STREET FOR GROWN UPS

**THURSDAY May 1 - Two Bands 7:30/10:30**  
WYNN TAYLOR / TUMBLEWEED RACER  
**IT'S THIRSTY THURSDAY!**  
20 oz PINTS \$4 ALL DAY & NIGHT

**FRIDAY May 2 - 10:30**  
JIMI LEE & MR VENSON

**SATURDAY May 3 - 10:30**  
JOE RICHARDSON EXPRESS

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT-NO COVER EVER**

FOOD • SPIRITS • MUSIC • ADULTS  
204 E. 6TH (AT BRAZOS)  
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SERVING UP FOOD & FUN SINCE 2000

**T.U.B.**  
TEXAS UNLIMITED BAND



**FRIDAY 9:30**

**the SPAZMATICS**

**SATURDAY 9:30**



**GREAT MUSIC IN THE HEART OF OLD SOUTH AUSTIN!**  
1619 S. 1st • 447-7825  
www.jovitas.com

**THURSDAY, 5/1** 8-10pm  
NO COVER **CORNELL HURD**

**FRIDAY, 5/2** 6:30-7:30pm  
DAN RAZA  
8-9:30pm  
SHANE PARKER BAND  
10-11:30pm  
AMERICAN GRAVEYARD

**SATURDAY, 5/3** 7-8:30pm  
MYRNA CABELLO  
**Sister Sister y los Mistery**  
CD-RELEASE PARTY!

**SUNDAY, 5/4** 2-2:30pm  
ST. ANDREWS JAZZ BAND  
2:40-3:20pm  
Hot Vanilla  
3:30-4pm  
DR. BEAT & THE TIMEKEEPERS  
FRONT PORCH  
GYPSIES 6-8pm No Cover  
CLOSED THURSDAY

**TUESDAY, 5/6** 6-7:30pm  
JODI ADAR  
ROBERT BANTA  
NO COVER

**WEDNESDAY, 5/7** 9:30-10:30pm  
HORSE OPERA

**NO COVER** 6-7:30pm  
MOTORRANCE  
9-10pm  
BLUES MAFA

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU 1	KENT MAYHEW	<b>LC ROCKS</b>
FRI 2		<b>T.U.B.</b> texas unlimited band
SAT 3		<b>SPAZMATICS</b>
SUN 4		<b>suede</b>
MON 5	6pm ~BUYOUT~ 2am CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC	
TUE 6	MICHAEL FRACASO	<b>11-FINGERED CHARLIE</b>
WED 7	TRENT & DAVE	<b>SPAZMATICS</b>

**CEDAR STREET COURTYARD**

208 W.4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

**MERKABA**  
LOUNGE & GRILL

**THU MAY 1** CAMERON ROAD 6PM  
LADIES NIGHT  
THE FATAL ATTRACTIONS 9:30PM  
EVERY THURSDAY!

**FRI MAY 2** ESPN RADIO  
LIVE BROADCAST 3-6PM  
JUKEBOX HEROES 6PM  
THE FATAL ATTRACTIONS 10PM

**SAT MAY 3** TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER  
1, 4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE  
\$200 CASH PRIZE  
BUZZFUEL 10PM

**SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS** DJ TETSUO 9PM  
\$3 YOU CALL IT • \$7 PITCHERS

**MON MAY 5** TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER  
6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE  
\$200 CASH PRIZE

**TUE MAY 6** PIANO BAR 10PM  
WITH RUSSELL & MIKEY

**WED MAY 7** THE WILL EVANS PROJECT 8PM

**THU MAY 8** CAMERON ROAD 6PM  
LADIES NIGHT WITH THE FATAL ATTRACTIONS 10PM

**FRI MAY 9** MATT WILSON 6-9PM  
LC ROCKS 10PM

**SAT MAY 10** TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER  
1, 4, & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE  
\$200 CASH PRIZE  
METAL SHOP 10PM

**SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS** DJ TETSUO 9PM  
\$3 YOU CALL IT • \$7 PITCHERS

**MON MAY 12** TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER  
6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE  
\$200 CASH PRIZE

**• OPEN FOR LUNCH •**  
**DAILY HAPPY HOUR**  
FULL MENU TAPAS • FISH • STEAK  
40 BEERS ON TAP  
14106 N. I-35 • 670-0404  
OPEN DAILY 11AM - 2AM  
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# TRIPLE CROWN

(512) 396-2236 / www.triplecrownlive.com

Th 1	Mark Jungers 6pm Boonesboro, John Vinyard, Riley & Mama Wolf 9pm
Fr 2	Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 6pm Silver Pines, Falcon Buddies, Prayer For Animals 9pm
Sa 3	Word Association, Rootbug 10pm
Su 4	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
Mo 5	Gerry's Kids 6pm Movie Night - <i>No Cover!!!</i> 9pm
Tu 6	Cody Richardson 6pm Doomsday Device 10pm
We 7	Scott Wood 6pm A Mind Divided, Maho 10pm
Th 8	Texas Saints 6pm Carlton Pride & ZION Reggae Music 9pm
Fr 9	Buck Jones & the Haggards 6pm The Murdocks, Mira Look, Gold Teeth & Gucci
Sa 10	Kallisti Gold, The Couch 10pm

# Saxon Pub

1320 S Lamar www.thesaxonpub.com 448-2552

**GEORGE DEVORE** 10:15 \$8

**THE BAND OF HEATHENS** 8:00 \$8

**CHIP DOLAN** 12:30 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with **SONS OF THE REVOLUTION**

**THURSDAY MAY 1**

**THE RESENTMENTS** 9:00 \$10

**MEAGAN TUBB** 11:15 \$10

No Cover Happy Hour every Friday at 6:00 with **The REGULARS**

**FRIDAY MAY 2**

**BUGS HENDERSON** 8:00 \$10

**VAN WILKS** 11:00 \$10

**SATURDAY MAY 3**

**THE RESENTMENTS** 7:30 \$7

**WICKED BREW** 10:15 \$5

**STEVEN WILL & THE SALINGERS** 12:30

**SUNDAY MAY 4**

**MONTE WARDEN & COLIN BOYD** 7:00 \$10

**BREWER NATION** 9:30 \$5

**CHRIS HAWKES** 11:00 \$5

**MONDAY MAY 5**

**SUNNY SWEENEY** 7:00 \$5

**BRUCE HUGHES** 9:00 \$5

**RICKY STEIN** 8-DAY SHOW! 11:30 \$5

**TUESDAY MAY 6**

**PAULA NELSON** 8:00 \$5

**MEAGAN TUBB & SHADY PEOPLE** 10:00 \$5

**MIKE MILLIGAN & THE ALTAR BOYZ** 12:00 \$5

No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 with **BO PORTER**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 7**

Coming soon to the Saxon Pub:  
**MAY 9 - JOEL GUZMAN & SARAH FOX**  
**MAY 10 - BELLEVILLE OUTFIT**  
**MAY 16 - OMAR & THE HOWLERS**  
 www.thesaxonpub.com

**club listings** ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

**EVANGELINE CAFE** Cowboy Johnson (6:00)  
**GIDDY UPS** Open Blues Jam w/ JJ Slyde (8:00)  
**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/ Carson Alexander  
**HEADHUNTERS** Bazooka Jill, Devour the World  
**HI-LO** Open Mic w/ In the Rounds (10:30)  
**HILL'S CAFE** Back Porch Mary, Micky & the Motorcars  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Jim Trainer, Tom Vandenvond, Aimee Bobruk, the Lonesome Heroes (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** MJ Torrance, Blues Mafia  
**LA PALAPA** Big Frank Gomez (7:00)  
**LAMBERTS** Erik Hokkanen & His Gypsy Tribe (6:30), Prince Klassen (10:30)  
**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Red Young (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Alpha Rev (10:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem (9:00)  
**MAGGIE MAE'S** Patrick Fleming (10:00)  
**MEAN-EYED CAT** The Drakes w/ Matt Giles (8:00)  
**MOHAWK** Loxsly, Port O'Brien, Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin  
**MOMO'S** Sarah Hughes, Travis Damron, Sarah Sharp, Drew Smith, Nathan Hubble (5:00)  
**MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)  
**NUNZIA'S AT THE Y** Matt Giles (6:30)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke  
**ONE 2 ONE BAR** 80H Project (10:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Silent Land Time Machine, the Tangle (9:00)  
**PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Doug Warriner & His Only Band (8:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser (8:00)  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)  
**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D.  
**RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)  
**SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER** Baby Robots, Weird Weeds, Dead Science (8:30)  
**SAXON PUB** Paula Nelson, Meagan Tubb, Mike Milligan & the Altar Boys (8:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Austin Poetry Slam, Izzy Cox (8:00)

**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Radiostar  
**SHOAL CREEK SALOON** Eve & the Exiles (8:30)  
**SPEAKEASY** Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Scott Wood, Maho, A Mind Divided  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Ptarmigan (7:00)  
**Z'TEJAS** Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Bill Carter

## Thu 08

**219 WEST** Acoustic Jungle (8:00)  
**311 CLUB** Joe Valentine (8:30)  
**ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR** Hudson Mueller (3:30)  
**ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Cienfuegos (3:30)  
**ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILL ON SIXTH STREET** Michael Fracasso (1:00)  
**ANTONE'S** Falcon Buddies, Lalaland, Model U.N., the Murdocks (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Paula Held  
**AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735** 3 Balls of Fire (8:00)  
**B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Stephanie Bradley  
**BEAUTY BAR** Ian Orth, Heist at Hand (9:00)  
**BEERLAND** Blood Royale, Teeners, We March  
**THE BELMONT** Bruce James Soultet (8:00)  
**BENNIGAN'S** Andy Fiegel (7:00)  
**BOTTICELLI'S** Aaron Franz  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Jesse Dayton  
**THE BROWN BAR** DJ gmau  
**CACTUS CAFE** Slimfest w/ Ranch Road 12, Gypsy Moon, Mordecai Family Band, Yo Gadjjo, Marshall Ford Swing Band, Gaila Kenneally, Leeann Atherton, Slim Richey (7:30)  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Puff Puff & the Receivers, Taco Leg, Graham Weber  
**CEDAR STREET** Kent Mayhew, LC Rocks (6:00)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Ben Danaher (9:30)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Mother Truckers (6:30), Michael Hall, Jon Langford, Shinyribs (9:30)  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)  
**DETOUR BAR & GRILL** Andy Macintyre  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Joe Cordi, Ron Westray CD Release (6:00)  
**EMO'S** Inside: Canyon of the Skull, Stinking Lizaveta, Torche; Outside: Wine & Revolution, Nasty Rumors, My Education, the Paper South  
**FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)  
**FRIENDS** Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites w/ Ray McCarty (7:30)

**GIDDY UPS** Open Mic w/ Roy  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (9:00)  
**GRUENE HALL** McKay Bros. (8:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Karaoke w/ Dan the Man  
**HEADHUNTERS** Trian Woodburns, Superposition  
**HI-LO** Trey Stapleton (10:30)  
**HILL'S CAFE** Bo Cox  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Graham Weber, the Century, Ricky Stein, Chris Brecht (9:00)  
**JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Amanda Pearcy, Justin Pochop (8:00)  
**JOVITA'S** The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)  
**LA PALAPA** The Newz (7:00)  
**LATITUDE 30** Jordan Tanner (9:00)  
**THE LOADING DOCK** Open Mic (7:00)  
**LOUIE'S 106** Mac Bynum (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, JJ Usher (6:00)  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)  
**MOHAWK** Leatherbag CD Release (10:00)  
**MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN** Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (9:00)  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** People Skills (6:30)

**THE OAKS** The Love Band, Bill Cade (7:00)  
**THE PARLOR** Shriner Threat, 20 Eyes (9:00)  
**PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Weidon Henson (8:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Stop the Truck  
**RED 7** In the Company of Wolves, Fire From the Gods, Homefront, the Cabaret  
**RED FEZ** Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)  
**RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich Demarco (6:00)  
**ROCK CITY ICEHOUSE** Drifter, Wild Side  
**SAXON PUB** Sons of the Revolution (6:00), Rusty Wier, George Devore, Changos Blancos (8:00)  
**SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Rapid Ric, DJ Rhyme, Dred Scott, Southbound, Mohammed Al Farrar, DAM (7:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D.  
**SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Penny & Kuato  
**SPEAKEASY** The Finest Kind, Topaz (9:30)  
**T.C.'S LOUNGE** Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)  
**TRAILER SPACE RECORDS & EVENTS CENTER** Laughin' Dogs, Deskonocidos, Sacred Shock, Fy Fan (8:00)  
**THE TRIANGLE** Carson Alexander Band (7:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Texas Saints, Carlton Pride & Zion  
**TROPHY'S** Davey Knows, Mira Loma, the Couch  
**Z'TEJAS** Acoustic Jungle (7:00)

**AUSTIN DAZE PRESENTS Ruta Maya WEEKENDS**

**THURS 5/1** 7PM MEAGAN TUBB & SHADY PEOPLE  
 9:30PM WORLD MUSIC NIGHT  
 FEATURING ACIABLE AND MUSE OASIS

**FRI 5/2** 7PM THE LOST PINES - FREE SHOW  
 9:30PM-2AM KICKME! & NAVDO PRESENTS  
 A ONE NIGHT STAND WITH RUTA  
 FEATURING MONSTER GIRL, THE MERCERS, GOOD LUCK ACADEMY, AND WONDERLAND AVENUE

**SAT 5/3** 6PM-9PM SPOONEY CD RELEASE PARTY  
 9:30PM-AM THE VERSATILE SYNDICATE PRESENTS  
 IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU  
 FEATURING AARON CUADRA, LIES A BLOOM, BANKRUPT AND THE BORROWERS, AND JABBERWALKIE

www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends

3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin, (Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

**Ruta Maya**

**FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY**  
 Big Band Hits of 30's, 40's & 50's  
**Monster Big Band**  
 Get Your Swing on at 7 PM

**SUN 5/04**

**MON 5/05** 7 PM Monks of the Gaden Shartse Monastery  
 Music, Tea & Discussion  
 TUESDAYS ARE OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!  
 6 PM Poetry Open Mic  
 9 PM Music Open Mic  
 8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

**TUE 5/06**

**WED 5/07** **CUBAN DANCE NIGHT**  
 FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM  
 Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

**Fresh Organic Coffee!**  
 FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

# APHRODITE'S

AN UNINHIBITED NIGHT CLUB FOR ADVENTUROUS COUPLES

Every Friday & Saturday Night

Meet new friends or join old friends at the couples night club where Austin's night life is all grown up.

www.aphroditessforum.com D.J. - B.Y.O.B. - 928-9876



# WATERLOO

Ice House

**6TH STREET & LAMAR**

472-5400

**HAPPY HOUR MON-FRI 4-7PM**  
50¢ OFF ALL BOTTLED BEER  
& \$2 OFF APPETIZERS  
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6:30-9:30PM

## The Hudsons

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 7-10:30PM

**Ryan Harkrider & The Pajamas**

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 8-10PM

**Danny Fast Fingers**

**38TH & MEDICAL PKWY**

451-5245

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 7PM

**Hollywood Indians**

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 7PM

**TBA**

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 7PM

**Jim's Country Jam**

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 7PM

**Will Dunlap**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 8PM

**Ptarmigan**

# WATERLOO

Ice House

No Bad Days



Friday, May 2

**BUGS HENDERSON**  
**LEO RONDEAU (OPENER)**

Saturday, May 3

**POODIE'S DE MAYO FESTIVAL**

HOSTED BY

**ANDREA MARIE**

**MUSIC, FOOD, & FUN!**

**NOON TO CLOSE**

**HOT SAUCE**

**CONTEST, 2PM**

Friday, May 9

**MARY CUTRUFELLO**  
**BRITNI HOOVER (OPENER)**

Saturday, May 10

**BURNETT JONES**  
**PAUL MATTOX BAND**

Mondays

**RU COLEMAN & TEXAS BOOGIE**

Tuesdays

**THE TROUBADILLOS**

Wednesdays

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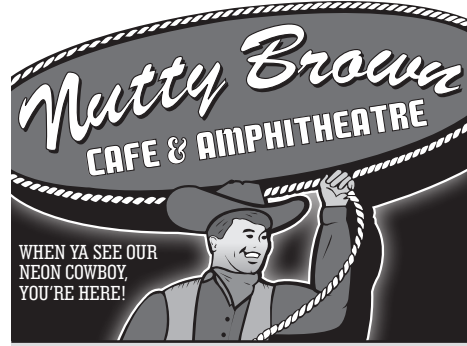
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SATURDAY MAY 10TH

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MONDAY MAY 12TH

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SECOND MONDAYS

SATURDAY MAY 17TH

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# COMICS

## How to Be Happy (OPERA ORIGIN) by Shannon Wheeler

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"I WILL LOVE YOU ALWAYS EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE DIURETIC." THAT IS FUNNY.

I WAS DATING A BALLERINA I REALLY LIKED.

THE ONION NEWSPAPER WANTED ME TO DO A CARTOON FOR THEM.

AND SOMEONE IN TEXAS ACTUALLY WANTED TO PUT MY OPERA ON STAGE.

NO. I'M NOT WEARING A TU-TU FOR YOU.

WOW.

FOR REAL?

I'M SO DAMN LUCKY.

HORIZON

DARK CLOUDS

TO BE CONTINUED...

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## TROUBLETOWN

BY LOYD DANGLE

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THEN YOU NEED A LETHAL LOTUS LOAN (CHINA) \$300 BILLION EACH TAKE OUT EXTRA CASH FOR PARAMILITARY CONTRACTORS!

DO YOU HAVE \$TWELVE TRILLION IN CREDIT CARD DEBT? CHINA IS HERE TO HELP WITH THE: BROKEN FORTUNE COOKIE LOAN CRUNCH! DON'T FORGET: ASK FOR A TEASER RATE!

ARE YOUR PAYMENTS JUST GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH? FROM CHINA! WHY NOT CONDENSE ALL YOUR DEBT INTO A MORTGAGE THE FUTURE LOAN HELLO, YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO PAY IT OFF!

MR. CHOW, YES, GOOD THING WE SOLD THOSE BAD LOANS ON THE NY STOCK EXCHANGE. WAS JUST A BUBBLE.

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### The ANSWER IS NO

LYNDA BORKER

THE MAGIC 8 BALL LIES CONSTANTLY BUT EVEN MY AUNT WILL ASK IT QUESTIONS SILENTLY AND TURN IT OVER SLOWLY AND EITHER SMILE A LITTLE OR PINCH HER MOUTH A LITTLE.

WADJA ASKIT?

WHY DO I HAVE SUCH A NOSEY KID.

NUH-UH!

FREDDIE SAYS THE MAGIC 8-BALL KNOWS HE'S A FAG AND ALSO THE MAGIC 8-BALL LOVES FAGS AND FAGS LOVE THE MAGIC 8-BALL. I ASK THE BALL IF THIS IS TRUE. YES. FAGS PLUS THE MAGIC 8-BALL EQUALS TRUE LOVE.

BUT ACTUALLY THE MAGIC 8-BALL LOVES EVERYONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A FAG FOR IT TO LIKE YOU, MAN.

IT LIES AND YOU CAN PROVE IT BY ASKING THE SAME QUESTION TEN TIMES AND YOU WILL SEE ALL DIFFERENT ANSWERS BUT MARLYS SAYS THIS IS BECAUSE THE MAGIC 8 BALL ALWAYS KNOWS WHEN YOU ARE MESSING WITH ITS MIND.

SEE? IT'S JIVE.

MAN, ARNA, SERIOUSLY. DON'T GET IT MAD AT YOU!

QUIT SHAKIN IT!

ALL IT IS IS A TOY. ALL IT IS IS PLASTIC AND BLUE WATER AND TRIANGE DICE WITH WORDS ON THEM. BREAK IT IN THE DRIVE WAY AND YOU'LL SEE. THERE IS NO WAY A PLASTIC TOY CAN KNOW IF YOUR MOM IS EVER COMING BACK.

SEE?

TOLDJA IT WAS JUST A STUPID TOY!

## EYEBEAM

BY SAM HURT

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!

WHO'S THERE?

AIN'T NOBODY HERE BUT US CHICKENS.

WELL ALRIGHT THEN...

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The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.





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- 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

## 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

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- 720 Musicians Available
- 725 Musicians Wanted
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- 735 Rentals/Services
- 740 Shameless Promotion

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Extend-A-Care for Kids  
 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.

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Visit [bartoncreek.com](http://bartoncreek.com) for a complete job listing.

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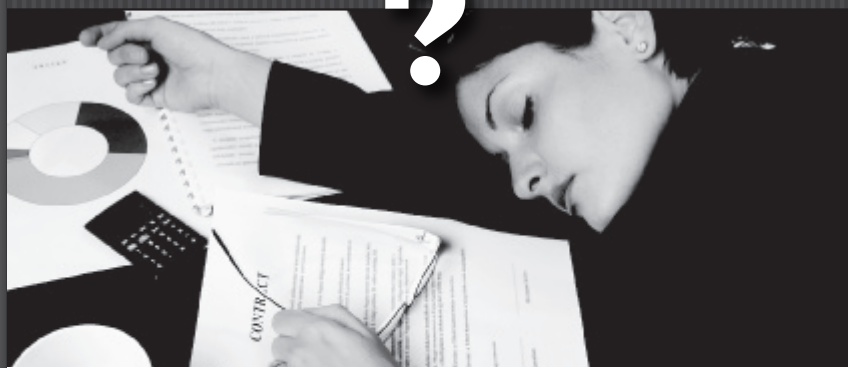
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# NOT RESTED?



Are you getting up feeling unrefreshed, unrefreshed? Is it affecting your daytime activities? If you are able to fall asleep in less than 20 minutes, and you're awake for less than 45 minutes in the middle of the night, but wake up unrefreshed and unrefreshed, you may qualify for this study.

**FutureSearch Trials** is looking for research study participants ages 18 to 64 whose sleep problems have resulted in significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning during the daytime for the last 3 months.



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**Private Country Club**

Seeking Day Care Associate 20-30 hrs per week Mon - Sat \$10 to \$12 hrly D.O.E

Tasks include: Play games with children, supervise children's activities and lessons. Job will also require individual to help maintain a safe and clean facility. Clerical duties include billing and lesson plans. Potential candidates will be required to pass a background check at Club expense.

Email resume to: countryclub14@yahoo.com

EOE.

**GRILL/LINE COOK**

Also hiring Bussers. Some experience required, pay commensurate with experience. Apply in person, Tues thru Thur, 5-7:30pm. Backstage Steakhouse, Spicewood, TX, 264-2223

**POOLSIDE WAITSTAFF**

Needed for summer at private neighborhood dining club. Wait experience is preferred. Call 472-9410

**SPRING/SUMMER STAFF**

**Westwood Country Club** is accepting applications for Spring/Summer poolside Café counter attendants.

Starting rate is \$9.00 hourly plus free shift meals. Job starts part-time weekends April through mid-May, then going Full-time end of May through end of August. Must be clean cut, personable and have reliable transportation and able to work summer Holidays i.e. July 4th, Labor Day, etc.

Applications may be downloaded at [westwoodcountryclub.com](http://westwoodcountryclub.com) and returned in person at 3808 West 35th Street ask for Chris or Tony

EOE

**WAITSTAFF** Full or PT - experienced, dependable. Dirty Martin's Hamburgers. Apply in person, M-F, 3-5. 2808 Guadalupe St.

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If so, we need your help.

Local physicians at Texas Diabetes & Endocrinology are conducting important investigational weight loss research studies for **NON-DIABETICS** and **DIABETICS**.

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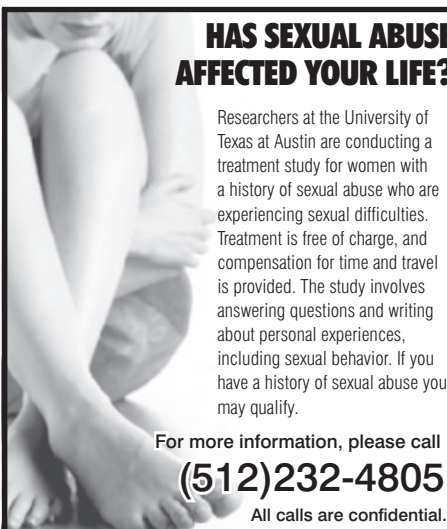
Dr. Thomas Hlevins | Dr. Valerie Espinosa | Dr. Luis Casanbon | Dr. Stephanie Shaw  
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**HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?**



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.

For more information, please call **(512)232-4805**

All calls are confidential.

**DID YOU GRADUATE FROM A TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL IN 2004?**

Researchers at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, funded by the National Institutes of Health, are looking for individuals who graduated from a Texas high school in 2004, but have not graduated from a 4-year college.

If interested, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/2004\\_HS\\_Grads](http://www.surveymonkey.com/2004_HS_Grads) or call (512) 471-8993 to complete a 3-5 minute screening to determine eligibility. Eligible participants will receive \$40 for completing a separate 45-minute on-line survey.

This study is in full compliance with UT regulations for research with human participants and confidentiality is assured.

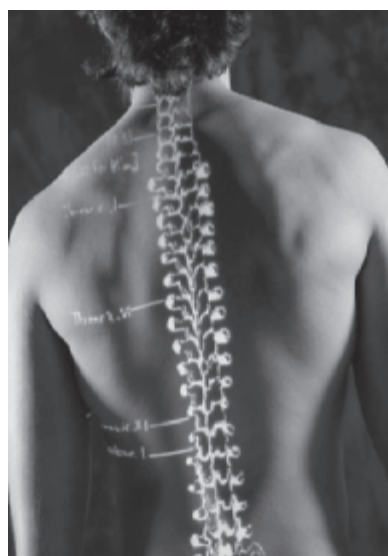
Questions? Call 512-471-8993 or email: [saharahelp@psy.utexas.edu](mailto:saharahelp@psy.utexas.edu)



## Are you losing your battle with chronic low back pain?

If you have chronic low back pain, you know what a struggle it can be to get through your daily activities.

Benchmark Research is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication for chronic low back pain.



**In order to qualify for this study:**

- You must be 18 years of age or older
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Qualified participants will receive study-related exams, lab tests, and study-related care, at no cost to the participant.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL  
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**220**

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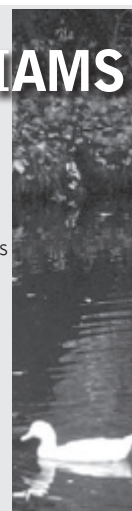


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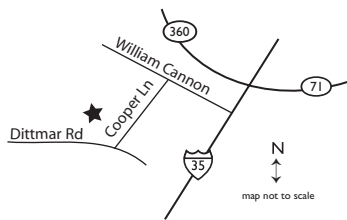
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**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008; 10:00 AM**

**TRAVIS COUNTY WAREHOUSE**

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