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PHOTO BY GARY MILLER

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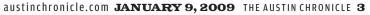


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Inertia, Inverted

It isn't the outside world but oneself that most often determines the nature of experience

BY LOUIS BLACK

Welcome to 2009. We have entered into this new year; let us all hope and pray that it is not the same as the last year. This is not to hold out undue hope for it: Given last year, it won't take much for it to be an improvement. Dickens labeled the period right before the French Revolution as the best of times and the worst of times. Over the centuries, this observation has always seemed profound, but now - when we are destabilized by massive, systemic changes and foundation-shattering eruptions - though it still reads true and is still accurate, it doesn't say nearly enough.

The grand storms are swelling, there's the blasting of unending blizzards, and the oncefamiliar is now so shattered and disfigured that just talking of the tenor of these times may well be missing the point. Amid the blowback of recent history, accompanied by the disconnecting and individualization of ideology, there is less of a center than ever.

In the midst of chaos, I have often been calm. In fact, I may be at my calmest in the midst of chaos, but I could always be calmer. "Calm" may even be the wrong word: Over the years I've tried and succeeded, more than I have at most things, to focus on nonfocusing.

Having no attention span helps a lot here. There is the "I" that I am and the "I" that is the writer. The latter is far more serious. though almost equally unfocused.

When dealing with our dissatisfactions about life, some spew blame in all directions. The chanting is familiar to all of us: "The government sucks," "Too many people are greedy and corrupt," and "Why oh why is it that I'm so much better a person than all too many others?" On it goes: "The police should have better things to do than giving me a ticket,"

"My job sucks," "My boss sucks," and "Your job sucks!" The major problems I face and have faced almost always begin and end with me. When I want to move slowly, I can't; when I want to move quickly, I do no better. Staying still is not even an option.

A couple of decades back, I was quite taken with novels in which the protagonist at some point gives up on and surrenders to life by disengaging. Usually their lives have just been waiting for a long, flat stretch on which to pull over to the shoulder and stop. Shifting into a metaphysical neutral, they are just there. They become almost literally frozen in time and in space.

Since I have the abovementioned attention span, which would shame a gnat, being frozen has never been an available option. Sure, I get depressed, bored, unproductive, professionally unhappy, and overwhelmed. Even at those times, however, it's just that I'm powerless and incapable of activity; time does not disappear or speed up.

Instead, if anything, it slows down incalculably. Essentially, all time ends up passing at the same horribly near-inert speed as minutes got ticked off in grade school by one of those standard black-and-white clocks: The clock's long hand would tick off each minute, getting louder and louder, slower and slower toward the end of the day – especially if one was in a particularly boring class.

Not for me is the blur of one speeding through a segment of his or her life. There has never been any hope of accessing that lack of awareness, during which hours and

even days pass unnoticed. I have long been trapped in the heart of boredom. Sometimes I try for the disconnect. Hours pass by during which I try not to pay attention, forcing myself not to look at the clock. This is for the surprise at how much time has passed when I finally look. Invariably, when I finally check, less than 10 and often less than five minutes have passed.

In life, decisions are being made constantly, regardless of the circumstances. Purposely not moving is easier than moving, but it still involves making a decision.

Being frozen, incapable of motion, on the other hand, is not a state one enters consciously. By definition, it is involuntary, and, in just what it is and how it is defined, the effect is an almost physical imposition. There are no decisions involved.

The definitive frozen-by-inertia work is John Barth's The End of the Road, in which, if memory serves, the protagonist gets stuck standing on a train platform. This is probably an unenlightened statement, but in a number of ways, Barth's world in that novel seemed defined by the academic life: a life that can be fascinating, and even thrilling, but one that is almost always slightly disengaged.

I read all the available Walker Percy novels. Percy is perverse in his belief in a kind of Christian existentialism. There is a God and a moral order, but that neither provides purpose nor necessarily makes anything make sense. Especially in his first two novels, The Moviegoer and The Last Gentleman, he evokes the historic, great languor of the South.

In both books, the South is a crucial, if not the most crucial, character, cast as a land pervaded by a not completely inhospitable existentialism. Even though life may lack purpose, it is still very Christian. While this provides for a coherent, if mysterious, universe - as well as a moral and ethical structure to life - it doesn't provide for meaning in one's daily life. If anything, it lays a thin coat of moral judgment on the action of nonaction.

One of the novelists who was once very much part of the accepted canon but hasn't been for a long time is James Purdy. His novel Malcolm used to be part of many high schools' standard English curriculum, though this is no longer the case. In the beginning of the novel, the title character sits on a bench day after day. He's lost his father, though it is not clear if Dad died or simply left. This does remind me (though I've been advised that I'm too corrupt and square to cite him) of one of the great Jonathan Richman lines:

"And some boyfriend, he's lost his girlfriend, Funny now, she was here just a minute ago.'

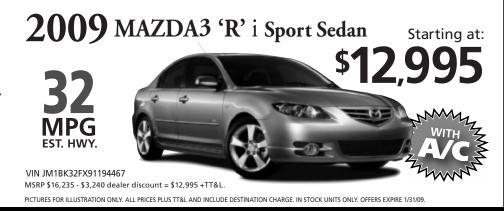
There are other books, and probably movies as well, that celebrate inaction. To be motionless and blank, not even meditative, is to be without responsibility – with all the worries, anxieties, and problems associated with life just not there.

Not doing and not accomplishing I've always found easy. Unfortunately, I'm even worse at going. Born on the edges of the second generation after On the Road was published, we would drive across the country through the American night. Often we drove much the same cars as the Beats did: big clunkers made in Detroit in the 1950s. As we knew nothing of mechanics, our cars did not have souped-up engines that could power them up to top speeds. Instead, these old cars were slower than most. Driving them, one was thrilled to be able to actually hit and maintain 55 mph. It wasn't jazz blazing red in the dark of the car in the middle of the night; it was AM radio – mostly three-minutes-or-less pop or rock songs.

On the record, I should note that whereas "we" drove these Fifties cars. I did most of my traveling in a 1964 Volkswagen bug, which wasn't even parked on the same street as On the Road.

continued on p.6





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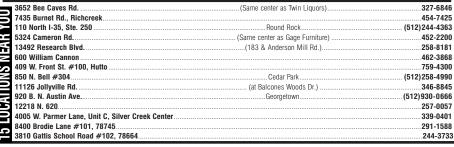
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We lacked the Dean Moriarty/Neil Cassady sense of a speeding car as a form of art, speed as poetry accompanied by constant rapping. Sure, sometimes we all talked endlessly, but we never came close to capturing the sense of talk as speed, words pounding through the night as blood pounding through the body, as gas driving the motor faster and faster. Quite the contrary, as invariably our vehicle was the slowest on the road.

I love the notion of the race across the night deep into the heart of the country. The reality of it, however, used to drive me more than a bit crazy. The rhythm of the road would often kick in, but rarely during the night and usually only after three or four hours on a 10-hour trip. The first part of the drive would find me twitching in my seat, constantly checking the clock while switching AM radio stations in search of bearable and audible songs. During this part of those trips, the hours didn't fly by; they barely walked. Even more ironic and myth-denuding was to have snails, cartoonlike, passing the car. A pure vision of speed, the road, and harmony is not destined to be mine.

Years later I ended up in some rental cars that ripped clean and easy into the night - not the car I drive around Austin but a different one, sleeker and faster. The first couple of times I drove these were accidental. A rented car had to be moved from point A to point B, and I volunteered to do it. After that trip – one completely different from those long, endless drives with which I was too familiar - when I had to drive any kind of substantial distance, I would rent only fast, big cars. After I discovered the pleasure of Books on Tape, I finally managed to experience the miles racing by the whole time.

Hundreds and hundreds of miles, covered in a straight run from the beginning of the drive to its often too soon end: Typically, it was not visceral energy but intellectual engagement that allowed me to go fast. This just brought home once again how it isn't the outside world but oneself that is most often the determiner of experience. It's not the speeds one can or can't achieve that ultimately make any real difference; it's who we are and how we live.



On Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle:

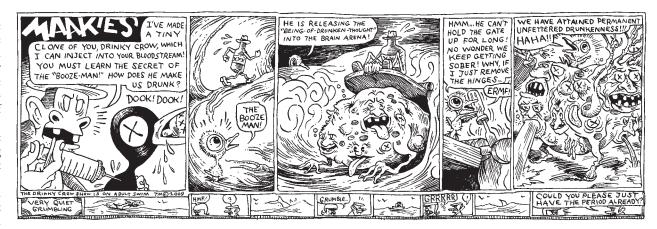
"As a silent comedy fan, I thought your last sentence was a fine tribute to the person who also was a great comedic artist. Fatty was a character he portraved on film, and Roscoe was the man his coworkers knew and loved." - Don Wan

"Page Two," Jan. 2

Postmarks

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JODOROWSKY IS NOT SPANISH

Dear Editor.

A quote from my friend, the esteemed filmmaker, comic-book creator, composer, author, and sage Alejandro Jodorowsky, director of the cult classic FL Topo:

"My parents were Russian ... I was born in Chile ... the Chilean children didn't accept me because I was 'Russian' ... because I was a 'Jew'... the French didn't accept me because I was a 'Chilean' ... the Mexicans didn't accept me because I was 'French' ... the Americans think I am 'Mexican' ... after 10 years I will move to another planet. They won't accept me because they will think I am an 'American.''

Jodo will be thrilled to learn that he can add yet another false nationality to his résumé. According to the experts at The Austin Chronicle film desk two weeks in a row, his origins, perhaps for the first time ever, are now thought to be in Spain [Special Screenings, Film, Dec. 26].

Philip Randolph Fagan

CRITICAL IS AS CRITICAL DOES?

Dear Editor:

Is it just me, or did the first letter to the editor in your Jan. 2 issue from Internationally Known Teacher Lola Jones (Postmarks, Jan. 2], the one lambasting the Chronicle for negativity and cynicism; the one that points out that anyone can criticize because it takes no creativity, heart, brains, or discernible talent; the one that says that criticism is a waste of time, creative energy, breath, and space in the paper, seem to be just a tad ... critical?

Michael Abedin

KEEP BEST POSTER CATEGORY

Dear Editor.

I'm always glad when the new Austin Music Awards voting season is at hand. It's great that the Chronicle gives the public at large an opportunity to celebrate the world's most vibrant music scene [Music Poll 2008-2009].

I was, however, quite surprised and disappointed to read that the Best Concert Poster category has been shelved. After all, the Austin music culture of today is very much a product of its own history and tradition, and concert posters are both a cornerstone of the formative years, as well as a vital and colorful representation of the contemporary Austin music scene. Whoever made the claim that concert posters have "gone the way of the PDF" needs to peel themselves away from the computer screen and shake off the effects of Flash animation. Poster art and its creators are here to stay. Yes, even deep in the heart of Texas!

While music marketing has gravitated toward Internet and e-mail promotion thanks to its low cost and immediate impact, concert posters are still very prevalent and still serve a very key purpose.

Consider the fact that the art form has survived local politicians' attempts to stamp out visual pollution from our public streets and utility poles. The concert poster "industry" is alive and well on venue walls, band merch tables, music stores, record swaps, etc. The heart of the Flatstock festivals, which are probably the largest high-profile showcases of posters and poster designers in the world today, are primarily centered (both physically and spiritually) around Austin, Texas' poster-art scene. You might say that Austin and South Texas set the "industry standard."

I happened to be the recipient of last year's Best Concert Poster award at the AMA, for the poster I designed promoting the Uncle

CONTINUED ON P.8











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austinchronicle.com/comments Reader **COMMENTS** of the Week

Regarding the top films of 2008:

"I think this is the first time I've read this paper (thanks to David Hudson, formerly GreenCine, now on IFC), but if your film critics' choices are representative more power to you. It's a great feeling to think that somewhere out there in the U.S. is still a relatively 'independent' independent paper. Here in NYC, as in so many places, our choices are being winnowed to less and less. Even though I have not yet seen all of the films that you all herald, your choices and reasons for them make me even more eager to do so. Keep it up, and let's hope your paper can remain a 'truly independent alternative weekly,' as *Mr. Hudson notes."* – James van Maanen

"Screens Top 10s." Jan. 2

John Turner Benefit show starring Johnny Winter. What an honor it was to know that the poster I put so much of my heart into struck such a chord with others, as well. During my acceptance speech, I mentioned that this award is one of the things that make the music community in Austin so fantastic. I said that not only have I never received an accolade like this in my hometown of San Antonio, but that they don't even have awards like this in SA. Now, apparently, they don't have awards like this in Austin, either.

Jerry Clayworth (concert poster designer) San Antonio

[Editor's note: Please see Margaret Moser's response to the letter "What Changed on the Music Poll?" at right, for more.]

POSTMARKS ONLINE

austinchronicle.com/postmarks

WHAT CHANGED ON THE MUSIC POLL? I'm not sure if the exclusions in the online ver-

sion of the Music Poll were intentional, but there is no "strings" section, no "album art" section, and there is no "write-in" area for the Hall of Fame. There may even be more areas I didn't notice at first glance, but is this how you wanted it? It's sad that such a dependable publication could drop the ball, particularly on the Hall of Fame area, since the choices offered are guite limited. Also, there is no area that addresses classical musicians, composers, or musical theatre. Is Austin music becoming narrower in scope, or does the Chronicle think it ought to use its great influence toward this end by eliminating certain categories instead of expanding the poll to reflect the variety of Austin's music scene? Curious.

IAustin Music Poll ballot administrator Margaret Moser replies: There has been no album/CD cover art category for several years, and it is always a difficult decision to drop categories. The bottom line is that a fair balance between the number of votes and number of nominees determines the category's inclusion. Both the strings and horns categories have been depressingly undervoted in recent years. In the end, we hope that umbrella categories such as Best None of the Above and Best Miscellaneous Instrument honor a tremendous scope of diverse musicians and performers. You're correct about the glitch in the write-in Hall of Fame category, and that's now fixed. With 45 categories and 13 Hall of Fame nominees. Austin's musicians and bands are remarkably well represented in a wide variety of genres that most music communities can't match.]

IF ONLY IT WEREN'T MADE OF TREES

As an expatriate Austinite, an exile in Fort Worthless, I've sorely been missing The Austin Chronicle. Thankfully, I recently got a subscription to this liberal rag. It was a Christmas gift. I could of course view the Chron online, but there's something different, something most satisfying about holding it in your hands, flipping through its pages. Now if only it weren't made of trees.

THIS MODERN WORLD



EVERYONE AGREES--IT'S TIME TO PUT THE DIVISIVENESS OF THE PAST **BEHIND** US! IT DOESN'T

PAST BEHIND US! IT DEESN'T MATTER WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR FOR THE PROBLEMS WE FACE! WE CAN'T BE OBSESSED WITH CASTING BLAME! IT'S TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE--NOT THE PAST!





by TOM TOMORROW

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? WE'VE ENTERED A NEW ERA OF POST-PARTISAN POLITICS, SYMBOLIZED BY OBAMA'S CHOICE OF AN ANTI-GAY FUNDAMENTALIST TO DELIVER THE INAUGURAL INVOCATION -- MUCH TO THE DISMAY OF THE INTOLERANT YES, WE'RE SHOCKINGLY IN-TOLERANT OF INTOLERANCE.



THANKS FOR REVIEW OF EXHIBIT

Dear Editor

Re: "Austin Americana: The Neal Douglass Photography Collection" review [Arts, Dec. 26, 2008]: Thanks for the nice review, Lee. And while I will say we did not quite go insane picking images for the exhibit, it was no small task to winnow down from 65,000 to about 150. Also, we plan to add more images to the Portal to Texas History website in the coming years, so keep checking from time to time if you need to miss another day at work!

Cheers. Mike Miller Manager, Austin History Center

IT'S WRONG TO MAKE FUN OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE AIR CONDITIONING

Dear Justin Andrews.

Although it is your option to use air conditioning whenever you feel like it, to make fun of Pete Wall for not using AC is just plain wrong [Postmarks, Nov. 28]. I did not use AC this last summer, because I couldn't afford it. I rode my bicycle everywhere (I don't own a car). I kept my clothes clean, bathed daily, sweat a lot, but didn't stink. I'll just bet that on the rare occasion that you work up a sweat that, "You sir, are a sweaty, smelly fool."

Cliff Hexamer



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CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Dear Editor,

Re: "Virginia B. Wood's Best Bites of 2008" [Food, Jan. 2]: I just wanted to let you know the chef de cuisine of Cissi's Market, Rebecca Meeker, came up with the breakfast salad, not me. She deserves all the credit. Thanks for the press; it is always appreciated.

Thanks again, Deegan McClung

WAKE UP MONTOPOLIS!

Dear Editor,

For the past few months, we have been waking up to the rumbling of jet engines rumbling the windows of our grandkids. After contacting and bitching, some anal-retentive city worker/ puppet replied that on that particular night. the 2-3am racket occurred because they had to get a scheduled plane out in the morning. Just a question to the sleepy people around Montopolis, wondering if they are all drunk or drugged-up and cannot come together and fight the mental assaults from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport: Are there no men in Montopolis or people sober enough, or is it all about being cowards? Cowards in not speaking up for yourselves and the assaults from the new people buying up the cheap houses and the city taxing your butts out of ownership. Where are all the strong women of vesterday that stood up for their families? Millions were spent to quiet MoPac for the residents of the white neighborhoods. \$30 million to build a mall where there are more stores than people, \$9 million to make First Street pretty while you need your streets paved and your kids are walking the streets because there are no sidewalks as pretty as at Circle C Ranch, and the city can't spend a million or two to deflect the racket from ABIA because your children don't deserve a peaceful night's sleep. Wonder why they are failing their grades? After all, it's a guesstimate that the 95% that use ABIA live in peaceful neighborhoods. I live 5 miles from ABIA, and my windows rattle when they run those maintenance tests at midnight. Get a grip Montopolis, and put the beer and drugs away and wake up and do something.

Alex Rodriguez

BUY LOCALLY

Dear Editor:

Thank you for including the Austin Independent Business Alliance and several of its members in the article "Revving Up for Slow Times," by Katherine Gregor [News, Dec. 5]. The article did a great job of showing the challenges of local entrepreneurs and resources available to assist them.

A landmark study sponsored by AIBA in 2002 shows even small changes in buying patterns can have a significant impact on the local economy. While \$100 spent at a national chain only has a \$13 impact on the local economy, \$100 spent with a locally owned business keeps \$45 in the local economy.

The benefits to buying locally are endless, such as creating more choice in the market-place; maintaining Austin's unique culture so it doesn't become Anywhere, USA; preventing sprawl; reinvestment as local businesses also buy locally; helping the environment with less transportation expenses; and many more.

AIBA offers local businesses an affordable way to promote themselves through listings on IBuyAustin.com, our directory printed twice a year and distributed free at more than 100 locations and monthly networking events.

Buying locally for the holidays is a great way to invest in our community.

Sincerely, Dean Lofton Executive director Austin Independent Business Alliance

ABOUT BIKES AND PEDESTRIANS

Dear Editor

Hear! Hear! Thank you Ms. Moon for jump-starting this discussion with some "hot" comments [Postmarks, Nov. 28]. Here's a note for pedestrians who are afraid of bicyclists: Walk to one side of the sidewalk instead of planting yourself in the middle, and if a bike comes, don't do anything! Continue walking (to one side), and let the cyclist do the navigating. Any experienced bicyclist will tell you that near-collisions with pedestrians happen when they make feeble attempts to "get out of the way," when in reality, they just need to relax, stay on course, and let the cyclist do the swerving if swerving is indeed necessary.

This banter between pedestrians and cyclists must stop – we're on the same team! Cars are more dangerous than bikes, period. Cars are more poisonous than bikes, period. Passionate peds should help cyclists lobby for better road conditions. More bikes on road = less cars on road = safer conditions for all of us.

Brian Birdwell

U.S. RACISM PROBLEM IS NOT FIXED

Dear Editor,

Regarding Jason Metzler's letter in the Nov. 28 issue of the Chronicle ("Why Do We Always Have to Hate?") [Postmarks]: I must take issue with Mr. Metzler's comment that "since we don't hate African-Americans anymore, we have come out in droves to hate gay and lesbian Americans." Since the elections, many of us seem to be under the mistaken impression that by electing Obama, we have somehow "fixed" racism in the U.S. Such a belief is dangerous not only because it no longer positions racism as something we need to continually work against but because it ignores the very real subtle acts of racism and race bias that we as white Americans are oblivious to or perpetuate every day. Furthermore, the assertion that "gays are the new blacks" is dismissive and naive. Among other things, it falsely implies that the oppressions faced by these communities are so similar as to be interchangeable, and it also leaves no room for those who live at the intersection of those communities and might not find it so easy to draw a line through the center of their identity. Mr. Metzler, while I share your pain at the outcome of these anti-gay ballot measures, I would challenge you to look beyond the easy dichotomy of your letter.

Katie Mahoney

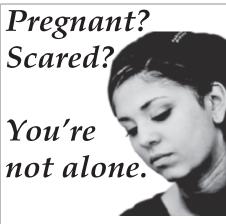
PRO-UNION IS PRO-LABOR

Dear Editor,

Re: "Page Two: Workingman's Blues" [Dec. 26]: I really enjoyed your article. Thank you for taking the time to research and write about a topic that is largely misunderstood (especially in the South). If you've been watching the *Chronicle* Postmarks forum, there have been numerous threads and responses about unions. Sadly, it seems many have been brainwashed by big business/government.

Steven McCloud





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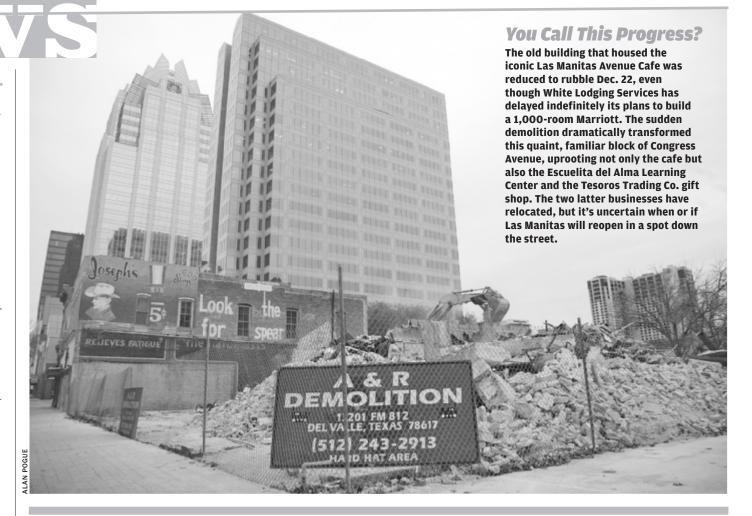
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Headlines

- Israel nears the second week of its bombardment of Gaza in retaliation for Hamas rocket fire. Women and children were killed at a United Nations school hit by Israel, bringing the Palestinian death toll close to 700. With American disinterest in procuring peace, France is trying to broker a cease-fire.
- Two-term Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, pulled off a surprise coup over the weekend, replacing Tom Craddick as the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. See "Looks Like a Straus Waltz to House Speaker," p.18, and "Welcome to the 81st," p.20.
- The mayor's race took an acrimonious turn, as candidate Brewster McCracken pressed the issue of whether Lee Leffingwell's expected campaign announcement would trigger an expensive special election. See "City Hall Hustle," p.12.
- The Department of Justice released the results. of its 18-month investigation into Austin Police **Department** policies this week, filled with myriad recommendations for improvement. See "DOJ: 160 Ways Austin Police Can Improve," p.15.
- > In testimony to the House Select Committee on Hurricane Ike on Jan. 7. Texas Faculty Associated iation Executive Director Tom Johnson accused the University of Texas of "lie after lie" in its push to lay off staff at UT Medical Branch at Galveston in the aftermath of the hurricane.
- Rosemary Lehmberg was sworn in Wednesday as Travis County district attorney, replacing Ronnie Earle, who retired after hitting the 32-year mark in his D.A. career.

Naked City

- MADOFF HITS CLOSE TO HOME The \$50 billion Ponzi scheme run by former Nasdag Stock Market Chairman Bernard Madoff is now affecting nonprofits in Texas and has notably claimed half the budget of the Innocence Project of Texas. The Innocence Project will lose a more than \$450,000 grant made by the JEHT Foundation, which since 2000 has supported criminal justice reform work. No more, though, since JEHT's funders were bilked by Madoff's scam and have announced that the foundation will close its doors at the end of January without being able to pay any more toward grants. The JEHT grant money was earmarked for DNA testing, which costs roughly \$4,500 for each case tested. So far, DNA testing funded by the project has freed 15 men from Dallas' death row. The Innocence Project is currently looking for new funds to continue its mission (some of which should, arguably, come from the state - perhaps from a tiny slice of the multibillion-dollar prison budget, Innocence Project chief counsel Jeff Blackburn has said). Send donations to Innocence Project of Texas, 1511 Texas Ave., Lubbock, TX 79401. Get more info at www.ipoftexas.org. Jordan Smith
- > POOR GRADES FOR TEXAS' INFRASTRUCTURE The Texas Section of the American Society of **Civil Engineers** released an updated report card Monday, giving the state's infrastructure a cumulative grade of C- over 13 areas. Of the three areas recommended for particular attention this legislative session, dams earned the worst grade, a D-. The report noted that 888 dams have been rated "high hazard" (probable loss of life) and 799 "significant hazard" (potential loss of life), yet no state or federal funding is in place to maintain and repair or even inspect them. Roads and highways fell to a D grade, CONTINUED ON P.12



Welcome to 2009

From foreign wars to local follies, the world still turns

BY MICHAEL KING

Just what we needed, another war in the Middle East. And as every frog would have wings, our own

Gov. Rick Perry - currently touring war zones far from Galveston - appointed himself an authority on the most intractable conflict of our time, issuing a statement defending Israel's attacks on Gaza. "Hamas must cease its attacks on Israel," Perry declared. "No other nation on earth would be expected to stand idly by while a neighbor fired missiles and mortars into its cities, but Israel is being held to an unreasonable, irresponsible standard of restraint. Instead, the world community should be united in its support of Israel's right to defend its citi-

Since the governor has hereby granted us all license as instant foreign-policy experts, I wonder if he has considered what "any other people on earth" might do if they'd been turned into a nation of refugees, corralled as virtual prisoners onto a fraction of their homeland; lived under military occupation for 40 years; been subject to land expropriations and home destructions as official expansionist policy and collective punishment; suffered and watched

zens and clear in its condemnation of Hamas."

their children suffer from occupier-enforced malnutrition and lack of medical care; and endured decades of disproportionate warfare from a modern military power armed to the teeth by a foreign empire (that's us). Would such a people be "expect-

ed to stand idly by" and submit to their masters or to respond in whatever way they could, even by fanatical self-destruction?

I don't know what will bring an end to this endless cycle of violence, but perpetuating and multiplying that violence a hundredfold is hardly a solution; it creates what it would kill. If we are to condemn "terrorism" - the use of indiscriminate violence for political ends - that condemnation applies on all sides, but especially to massive state terror against civilian targets. To borrow Perry's terms: "The world community must not tolerate terrorism in any form, regardless of any false nobility assigned to its perpetrators or their motives."

THE STRAUS SOLUTION

Elsewhere at the local Capitol, the state House reps who declared their support for "Anybody but CONTINUED ON P.13

QUOTE of the WEEK



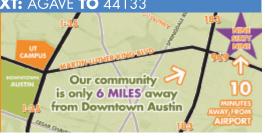
"I'm very comfortable and proud of my long Republican roots and credentials, and that's what frankly gives me the confidence to be able to reach out to Democrats and not apologize for it."

- House speaker apparent Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio

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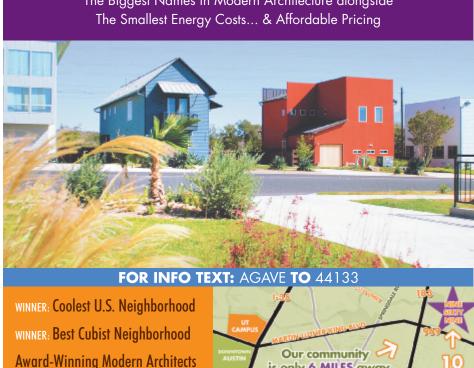
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Naked City continued from p.10

and the ASCE recommended that the Lege "work on addressing the current lack of funding to avoid further degradation." Bridges earned a B- and the observation that the Texas Department of Transportation's "goal of 80% sufficient bridges still leaves approximately 10,000 non-sufficient bridges." (For details, visit www.texasce.org/docs/reportcard.cfm.) Meanwhile, hoping to get its fair share of the national economic stimulus package for infrastructure projects, the city of Austin has sent 1,032,296,350 dollars' worth of "ready to go" approved projects to the feds as part of a national list compiled by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (www.usmayors.org/mainstreeteconomicrecovery).

- Katherine Gregor

- > COAL PLANT PLANS CANNED Is the future of coal-fired electricity growing dim? First came the disastrous rupture of a coal sludge pond in December that spilled a billion gallons of toxin-laden muck into Tennessee's Emory and Clinch rivers - an event that may prompt stricter rules for the roughly 1,300 similar waste pools nationwide. Then, last Friday, investor-owned utilities Dynegy and LS Power announced they're dissolving a 2-year-old joint venture to build new coal power plants in six states including Texas (though it's unclear whether this will affect the Sandy Creek plant already under construction near Waco). Dynegy cited credit and regulatory barriers in a statement, but the Sierra Club's Oliver Bernstein credits greens efforts to make permits harder to obtain and to keep operators strictly accountable to emissions rules, efforts that have taken nearly 70 plants off the table nationwide. Fighting the "coal rush" - or utilities' haste to permit new plants before carbon-capping legislation is enacted - is viewed as the single best way to combat global warming by the Sierra Club, Bernstein said. There are still up to 13 new coal plants in various stages of planning or development in Texas, down from 19 in 2006. For coal to be workable, says Bernstein, it must be burned cleanly, mined responsibly (i.e., no mountaintop removal), and not contribute to global warming. Daniel Mottola
- **▶ SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT?** Hundreds of revelers were left in the cold New Year's Eve when Capital Metro put its late-night service on detour with little warning. The transit authority encouraged Austinites to use the six Night Owl routes but put less effort into announcing that the buses weren't going to be where they normally are. Passengers gathered at the main Downtown pickup point at West Sixth and Congress, but the buses instead stopped four blocks away at Ninth and Lavaca. After a crowd had waited an hour in near-freezing temperatures, a supervisor was sent to tell the passengers they were in the wrong place. Cap Metro spokeswoman Misty Whited explained that, even though West Sixth was open to traffic, the decision to put the buses on detour was "a precautionary measure. The initial thinking was that there would be a lot of crowds even after the [First Night Austin] parade was over." Signs indicating the stop change had been put up the day before by Cap Metro's contractors, but by midnight, when the Night Owls started running, they had disappeared. "People just like to tear them down," Whited said. "Detours are an ongoing challenge for us." Richard Whittaker
- BENEDICT OUT, BUTLER IN The Libertarian Party of Texas has appointed Robert Butler as its new executive director. A D.C.-based political consultant and former executive director of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, Butler replaces Austinite Wes Benedict, whose organizational skills have helped the party swell in recent years. Annual party fundraising rose from \$58,000 in 2005 to \$140,000 in 2008, and Benedict set a new candidate recruitment record for the party with 173 Libertarians up for elected office last November. Butler is no slouch when it comes to third-party politics, having won ballot access for the party in Ohio last year through litigation. State Chair Pat Dixon said, "Robert has big shoes to fill, but we feel we selected an excellent candidate." R.W.

NEWS

MCCRACKEN'S GAMBIT

Shrewd move or petty politics?

BY WELLS DUNBAR

While the May City Council races are heating up – with **Bill Spelman** drawing challenger **Sandy Baldridge** (for Place 5), and **Perla Cavazos**, **Rick Cofer**, and **Chris Riley** vying for The Seat Yet to Be Vacated (Lee Leffingwell's Place 1) – it's been all quiet on the mayoral front since the tit for tat last month of **Brewster McCracken**'s official kickoff and the announcement of the **Draft Lee Leffingwell for Mayor** campaign. It was quiet, quiet enough to make council watchers wonder if rumored challenges to Leffingwell's announcement might not occur – i.e., intimations that the timing of Leffingwell's expected January campaign kickoff might trigger a special election for his Place 1 seat.

McCracken made good on the rumor. Within days of what's thought to be the earliest Leffingwell could declare his candidacy without triggering that special election - Jan. 9, 120 days before the May 9 election - word broke of a memo coauthored by McCracken, an attorney, to the city law department questioning his opponent's timing. McCracken's memo, "Law governing replacement election dates," points to election rules from the Texas Attorney General's Office regarding the window in which an elected official can resign his seat to run for higher office without initiating a special election. It specifically cites a provision that the newly open seat must be "filled within 120 days after the vacancy occurs," and with a crowded field of candidates likely to file for Leffingwell's seat, a run-off seems likely. Therefore, the memo none too subtly implies, the 120-day window should count back from the possible June 13 run-off instead of the May 9 general election - which would bump Leffingwell's announcement to the middle of February, delivering a considerable campaign advantage to McCracken. Does the argument hold water? It cites a 2006 proposition aligning city election dates with state election laws as proof "the City took the position that it had a duty to factor in the runoff date in determining when it could ensure a seat would

Leffingwell says the Texas Constitution succinctly spells out the city's responsibilities: "It says very clearly that the responsibility is to call an election within 120 days," and nothing about run-off elections and the like. "I think that's clear enough language, and I'm satisfied that if I were to make an announcement within 120 days of the scheduled

election for May 9, that it would not trigger the necessity to call a special election." As for an A.G. opinion the memo cites, Leffingwell calls the finding "case specific," and says, "even in that opinion ... they never refer to the need to allow for a run-off." So, can Leffingwell say whether the memo might impact his plans without tipping his hand? "Well, I wouldn't go so far to say I've intended to make an announcement," he says, cognizant of the fact he can't announce ... yet. "I'm seriously considering it and all that stuff, but this memo will not affect any decision that I make. ... It's my understanding that the memo was written by Council Member McCracken and a friend of his," Leffingwell says, referencing *In Fact Daily*'s reporting that **William Heyer**, McCracken's "friend from law school," helped write it. "I prefer to take my legal advice

from my own sources and use my own common sense, and the conclusion I've reached is that the memo would not have any impact on any plans that I might or might not have had."

What happens next? Believing right's on his side, Leffingwell has no incentive to stop, meaning any onus to contest his announcement rests with McCracken. It's easy to see his gambit backfiring – or as Leffingwell consultant **Mark Nathan** more memorably puts it, appearing

as "petty political shit that most people hate. Voters want to see leadership not gamesmanship, and I think most people will see this as falling in the latter category." McCracken consultant **Christian Archer** says: "A special election will cost taxpayers close to \$1 million. It is a basic responsibility of any elected official to ask the city attorney what the law is instead of hoping or guessing. Brewster McCracken asked the question. That's his job. Lee Leffingwell said he wouldn't trigger a special election. You'll have to ask him whether he asked the city attorney for this information." (For the record, the City Clerk's office pegs the cost of the May election and run-off as not any cheaper than \$799,000 and \$674,000, respectively.)

The necessity of a special election (or lack thereof) is already emerging as a campaign issue elsewhere, with Chris Riley stating, "The city's obligation is simply to hold an election within 120 days after the seat is vacated." Leffingwell must be comforted by his built-in constituency – the candidates eyeing his seat.

Council returns next week. Until then, e-mail your resolutions to the Hustle: wells@austinchronicle.com.

res publica, for more details and events, see community listings, p.52.

THURSDAY 08

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISER PUBLIC FORUM

The six candidates for the city of Austin Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department's neighborhood adviser position will be answering your questions today. 7am. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 974-3251. john.beasley@ci.austin.tx.us.

FRIDAY09

POP SINGERS AS POLITICAL COMMENTAT- ORS is the topic of discussion today on *People United*, featuring guest **Robert Jensen** of the UT journalism department. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.

SATURDAY10

INTRO TO SOLAR A hands-on class on the photovoltaic basics and the benefits of going solar. Register online. 10am-5pm. Hubbert's Peak Creative Works, 4704-B E. Cesar Chavez, 535-7424. \$80. www.hubbertspeak.org.

DAN MOODY EXPRESS BUS TOUR

Meet at the Round Rock library, and get a three-stop tour consisting of the Williamson County courthouse, the Dan Moody Museum, and finally, a book discussion with Ken Anderson. Registration required. 9:30am-5pm. Round Rock



9:30am-5pm. Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/218-7000. Free. www.roundrocktexas.gov/library.

FREE TOILETS! That's right – you might be eligible to pick up your very own high-efficiency toilet today, courtesy of the city of Austin. You must be replacing a pre-1996 toilet to qualify; bring your utility bill for verification purposes. See **www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/sftoilet.htm#free** for details. *9am-4pm. Fiesta*, 3909 N. 1-35, 406-3900.

RAINWATER HARVESTING & WATERWISE GARDENING Learn how to save every drop of water and not waste it on non-native plants that rob surrounding flora of needed moisture. 10am. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

SUNDAY11

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Dr. Craig Nazor makes an argument for an independent, nonprofit botanical garden in Austin. 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

WEDNESDAY14

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE PLAN- NING WORKSHOP If you live or work in the
Seton area on West 38th or near West 34th between
Lamar and Shoal Creek, tonight's your chance to
provide feedback about future development in
your neighborhood. 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud

Facility, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

MIKE MARTINEZ RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF The City Council member officially hits the campaign trail tonight at this festive fundraiser. 5:30-7:30pm. Nuevo Leon, 1501 E. Sixth.

NASTARAN KHERAD

presents In the House of My Bibi, her firsthand account of the Iranian Revolution, during which she was falsely imprisoned along with thousands of fellow university students. Tpm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

PERMACULTURE, CHICKENS, & YOGA A

special screening of the e² design series of PBS podcasts, narrated by Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman. Discussion and exploration of

Craddick" apparently meant exactly that. The selection of San Antonio Rep. Joe Straus is not only remarkable in that it ends the contentious speakership of Terrible Tom Craddick but in that the relatively unknown Straus emerged from the small rump group of Republican rebels, most of whom had themselves declared for speaker. A fly on the wall of the weekend meeting at Rep. Byron Cook's place reported that the speaker ballot went around several times; in each round, the name with the lowest tally of votes was dropped until Straus emerged the winner. Straus, who hadn't even filed to be speaker, survived the Republican Roulette while several much more seasoned hands – host Cook of Corsicana, Seguin country boy throwback Ed Kuempel, last session's Craddick-gadfly

Jim Keffer (Eastland), presumed favorite Burt Solomons (Carrollton), Longview longshot Tommy Merritt - all dropped off the list.

In his two terms, Straus hadn't accumulated sufficient enemies or baggage to evoke backlash from the other ABCs, and his

election by default says something about the recent history of the Texas House, which although hugely entertaining for political reporters - has not been a happy place for members trying to get anything done. It may turn out that Straus' ascension confirms a historic shift in Texas political power from rural reps based in ranching and oil, such as Craddick and his predecessors, to the wealthy suburbanites now calling the shots. Ideologically, the change is unlikely to mean much. Straus is a business conservative unbeholden to the GOP's rabid social-conservative base (and anything that upsets those folks is certainly worth doing), but this is a House decision more about management and collegiality than hard partisan politics.

In short, the 81st Legislature might actually get a few more useful things accomplished, but it won't be as much fun to watch.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

If things go well in the

upcoming City Council

races, we may actually

be able to discern

competing visions for

Austin's future.

For political theatre, we can always substitute our municipal antics. We're about to enter the City Council silly season, with at least three member seats and the mayor's chair up for grabs in May.

Incumbents Mike Martinez and Sheryl Cole don't figure to garner formidable opposition, but the battle for mayor between Brewster McCracken (declared) and Lee Leffingwell (declaring) is already showing sparks. The curious circumstance of Leffingwell's proposed announcement timing (not so soon as to trigger a special election for his current Place 1 seat nor too late to run an effective mayoral campaign) has created its

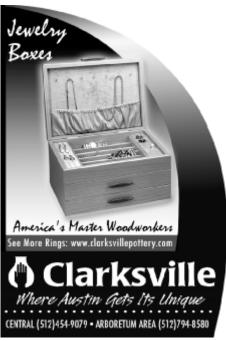
own dynamic. In December, prominent Leffingwell backers hoping for momentum ran out ahead of their candidate, and now McCracken is slyly undermining his potential opponent's candidacy by questioning the 120-day calendar that would

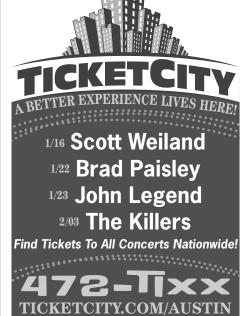
avoid the special election. (It's only hypothetical, you understand.)

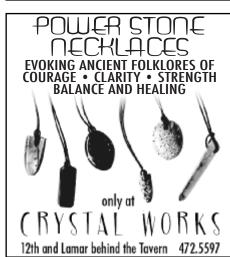
Campaigns have a way of clarifying the distinctions otherwise disguised on the council's consensus-oriented dais, so if things go well, we may actually be able to discern competing visions for Austin's future. Presuming Leffingwell does indeed run for mayor, the races to succeed him in Place 1 and for McCracken's Place 5 promise as well to be real contests. A handful of likely suspects has filed, and we can spend the coming months wondering who is so brave, vain, or foolish as to wish to preside over a city full of hope, enterprise, and optimism - yet sinking, along with the rest of the world, into an economic crisis the likes of which we haven't seen in generations.

Welcome to the new year, Austin.











the themes follow, 7pm, Human Potential Center. 2007 Bert. 441-8988, Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org

THURSDAY15

MLK CHILDREN'S **ORATORY CONTEST**

Kids from local elementary schools were asked to explain what dream they would share with Dr. King, and now the finalists share their speeches with the public. Who better than the next generation to kick off Martin Luther King Jr. weekend? 6pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free.

www.cityofaustin.org/carver.

ZERO WASTE PLAN is on the agenda at City Council today. If you'd like to speak out on it, visit www.cityofaustin.org/agenda/council.htm - council will post the agenda a week ahead.

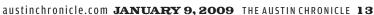
ONGOING

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION RIDE-

SHARE Traveling to the Obama inauguration? Need a ride, or just want to keep your carbon footprint small? Go to www.obamainaugurationrideshare.com to learn what your options are and maybe find a like-minded compatriot to play I Spy with on the trip to D.C.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Local Randalls and H-E-B markets along with St. Ignatius Catholic School (120 W. Oltorf) will be offering prepackaged food bags that can be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank now until the Super Bowl. The goal is to help collect 500,000 pounds of food. Through Feb. 1. www.souperbowl.org/austin





Yogurt Shop Saga: New Unknown DNA Evidence

A lawyer for yogurt shop murder defendant **Robert Springsteen** said Dec. 31 that additional DNA testing has now revealed at least two unknown male profiles, this time found on vaginal swabs taken from two of the victims, sisters **Sarah** and **Jennifer Harbison**. The DNA does not match any of the four suspects whom prosecutors insist committed the grisly December 1991 murders of four young girls, prompting Springsteen attorney **Joe James Sawyer** to argue – once again – that his client is not guilty and should be set free after spending nearly 10 years behind bars.

This is the second time in the past year that new DNA testing has revealed previously undetected male DNA unmatched to any donor known to Travis Co. prosecutors. In April, a vaginal swab taken from the youngest victim, 13-year-old Amy Ayers (who by all accounts was not sexually active) was retested by the state using new, more precise DNA testing. The results of that test revealed a previously undetected male profile that has not been matched to anyone including the four men originally charged with the crime: Springsteen, Michael Scott, Maurice Pierce, and Forrest Welborn. Prosecutors Gail Van Winkle and Efrain De La Fuente said that they expected the DNA would quickly be matched, but that did not happen. To date, dozens of comparison samples have been tested - including samples from public safety officers present at the

crime scene - but none has been matched.

received word Dec. 30 that additional testing

unknown male DNA profiles on vaginal swabs

Sawyer said that defense attorneys for

Springsteen and Scott, the only two sus-

pects the state has tried for the crime,

requested by defense attorneys has now

revealed at least two, and possibly three,

taken from the Harbison sisters. Whether either of these profiles matches that previously found in Ayers is still unknown, he said.

De La Fuente and Van Winkle could not be reached for comment regarding the results of the most recent DNA testing. But Van Winkle did respond to the Austin American-Statesman, saying that the DNA might have come from someone not involved in the crime and that the latest DNA results don't disprove the state's case.

Springsteen and Scott are two of four men originally charged with the grisly quadruple murder of the girls inside a North Austin yogurt shop on Dec. 6, 1991. The girls – Eliza Thomas, 17;

Jennifer and Sarah Harbison, 17 and 15; and Ayers, 13 – were found dead in the back room of the shop, burned in a fire police said was started to cover the crime. In 1999, prosecutors announced that they'd found the murderers: four men who, at the time of the crime, were also teens. Springsteen was tried and convicted in 2001; Scott was tried and convicted in 2002; Pierce - who prosecutors claimed was the "mastermind" - was indicted and spent nearly 3½ years in jail before the District Attorney's Office dismissed the charges in 2003, saying it lacked enough evidence to convict him. The case against Welborn, who prosecutors said acted as a getaway driver, was ultimately dropped after two grand juries failed to indict him.

The state's case relied heavily on two separate "confessions" provided by Springsteen



and Scott, obtained by Austin police in 1999 after lengthy and arguably coercive interviews during which the two incriminated themselves and each other. (Springsteen and Scott were not the only two to confess; police collected at least 50 confessions, which is not unusual in a notorious case.) The two men's convictions were overturned on appeal because the trial court erred in allowing the state to use one man's confession as evidence in the trial against the other, thereby denying each man's Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses against him. Eventually, in accord with a related U.S. Supreme Court ruling, state courts booted the Springsteen and Scott cases back to Travis Co. - but without the ability to use the confession of a nontestifying co-defendant. Both men have recanted the substance of their statements to police and maintain their innocence.

There was no physical evidence found at the crime scene directly linking any of the defendants to the murders. Defense attorneys say that the "new" DNA evidence found in the bodies of three of the four victims makes it clear that their clients are not guilty. "To a scientific certainty we have excluded all four of these [men]," said Sawyer, "and we know that there is DNA in these little girls' vaginas that has nothing to do with consensual sex." He said prosecutors continue to rely on "confessions ... [without] a shred of physical evidence" that confirms their theory of the crime.

Sawyer said there's still additional testing to be done but that he intends to ask District Judge **Mike Lynch** to release Springsteen on bond. At press time, Springsteen and Scott were headed back into court for another pretrial hearing.

– Jordan Smith

Activists Raise Concerns About FBI Informant

Two Austinites, **David Guy McKay**, 22, and **Bradley Neal Crowder**, 23, are currently being held in Minnesota without bail for their alleged involvement in a plot to use Molotov cocktails during the **Republican National Convention**. The two will remain incarcerated as they await trial, currently set, after several postponements, for Jan. 26.

According to the affidavit prepared by Special Agent **Christopher Langert**, McKay and Crowder were identified by "a confidential human source ('CHS 1')" to be part of "a group of individuals involved in planning to disrupt" the RNC. The affidavit goes on to detail information given to the FBI by the informant, including information that led to St. Paul police illegally searching a trailer belonging to the group and seizing homemade riot shields as evidence.

In an open letter written Dec. 29, **Brandon Michael Darby**, local activist and former director of the prominent post-Katrina recovery effort **Common Ground Relief**, revealed that it was in fact he who had supplied the information currently keeping Crowder and McKay behind bars. "The simple truth is that I have chosen to work with the Federal Bureau of [I]nvestigation," Darby wrote. "Like many of you, I do my best to act in good conscience and to do what I

believe to be most helpful to the world. Though my views on how to give of myself have changed substantially over the years, ultimately the motivations behind my choices remain the same. I strongly stand behind my choices in this matter." Darby goes on to explain that his reasoning for becoming an informant, a role that he claims began in November 2007, was due to his belief that his comrades were going to participate in violent, illegal actions.

Darby's admission came months after rumors surfaced that he was "CHS 1." At the time, local activists came to Darby's defense. Now that Darby has come forward, however, the mood has shifted, and a local group calling itself the **Austin Informant Working Group** has coalesced. In its written statement, the group calls into question Darby's stated length of involvement with the FBI, citing information that suggests his involvement goes back as far as 2006. The group is also concerned by Darby's stated reason for working with the FBI – to stop McKay and Crowder from performing violent acts – as they claim Darby hadn't yet met the defendants as of November 2007.

There are also questions being raised as to whether or not Darby's role in the acts leading up to the arrests could be

counted as entrapment. Another recent press release from the Austin Informant Working Group quotes **Gabby Hicks**, who was with Darby during the convention: "As an older seasoned activist, Darby had a lot of sway over Crowder and McKay, making them susceptible to his often militant rhetoric," said Hicks. "He was always the one to suggest violence, when the rest of us clearly disagreed with those strategies."

The sense of betrayal among the Austin Informant Working Group activists is clear. "Over the years Brandon Darby has established strong ties with individuals in many different radical communities across the United States," the letter reads. "While it is not yet clear how long or to what extent Darby has been acting as an informant, the emerging truth about Darby's malicious involvement in our communities is heart-breaking and utterly ground-shattering to those of us who were closest to him."

The group's written statement closes with a reminder of those who were most affected by Darby's choices: McKay and Crowder. "In light of these revelations and what we know about Brandon Darby, we believe they were set up and that the charges should be dropped."

– Diana Welch

DOJ: 160 Ways Austin Police Can Improve

The **U.S. Department of Justice** has made 160 recommendations to improve **Austin Police Department** policies and procedures, as part of the ongoing federal investigation of department practices. APD Chief **Art Acevedo** said Jan. 5 that his department has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, the majority of the recommendations, outlined in a 50-page letter of "technical assistance" delivered to city officials late last month.

A majority of the DOJ recommendations involve policies governing police use of force. The DOJ also makes substantive suggestions on how citizen complaints should be classified and reviewed by Internal Affairs and recommendations that emphasize the need for

comprehensive and ongoing police training.

The DOJ has been reviewing APD's policies and practices since mid-2007, when it agreed to look into complaints made in 2004 by **Nelson Linder** of the Austin NAACP and Jim Harrington with the Texas Civil Rights Project, who were concerned about the use of excessive force against minority suspects, including in the high-profile shooting deaths of Sophia King in 2002 and Jesse Lee

Owens in 2003. Linder and Harrington amended their complaint in 2005 to include details of the Midtown Live nightclub fire that sparked the "burn baby burn" fiasco (when responding officers and dispatchers exchanged celebratory messages about the fire that were viewed on in-car data terminals by a throng of bystanders). In March 2005, then-Chief **Stan Knee** and City Manager Toby Futrell signed on to the request for an inquiry, telling U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton they would welcome the outside review. (The DOJ told officials it would come to Austin to investigate the complaints just one day after the fatal shooting of Kevin Brown by APD Sgt. Michael Olsen, and a review of that incident was quickly added to the DOJ's investigation.)

The DOJ says new APD policies (written since Acevedo took over in 2007) have

addressed some deficiencies, but agency officials note that there are still areas that need improvement. The department's use-of-force policy (reborn under Acevedo as the "response to resistance" policy) includes better language, for example, but still fails to define "lethal force" in a manner that could include the use of a weapon other than a firearm. Regarding Tasers, the DOJ says, the current policy allows for their use against "potentially" violent suspects, which the DOJ says is "too broad," Shanetta Cutlar, chief of the DOJ's Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division, wrote in the letter. The agency also notes that APD policy doesn't provide officers any guidance on when to use oleores-

in capsicum spray (commonly, pepper spray),

how much to use, or how to select "targets" for its use. "This," Cutlar wrote, "is problematic."

The DOJ also recommends that APD rework its process for classifying and investigating citizen complaints, which now "is needlessly complex and fraught with opportunities to apply subjective judgment," Cutlar wrote.

The department has made numerous policy changes under Acevedo, including many now being made by the DOJ. All told,

Acevedo said at a Monday press conference, APD has already implemented about 25% of the DOJ's suggested changes, and the "vast majority of the rest" are currently being worked on.

The DOJ's review isn't yet complete. The agency is still investigating specific use-offorce incidents - including several police shooting deaths. While Acevedo expressed confidence that the DOJ will give the city's police a clean bill of health, Linder says the fact the DOJ decided to investigate is telling. Going forward, Linder said he would like to see the department "embrace" the DOJ suggestions and "make sure these things are enforced." Indeed, Harrington said that the policy recommendations are not minor and that while the APD is one of the better departments in the country, there is "a lot of room to grow." - Jordan Smith



Sweet, Sweet Sunset Seat

There's an empty seat that needs filling on the Sunset Advisory Commission. The powerful legislative committee, which makes recommendations on state agencies, holds its final meeting of this review cycle on Jan. 14. But the new legislative session starts on Jan. 13; that means current commission member Sen. Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth, will already have been replaced in his Senate seat by Democrat Wendy Davis. So what happens with his Sunset seat? Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst will make an emergency appointment. So even though Brimer's replacement missed out on the last year's worth of meetings, he or she will still get a vote on recommendations for several major and highly debated state agencies, including the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas Youth Commission.

- Richard Whittaker











CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL SPARKS **MORE DEBATE**

Karalei Nunn was just looking for a good alternative for her third-grade son.

The number of students in the Georgetown Independent School District's Gifted & Talented program was limited, and district officials did not appear willing to change that fact. Nearby Round Rock was no longer accepting out-of-district students. Nor was Nunn inclined to enroll her child in any of Williamson County's parochial schools. So Nunn, almost two years ago, gathered a group of parents and began exploring different options. They decided to file a charter application; selected the International Baccalaureate, or IB, curriculum; and sought a charter-school operator.

"We looked for someone who had a good track record and a good track record of staff retention," Nunn said of the process. "They also had to be willing to take on the curriculum that we had picked." So an application was filed, and the State Board of Education approved Imagine International Academy of Williamson County – the first charter school in the county and one of the final eight charters to be approved last month under the current state cap of 215. The school, to be based in Georgetown, will open for kindergarten through ninth grade in the fall of 2010.

But critics such as Karen Miller, who fought the for-profit Channel One television programming in schools, have accused Imagine of being a for-profit parent company, with headquarters in Arlington, Va., in the guise of a nonprofit subsidiary. According

Happy New Year!

to the Texas **Education Agency.**

Imagine's application - which, in essence, "borrowed" the nonprofit status of another Imagine entity - was perfectly legal and fully vetted before Attorney General Greg Abbott's office. Miller is still suspicious.

"What is the motivation here?" Miller asks. "This is a company that uses its own subsidiaries for construction and renovation of buildings. That may be more efficient, but isn't there a conflict when

you see so many business interests intertwined? I just question their motives."

But raising such questions - are Imagine's various interests a measure of efficiency or a larger scheme to bilk public money? - simply is not part of the Texas charter-school review process. Even as conservative groups lobby hard for the state to increase or eliminate the cap on the number of charter schools in Texas - a matter that legislators could address in the new session - Imagine's application

Eight-year-old Abdula Alemoush (r) leads a crowd of about 100 people at the Capitol Tuesday protesting Israel's military assault in the Gaza Strip. Today (Thursday), the Jewish Community Association of Austin and area congregations will hold an Israel Solidarity Service at 5:30pm at 7300 Hart.

points to differences between Texas and other states when it comes to charter approval. For one thing, other states with large charter networks use for-profit operators. Jonas Chartock, who ran the Charter School Policy Institute in Austin before taking on duties at the SUNY Charter School Institute in New York last year, said forprofit and nonprofit charter managers are not uncommon, as long as authorizers are assured that an arm's-length relationship exists between the board of directors and the hired charter operator.

Of course, the application process is far more rigorous in New York, the monitoring more frequent, and the goals for the charter schools more defined. While state lawmakers such as Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, have fought in recent sessions to keep Texas charter schools more accountable on the back end (although it's uncertain whether she'll lead the charge again this session), states such as New York are clearer about

their expectations on the front end. "It's definitely a lot more stringent up here," Chartock said. "We set a really high bar for the education plan – how the curriculum is defined, the amount of instructional and leadership support, whether there are the right levels of support relative to the demographics of the school. That would apply regardless of the operator."

In Texas, almost anyone can get in the charter game as long as the application is completed properly. But once in operation, charter schools receive far less regulatory attention than public schools. As an example, charter schools have existed since the mid-Nineties in Texas, yet the Texas Education Agency can provide no clear research of the results of various models, and rarely does the TEA close charter schools for academic nonperformance. As one former charter school application reviewer noted, "You can't get rid of them unless they walk off with the money."

- Kimberly Reeves



" I'M NOT DEAD YET, YOU BASTARDS!"

Ott's New Lot

City Manager Marc Ott on Wednesday named two new hires to round out his executive team - both nationally recognized in their fields. The city's new budget director will be Ed Van Eenoo, currently director of budget and analysis for the city of Chula Vista, Calif., where he recently briefed the community on deep budget cuts recommended to close a current fiscal-year \$4 million deficit and an anticipated \$20 million shortfall next year. Van Eenoo has earned accolades from his national professional association; he starts Feb. 2. The city's new chief information officer will be Gail Roper. Currently CIO in Raleigh, N.C., she has 25 years of experience, including a stint as a division manager at the city of Austin in the early 1990s. An African-American, she was recently named one of the Top 25 most influential women CIOs in the country. She starts Feb. 17. Also starting in February is Chief Communications Director



Doug Matthews, formerly the public communications director in Clearwater, Fla. Ott is nearly through filling numerous vacant positions to form his executive team, which features many fresh faces from other cities. Later this month, he expects to make his key remaining hire, a new human resources director, from a short list of candidates now in place. Katherine Gregor



T. Don Hutto: Lipstick on a Doberman

On Dec. 23, the **Williamson County Commissioners Court** reinvented the commissioners' motives for renewing the contract for the **T. Don Hutto Residential Center** in Taylor, where **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement** incarcerates families, including children, awaiting deportation or related legal procedures. Before voting to renew a 2006 contract naming the county as administrator of the center (and **Corrections Corporation of**

America as operator), officials described the prison as if it were a home away from home where children laugh and play and are provided plenty of gym equipment and 22 computers.

"The international language, the smile, hasn't been removed from the children's faces," said Precinct 4 Commissioner **Ron Morrison**. "I talked to a little boy, and he liked it there," said Precinct 2 Commissioner **Cynthia Long**. Then came a shout from the audience: "How would you like it if your child was in there?"

The court's newfound humanitarianism stood in stark contrast to its purely financial justification for signing the contract in 2005 and its panic in 2007 over possible county liability for an alleged sexual assault by a guard and employment of undocumented workers at the center. The new court perspective did little to appease the gathered protesters, who still remember when the first children were spotted in prison garb by Taylor residents and who have since sponsored vigils, walks, and forums that have fueled an international outrage over T. Don Hutto as a prison for children. Only Precinct 1 Commissioner Lisa Birkman broke with her past record, casting the lone dissenting vote Tuesday.

During citizens' comments, area residents spoke passionately, and some broke into tears. "I was really shocked to hear

about Hutto. I spread the word to any people I know," said Felix Peter Szafran. "Kids are in prison for no reason." Ann Brown noted that CCA's CEO made about \$1.8 million last year "on the backs of children," adding, "This is on your conscience – this is on the conscience of everyone in Williamson County." Retired Methodist Bishop Joe Wilson said, "We have not honored the gracious gift of life."

ICE has made some changes at the facility since last August, in the wake of an **American Civil Liberties Union** lawsuit and subsequent settlement. Among other things, ICE agreed to "provide a full-time, on-site pediatrician"; "provide privacy curtains around toilets"; and "allow children over the age of 12 to move freely about the facility." Judging by the images on ICE's website, it's also added playscapes and brightly painted hallways.

Jaime Martinez, executive board member of the League of United Latin American Citizens, told the *Chronicle* that during the presidential campaign, he brought the center to the attention of then-candidate **Barack Obama**. Obama said he hadn't heard that jailing of children was occurring, said Martinez, but "he looked me in the eye, and said, 'I will not run from immigration reform.'"

Before the vote, Morrison exhorted activists to "come up with a better way" than T. Don Hutto – Martinez told the *Chronicle* one has been available all along. "Congress appropriated funds to Homeland Security to detain immigrant families in a homelike, nonpenal system, and this has not been done," he said. Upon hearing of the commissioners' newest rationale for the prison – that it's good for children – Martinez commented, "If you put lipstick on a Doberman pinscher, it's still a Doberman pinscher."

- Patricia J. Ruland





Looks Like a Straus Waltz to House Speaker

With the 81st Legislature starting on Jan. 13, everyone expected the session to begin bitterly as Speaker **Tom Craddick** fought for his political life. But on Jan. 5, after just four days of rapid maneuvering, Craddick had the speaker's gavel plucked from his hands by **Joe Straus** – a two-term Republican legislator from San Antonio, a fiscal conservative and social moderate with a reputation as a quiet consensus builder.

Before the weekend, no political pundit was

brave enough to write Craddick off, but the rebellion against him was open. The House's longest-serving member and the first Republican speaker since 1873, his ideologically driven rule marginalized GOP moderates and effectively sidelined Democrats. He narrowly survived two attempts to dethrone him last session through surgical application of House rules and the installation of combative former state reps Terry Keel and Ron Wilson as his parliamentarians. But in last year's elections, he made a double mistake: first by sinking campaign contributions into primary challenges against Republican incumbents, then by overseeing more general election losses in the House. Yet his grasp

Almost immediately after the election, 64 of the 74 House Democrats signed an "Anyone but Craddick" pledge. They were joined in their planned coup by the Gang of 11, a block of Republicans determined to oust the speaker. On Dec. 22, the rebel Republicans announced that they would select a consensus candidate from their ranks, but they still had to win over the anti-Craddick Dems (as Rep. **Valinda Bolton**, D-Austin, explained, "Anyone but Craddick can't be everyone but Craddick").

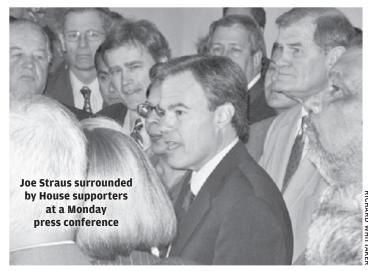
on power seemed strong, and his press office

issued a stream of statements that he had

majority support in the House.

The dominos started falling on Jan. 2 when the Gang of 11 announced Straus as its surprise consensus candidate. While his name had been rumored for a couple of weeks, he was one of only four members of the group who hadn't filed to run.

A small gaggle of Democrats meeting in the Capitol offices of Rep. **Pete Gallego**, D-Alpine, immediately responded positively, but the big test was on Saturday when the House Democratic Caucus met at the Texas AFL-CIO building in Austin. When Straus' candidacy came up, the response was positive from those members who had already worked with him, and Straus quickly organized meetings with those who didn't know him well enough to make a decision.



On Sunday, he announced his list of supporters: He had 85 pledges, comfortably more than the 76 votes needed. Ten more legislators – a mix of Republicans and former Democratic supporters of Craddick including Rep. **Dawnna Dukes**, D-Austin – had signed on with the ABCs. Then the seemingly impossible happened. Late Sunday, Craddick's office issued a short statement: "Tonight, Tom Craddick released his pledges for speaker." By midnight, Straus had 88 pledges.

As a dozen speaker candidates withdrew to support Straus, only three remained: Straus; **John Smithee**, R-Amarillo; and **Dan Gattis**, R-Georgetown. Craddick's supporters soon gathered around Smithee. Questioning Straus' pledges ("We believe that some of the people on the list are not really on the list," he said), Smithee presented himself not as a Craddick replacement but as a more seasoned alterna-

tive to Straus, equally bent on bipartisanship. Outside the House, groups such as the **Texas Eagle Forum** took advantage of the recent overturning of the Speaker Statute (which restricted campaigning on speaker selection) to slam Straus as a moderate who would doom the conservative agenda.

But Straus struck home by holding a press conference in a packed Capitol rotunda on Monday morning. Surrounded by a bipartisan group of members, he announced he now had

94 supporters. Without explicitly declaring victory, he signaled an end to divisiveness. "The November elections are over," he said, "and the legislators are now working for the people of Texas." While he praised the absent Craddick, he also laid out his own management style and said, "The speaker's role is to help the members, all the members, do good things for their districts and the people who sent them here to serve." Shortly after Straus left the podium, 94 pledges became 96.

Around 6pm, with Straus closing in on 100 pledges, Gattis and Smithee issued a joint press release: With Straus so far ahead, they were withdrawing. "Our priority," they wrote, "is to

take the focus off speaker politics and concentrate on how we can best serve the people of Texas in the 81st Legislature." Straus quickly responded with a press release of his own and called Smithee's "gracious gesture ... another step towards unity in the House."

With Straus now seemingly clear to be voted in unopposed, what legislators from both parties hope for is a return to the old bipartisan approach of former speakers such as **Pete Laney**, who chose committee chairs for experience rather than ideological orthodoxy. Rep. **Mark Strama**, D-Austin, worked with Straus last session on an omnibus energy-efficiency bill and was optimistic about his bipartisan credentials. He explained, "He is a true conservative, he is a Republican, but he is a guy that Democrats feel comfortable will bring us to the table and let us have our say."

— Richard Whittaker

Who Is Joe Straus?

In less than a week, Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, has gone from being a wellregarded but low-profile sophomore legislator to becoming the next speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. So who is he?

A principal with insurance firm Watson, Mazur, Bennett & Straus LLC, the 49-year-old Straus came up through the ranks of the Bexar County Republican Party and held low-ranking positions in both the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations. While he may not have current Speaker Tom Craddick's millions in political action committee money to throw at supporters in elections, he's experienced on the stump. As campaign manager, he oversaw the 1986 organization that got Republican Lamar Smith into the U.S. Congress.

First elected to the House in 2005 to serve the mixed urban/suburban House District 121 in Northeast San Antonio, Straus currently serves as vice chair of the House Committee on Economic Development. Importantly, his experience on the Local and Consent Calendars Committee, which helps regulate the flow of bills, and on the Republican Caucus Policy Committee, as well, will bolster his ability to administer the House as speaker.

A fiscal conservative with an "A" rating from Americans for Prosperity, he's also picked up a Legislative Service Award from the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club for his leadership in passing 2007's House Bill 3693 – the energy-efficiency omnibus bill. He also has one of the most moderate stances on abortion in the Republican Party, opposing a blanket ban in favor of exceptions for cases of rape, incest, and medical emergency.

Straus holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt and is married to Julie Brink Straus; they have two children.

- R.V

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* Qualified customers within the Austin and Sunset Valley city limits can receive this incentive for both new installations and replacements in either new or existing homes.

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

SPECULATORS AND OUR FOOD: E-I-E-I-O!

Oh, this is just dandy! Hedge-fund schemers and Wall Street manipulators – the very characters who brought us the Great American Housing Collapse – have a new target for their fast-buck profiteering: farming. E-I-E-I-O!

Speculators have long messed with farmers by artificially manipulating prices on everything from corn to soybeans. But now they're pooling up billions of dollars from global investors to go after the farms themselves, as well as fertilizer plants, grain elevators, ships and barges, and other basic tools for producing, transporting, and storing our food supply. As one hedge-fund operator says: "It's going on big time. There is considerable interest in what we call 'owning structure.'"

By "owning structure," they mean centralizing control of food in the hands of financial manipulators who have only one crop in mind: fat profits. These multibillion-dollar funds are buying thousands of farms in the U.S., Brazil, Africa, Britain, and elsewhere, turning farmers into corporate laborers and viewing farmland and water as disposable inputs for the huge short-term profits investors demand. Rural communities? Move to the city. Quality of food? Advertising will cover that.

Price? Aha! That's what consolidation of farms and storage facilities is all about. If you can lock down production and stockpile the supply, you can control price. If corn prices are lower than what investors want them to be, simply store the corn and force prices up. Or if corn prices are down in the U.S., ship it to Japan or wherever else might be more profitable. And if these distortments cause a food crash? Hey, the speculators will already have sucked out billions in profits, and they will just move to the next hot investment.

Hedge funds bring nothing but greed and grief to the farm economy and our food supply, and they should be banned from "owning structure."

AIRLINES OUTSOURCING OUR SAFETY AND JOBS

Airlines have been cutting everything from pillows to staff – but what about cutting corners on the structural safety of their planes?

Well, fasten your seat belt. Beneath the radar of the flying public, airline execs have engaged in a widespread and worrisome costcutting move: outsourcing maintenance of their planes to low-wage countries. Some airlines send landing gear, engines, and other parts out of country for repair, while others send entire planes. This trend sets off safety alarms for us passengers. Not that other countries don't have competent workers, but - get this - the airlines increasingly are using "noncertificated" maintenance shops around the world. Maybe such places are A-1 repair sites, but we don't know, because our industry-cozy Federal Aviation Administration has not even inspected and certified them.

Bad enough that our government is letting such a basic safety function slip away, but maintenance is also a key industry for middle-class jobs. As a Machinist Union leader points out, "This is a technological base, an important industry base, for our country, and we're just giving it up." We know that CEOs are dramatically raising ticket prices, but they're then quietly using our consumer dollars to undermine America's middle-class future, sending our skilled jobs, technology, and maybe our safety to such eager countries as Mexico.

We can't blame Mexicans for that, because their officials are simply on the ball, trying to lift the economic fortunes of their people. Mexico's government, for example, will soon break ground for the National Aerospace University, which will train a sophisticated work force for building and maintaining aircraft.

Where are our leaders? Why aren't they doing that? Why aren't our corporate and governmental officials investing in the American people, rather than aggressively downsizing America's future?

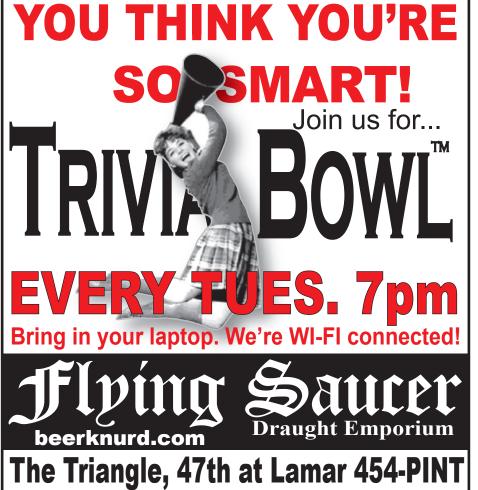
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Will a new speaker and more Democrats

spell 'change' at the Capitol?

BY MICHAEL KING

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOUG POTTER

As the 81st Texas Legislature gathers for the opening gavel Jan. 13, Texans might be forgiven for presuming that the only pressing business at hand is the selection of a new speaker of the House. Contributing writer Richard Whittaker has been following the machinations on our online Newsdesk blog (austinchronicle.com/ newsdesk) and has updated the action in this issue (see "Looks Like a Straus Waltz to House Speaker," p.18). As we went to press Wednesday, it would appear that the fight is all over but the formal vote on Jan. 13, and the new speaker is relative newcomer Joe Straus, R-San Antonio. Still a Republican, still very much a Texas conservative, and if there's a lesson here from Tom Craddick's humiliation, it's an old one: Pride goeth before a fall.

As the dust settles, Straus may soon be wondering why he took the job. Until it blew up in his face at the end of last session, Craddick's approach to leadership had the virtue of simplicity: his way or the highway. While it's a given that the new Lege will be more "Democratic" than its immediate predecessors, it's still a GOP Legislature, and it will be a while before we know how that greater political balance will translate into policy. The Capitol governs from the right on public policy, with occasional nods to the center. Progressives, whatever the issue, can expect to spend much of their time playing defense.

This week, the Chronicle News staff reports on anticipated legislation, good and bad. The earliest filed bills are only the beginning of the story, but they provide a snapshot of the session's priorities: headline efforts on transportation and prisons, less attention to public schools and higher education, social services and environmental matters picking up the crumbs. The last session made such a hash of tax reform - with the ballyhooed businessfranchise tax being both more complicated and less efficient than the property taxes it presumably

replaced - that legislators are likely to spend much time and energy explaining to their constituents why there is just not enough money to go around.

They're used to that.

Moreover, there are two major external factors clouding the horizon. The first is the lingering and uncertain burden of the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, both a financial and political crisis. Not only will Galveston-area lawmakers expect the state to respond to the region's rebuilding needs, but the discussion will take place in the context of the University of Texas regents' decision to lay off thousands of UT Medical Branch employees – which many believe is a preliminary step toward moving the heart of state medical research facilities to Austin.

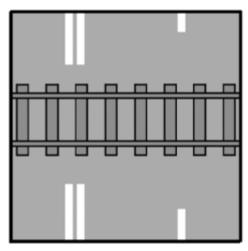
More threatening: the national economic crisis, which has begun to hit Texas in the form of growing layoffs and diminishing sales-tax revenues. Both property taxes and sales taxes are declining, and the franchise tax has already come up short at least \$1 billion. In what has become a Texas biennial tradition, Gov. Rick Perry has already told state agencies to cut their proposed budgets, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. The national meltdown will be this year's ready excuse, once again, to underfund public education – and prominent legislators have already indicated they have no grand plans to address the dreaded education finance.

Perry has made skeptical noises about President-elect Obama's proposed national economic stimulus plan, but he has at least indicated he will make certain that Texas gets its fair share of federal funding. The status of that effort will be taking shape just about as the Lege's budget process really gets rolling – so it may be that the state's public schools will have to look to D.C. for any serious infrastructure funding. Since Texas, like most states, is required to maintain a "balanced budget," the likelihood of any state funding for economic revival is essentially nil.

As the House attempts to recover from its extended leadership struggle, it will presumably be a more affable – or at least less hostile - place to work for members and at least potentially a more bipartisan atmosphere for getting things accomplished. On the Senate side, the prospects of statewide elections in 2010 - anybody remember David Dewhurst? - and redistricting beyond are likely to color the internal politics and the jockeying for headlines.

Chronicle writers will be happy to take you along for the ride.





TRANSPORTATION

End of the Road for TxDOT?

"My belief is that, if the members of the Legislature stick by what they have been indicating, this will be the end of the road for the Texas Department of Transportation pushing its own political agenda." That's how Senate Transportation Committee Vice Chair Kirk Watson. D-Austin, envisions the next session. The status quo has already been broken: TxDOT and its budget black holes took a pummeling in the Sunset review process, Gov. Rick Perry's beloved Trans-Texas Corridor appears doomed, and toll roads lost their biggest legislative advocate with the retirement of Rep. Mike Krusee, R-Round Rock. The Texas Transportation Commission's independent 2030 Committee's warning that congestion and failing infrastructure require a \$313 billion investment over the next 22 years raises a pressing need for a new vision. "It's time to get beyond the simple traditional idea that all we've got to do is provide for single-occupancy vehicles," said Watson, who has high hopes for the Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund, Watson and Transportation Committee Chair Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, are looking to take advantage of federal economic stimulus funding but also want to ensure that money dedicated to transportation investment, such as the gas tax, actually makes it to transportation projects. As for restructuring TxDOT, Watson warns that reformers must be cautious that "in the zeal and zest of reining [in what] has become a rogue agency, we don't start micromanaging at

EDUCATION

the legislative level."

TAKS, Tuition, and Top 10%

- Richard Whittaker

For Texas universities. Sen. Judith Zaffirini. D-Laredo, chair of the **Higher Education Subcommittee**, has outlined five major issues: tuition deregulation and financial aid, mentoring, reforming the state's top 10% law, tuition revenue bonds, and setting up national research universities. "I want to keep top 10%, but we have to offer UT-Austin and Texas A&M some relief," Zaffirini said of the law guaranteeing the top 10% of high school students admission to the state university of their choice. The law was an attempt to ensure diversity after the Hopwood decision, but it has limited the



schools' abilities to look beyond grades and test scores in admissions.

For public schools, House Public Education Chair Rob Eissler, R-the Woodlands, expects an effort to replace the **Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills** test with an end-of-course exam system, with a greater focus on readiness for postsecondary education. As always, funding will be an issue: "The districts want more help from the state. ... The state needs to take a more active role," Eissler said. He speculated that the state needs to find ways to apportion funding beyond the weighted average daily attendance system. - Lee Nichols



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Death Never Takes a Holiday

The list of prefiled bills is already flooded with criminal justice measures, including a number of perennials. The repeat appearances include a proposal to require the **Board of Pardons and Paroles** to meet in person (or via telephone or videoconference, rather than not at all) to consider death cases (SB 166), a measure that would create an innocence commission to investigate and prevent wrongful convictions (SB 115), and a bill that would grant the governor power to grant multiple reprieves in capital cases (SB 169) - all filed by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston.

Ellis leads the field for criminal justice proposals; he has filed legislation that

would reform the use of confidential informants (SB 260 would require CI testimony to be vetted by a judge before being presented to a jury and would require the state to provide information about a CI's background and history in working with law enforcement) and the way police agencies conduct photo and live lineups with witnesses (SB 117, which aims to reduce the incidence of mistaken identification, a major factor in cases of wrongful conviction). He wants to create an incarceration diversion program (similar to drug court) for military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and/or traumatic brain injury (SB 112), and he has a bill to mandate open discovery, requiring prosecutors to provide copies of offense reports and witness statements to defense attornevs in criminal cases. (Democratic Houston Rep. Harold Dutton's HB 301 is the only prefiled bill covering discovery reform, but several other similar bills are expected.) - Jordan Smith



DRUG POLICY

Medi-Pot Gets Another Roll

In the fertile fields of "Reefer Madness," several bills have been prefiled, including Austin Rep. Elliott Naishtat's perennial medi-pot proposal that would create an affirmative defense to pot possession when the herb is recommended by a doctor for a "bona fide" illness. HB 164 would also prohibit legal targeting of doctors who recommend medical marijuana to their patients.

Competing proposals would regulate the latest demon weed, **Salvia divinorum**, a psychedelic member of the sage family historically grown in Oaxaca, Mexico, and long used in religious ceremonies by indigenous groups. The plant has been around and for sale on the Internet and elsewhere for years but only recently has come under the laserlike attention of lawmakers, including several in Texas. Waco GOP Rep. Charles "Doc" Anderson is proposing, again, to place salvia among the state's controlled substances and to criminalize possession. Medical researchers generally oppose that approach;

CONTINUED ON P.22



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ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

Renewing the Energy Debate

When we asked two of the state's leading environmental activists about the top green issue before the 81st Lege, "energy" was first off the lips of both the **Lone Star Sierra Club**'s Ken Kramer and **Public Citizen Texas**' Tom "Smitty" Smith. Not surprising, since our state's economy revolves so strongly around energy production. More specifically, improving energy efficiency. "Environmentalists are pretty united on this," Kramer said. "We need to reduce our current power consumption." Smith agreed: "We must reduce our electric consumption because power plants are the largest single pollution sources in the state." In addition to improved efficiency, both said, promotion of renewable energy will be central to the fight. And while previous legislative efforts to up the portion of renewables in

energy companies' outputs have focused on Texas' abundant wind power, Smith and Kramer said this year's focus must be on getting more out of solar.

After energy, Kramer listed increasing funding for Texas' state parks as a major priority and said enviros might also play a role in the Texas Department of Transportation's visit before the Sunset Advisory Commission, before which every state department must justify its existence. Surprisingly, Kramer said he doesn't expect water usage – an increasingly critical issue in our drought-prone state – to play a big part in the 2009-10 Legislature. Although environmentalists have long criticized state laws that allow landowners to pump as much water as they can, the effort to kill off the "right of capture" law "just doesn't have momentum yet." – L.N.



the plant's active ingredient has a wide range of possible therapeutic applications – including in the treatment of depression and schizophrenia – and researchers want time to study the substance further before deciding whether, and how, the plant should be regulated. Sen. **Craig Estes**, R-Wichita Falls, is taking a more reasoned approach with SB 257, which would prohibit the sale of salvia to minors. – *J.S.*



WOMEN'S HEALTH

Our Bodies, Our Idiot Lawmakers

One thing women's health advocates can count on: There will always be at least one prefiled abortion-related bill. This year two proposals - by repeat offenders - are already on board. Houston GOP Sen. Dan Patrick and the Chronicle's Bexar Co. favorite, Rep. Frank "the Fetus" Corte, have reintroduced legislation (SB 182/HB 36) to tweak the state's informed consent to abortion law by adding a requirement that any woman seeking an abortion first undergo an ultrasound procedure. The bill died last session but is back with a new twist: This time, instead of allowing a woman to avert her eyes, thus avoiding the ultrasound fetal image, and leaving it at that, the bill would require the doctor performing the procedure to provide narration, describing the image the doctor sees including the "dimensions of the embryo or fetus ... and the presence of external members and internal organs." But wait, there's more! The revised bill would also require the doctor to make "audible" the fetus' heartbeat "for the pregnant woman to hear." The bill does include an exception for medical emergencies but requires the doctor to provide to the state a certified explanation of the "specific medical condition" that warranted the exception.

Corte's HB 44 - another repeat performer - would require pharmacists to tell women seeking emergency contraception (e.g., the Plan B birth-control pill) that taking the pill might prevent egg fertilization or implantation. The bill also requires pharmacies to post an 18-inch-by-24-inch sign that provides a disclaimer "in block letters" that informs customers: "IF YOU BELIEVE THAT LIFE BEGINS AT FERTILIZATION - THE POINT WHERE THE SPERM AND EGG UNITE - THEN YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION MAY EITHER FUNCTION AS A CONTRACEPTIVE ... OR PREVENT THE IMPLANTATION OF YOUR ALREADY FERTILIZED EGG IN YOUR WOMB."

No one will ever accuse the Lege's fatuous Fetus Fraternity of subtlety. - J.S.

TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION

Still on the Hot Seat

The Sunset Advisory Commission doesn't make its final recommendations on the future of juvenile prisons until Jan. 14, but what's pending may be this year's most important decision. Sunset staff recommend that TYC and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission be dissolved and replaced with one new integrated agency, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Legislators are split. On one side is the "wait and see" crowd, such as Sen. Chuy Hinojosa, D-McAllen, who thinks that more time needs to be given to the existing reforms. On the other side are those such as Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, who think TYC is so structurally flawed and those flaws have weathered so many attempts at reform that starting over is the only option. Both sides are committed in principle to restructuring TYC by moving kids to smaller facilities near their homes instead of dumping them in big rural camps, but some legislators are worried about losing major (prison) employers in their districts. Either way, there will be tough questioning of TYC officials about whether they've really rooted out the endemic physical and sexual abuse. -R.W.



PARKS & WILDLIFE

The Need Keeps Growing

When the Texas Parks & Wildlife **Department** came before the House Appropriations Committee last session, legislators squirmed in their seats as staff from the cash-strapped agency pleaded for money to buy scrapped vehicles to cannibalize to keep its broken trucks moving. After an emergency infusion of funds and a rolling reform of its accounting procedures, the agency is crossing its fingers for its 2010-2011 appropriation request - what TPWD spokesman Tom Harvey calls "our Christmas wish list." Increased law enforcement and public education roles have placed a greater financial burden on the agency, as has the fight against invasive species that threaten native plants and wildlife. Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, has prefiled Senate Joint Resolution 6, which would dedicate all sporting-goods tax revenue to TPWD and the Texas Historical Commission. Other legislators want nonhunting, recreational users to pick up more of the tab. This isn't just more cash for rural communities, Harvey explained. "Most people don't realize that most of the city parks were founded on Parks & Wildlife grants," he added. -R.W.

BUSINESS FRANCHISE TAX

Feeding Frenzy

Since the business franchise tax was radically reformed in 2006, it's been universally condemned, with gubernatorial hopeful Sen.

Kay Bailey Hutchison summing it up as "an abject failure." Somehow a seemingly modest margin tax, designed to help partially offset property-tax cuts, ended up increasing bills for many businesses and still came up \$1 billion short in expected revenue. Now Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, wants small businesses and start-ups exempted (SB 193 and SB 323, respectively), while Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin, proposes tax credits for firms investing in renewable energy (HB 237). But Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, went furthest, in filing the Revenue Reform Act (HB 277). It would give the state comptroller until 2010 to develop a replacement so the margin tax can be completely revoked in 2014. - R.W.

LABOR

Incremental Changes

Unsurprisingly, there's no early sign of pending pro-union reforms, but there are proposals to close **loopholes in employment law** that leave many vulnerable Texans unprotected. San Antonio Democrats are taking the lead on workers' compensation reform. In the House, Rep. **David Leibowitz**, D-San Antonio, has filed a slate of laws including House Bill 35, which would require employers not covered by workers' compensation insurance to file annual accident and illness reports. Down the corridor, Sen. **Leticia Van de Putte**, D-San Antonio, prefiled Senate Bill 378, allowing employees making a claim to request a second medical opinion.

With the federal Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act pending, Van de Putte also has a simple but major reform prefiled to ensure compliance with the new regulations. SB 377 proposes extending unemployment insurance to part-time employees. "Many women can only work part-time because they care for their children," she said, "but in this economy, they could lose that much-needed income. We must be prepared to help."

There are also proposals to make it easier for workers who are crime victims to attend trials. SB 60 (Sen. **Judith Zaffirini**, D-Laredo) would give victims of physical or sexual assault time off to give testimony without fear of retribution from their employers.

- R.W.

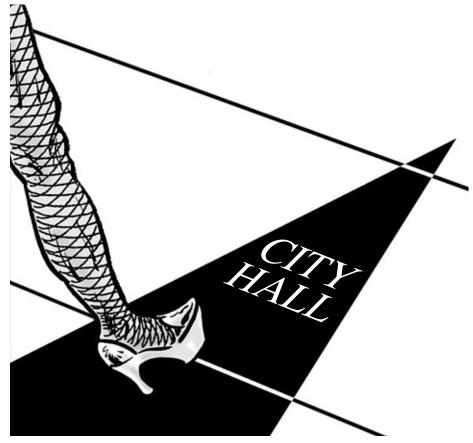
CITY BEAT

Keeping It Realistic

"Austin supports legislation that enhances the City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for our citizens," reads the city of Austin Legislative Program for the 81st Legislature. "Austin opposes legislation that reduces the City's authority, increases the City's costs, or otherwise erodes the City's ability to govern our own local affairs." The statement's matter-of-factness portends the simplicity with which the city approaches the upcoming session; instead of overreaching with an ambitious agenda – as council members feel they did two years ago - they've pared priorities down to a few they consider realistic and achievable.

Some items find the city in a defensive crouch: opposing legislation that would roll back environmental and/or water-quality protections or create caps on appraisal and revenue. There are specific areas in which the city is hoping to get some help; With the Texas Department of Transportation up for Sunset review, one is transportation and transit-related measures. The city seeks "additional funding options for city and regional transportation projects" and more specifically, \$200 million for the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund. Another major priority is passage of meet-and-confer legislation for city employees, the same form of bargaining currently enjoyed by the Austin police union. Meet-and-confer legislation from Sen. Kirk Watson was unceremoniously canned at the end of last session.

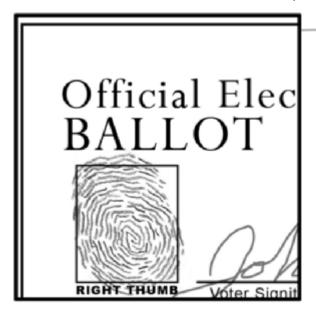
The city has several smaller, specialized legislative requests, several concerned with city utilities and preserving their powers and agreements: monitoring electric utility legislation, preserving Austin Energy's Green Building and conservation programs, and seeking \$300 million in biomass grant funding as well as maintaining authority over special districts in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction with regard to water rights. Other priorities include garnering funding for health-care programs, immunizations, additional funds and resources for the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid, and opposing legislation which has the city wade into "undocumented worker issues." - Wells Dunbar



TRAVIS COUNTY

Nipping Unplanned Growth

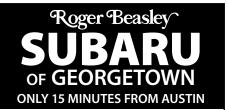
Austin old-timers (meaning, anyone who's lived here longer than 10 years) today cringe as they drive through western Travis County and see what our population explosion has done to the once-pristine Hill Country. As each strip mall or housing development springs up, seemingly overnight, the detrimental effects of unplanned growth become glaringly more obvious. The problem is, county governments don't have nearly the kind of land-use controls that municipalities do, so there isn't a lot they can do in unincorporated areas. Austin Rep. Valinda Bolton - whose District 47 covers the southwest quarter of Travis says she'll take another crack at changing that this session. During her freshman year two years ago, she filed a bill to strengthen county tools, but instead of going to the County Affairs Committee (on which she and fellow Austinite Elliott Naishtat sit), it was sent to Land & Resource Management and was never heard from again. Bolton expects opposition from developers and small-government advocates worried about creating greater zoning authority, but "zoning isn't at all what we're talking about," Bolton says. "We're mostly talking about the ability to plan and deal with potential incompatible use. And public-safety issues, like around transportation and water availability."



VOTER ID

A Bad Idea Returns

Republicans haven't had the issues working for them lately, so they've seized upon voter-identification laws as a possible easy score. Democrats notably Dallas Rep. Rafael Anchia - managed to kill off major bills in the Senate last session. But the hardest part in fighting such laws is explaining why a seemingly good idea - demanding that voters provide photo identification - is actually a bad and partisan one. Citizens least likely to have photo IDs are also the most disadvantaged - women, minorities, and the elderly and these groups are all more likely to vote Democratic. In order to stamp out the virtually nonexistent crime of voter impersonation, Dems say, thousands of Texans could be disenfranchised when they show up at the polls with insufficient formal ID. At least five voter-ID bills have been filed thus far this session, although four of them are identical. Anchia signaled he might be willing to compromise on such a law, but a new bill would need features that previous ones failed to include: provisions for saving contested votes, educating voters on their options in such situations, and closure of mail-in ballot loopholes, where voter fraud is far more likely to occur. - I.N.





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CAROL BURNETT

Building a better variety show

Was there ever a better friend to the television variety show than Carol Burnett? Her show's expert blend of music and comedy; its pitch-perfect parodies of classic films and commercials, stellar ensemble, and sense of spontaneity; and the warmth and intimacy provided by the star herself – who else took questions from the audience every week? - kept America tuning in for a remarkable 11 seasons and racked up 67 Emmy nominations and won two dozen Emmys. Now, the San Antonio native is returning to Central Texas for two evenings at the Paramount Theatre during which she will share reminiscences of that series and, you guessed it, entertain questions from the audience. As Burnett was quoted in a New York Times story about Rosie O'Donnell's attempt at resuscitating the old-school TV variety show - an attempt that rather spectacularly went down in flames - the Chronicle asked her about the difficulties involved in reviving variety.

- Robert Faires

Austin Chronicle: Why is it so hard to get a good variety show on TV these days?

Carol Burnett: I think maybe there are too many cooks. You've got your network, and you have the producing entity and the this and the that, without the creative people having their say. When we were on, there were something like nine variety shows: Sonny and Cher and the Smothers [Brothers] and us and Laugh-In. Glen Campbell. Flip Wilson. Dean Martin. Now, a lot of the suits, they want edgy, and they think that's what the public wants. I think they're afraid it's going to look too old-fashioned.

Also, they couldn't do what we did because of the money factor. We had a 28-piece orchestra. We had 12 dancers. We had guest stars. And we had a rep company, where we did a musical-comedy revue every week.

AC: You had such a legendary ensemble. How do you know when you have the right people that you can play off of?

CB: Immediately you know if you have that. You just never know if the audience is going to go for it, and I feel we were very fortunate. Having seen Harvey Korman as Danny Kaye's second banana – this was like Carl Reiner to Sid Caesar and Art Carney to Jackie Gleason – I said, "We've got to get somebody like him." And when Danny's show went off the air, we said: "Duh. Why don't we get him?" When I do the Q&As, I talk about Harvey and pay tribute to him. He approached everything from an acting standpoint, and having the comedy chops to go with it, that's a jewel. When you



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play tennis, it's important to play with a better player because it makes *your* game better. Well, Harvey made my game better. I miss him dreadfully.

And Tim [Conway], God bless him, is just a genius when it comes to improvising, coming up with stuff that we never rehearsed. **AC:** One thing that seems to be missing on

these recent attempts at variety shows is a strong writing staff. **CB:** People were asking me about recent shows, and I said: "First, they've got to have

the host that the audience can zoom in on. Then, equally important is the writ

important is the writing." No question about it. I think the hardest thing to do in

the world, show-business-wise, is write comedy. We had a great staff of writers, and if we had a sketch we were rehearsing and it wasn't working, we'd call the writers down and show them what we had come up with. And there were no egos. In 11 years, we never had a writer get angry because we made it a little bit more of our own and maybe a little improved. They would jump in and say, "Oh okay, how about this then, while you're doing that?" We were all in the sandbox together.

AC: Say you have the hypothetical opportunity to school the producers of the next variety-show comeback, and you have access to any TV show, radio program, or film ever produced. What great variety shows of the past do you make sure they study before they put their show on the air?

CB: Well, there are so many different types of variety. Our show was one type, where we would do long form, like the family sketches with Eunice and Mama, those could run 12, 13 minutes. Then you had *Laugh-In*, where it

was a blackout.

There were jokes,

and, boom, they'd go to the next thing.

Perry Como was a musical variety show.

Dean [Martin] was

comedic and musical. I'd say watch *Dean*, watch us, watch *Laugh-In*, watch *Flip Wilson*. ... There are just so many. I think they should look at all of them in that era, especially if they've got a star that wants to do a variety show, and the network is going to trust that person. Then that star should look at all of these different shows and see which shoe would fit them better and still not be imitating any of us. They have to bring their own personality to it and say, "What would I have more fun doing?"

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART

A dream deferred, yet again



The third time was not the charm. After two attempts to construct a new Downtown museum collapsed in economic turmoil, first in the mid-Eighties, then in the late Nineties, the Austin Museum of Art seemed finally to have hit on a scheme for success last year. In February 2008, it announced a partnership with Houston-based developer Hines Interests LP, which would acquire from AMOA the western half of the block at Guadalupe and Fourth for a 30-story office building called Museum Tower, thus helping the museum fund a new 40,000square-foot, three-story facility on the eastern half. Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects was set to design both buildings.

But just as revelers were heading Downtown to ring in the new year (some no doubt parking on the very site of the proposed museum), AMOA was discreetly releasing the news that Hines would be letting its option on the land lapse at the end of the day with no immediate plans to renew it. While a statement from Hines took pains to emphasize the firm's interest in "developing an office building in Austin when the market recovers," with the hope that "it will be in conjunction with AMOA and its museum," it made clear that the developer wouldn't be jumping into any new deals until the economy was back in the pink.

As AMOA was relying on the sale of the land to cover a substantial percentage of the \$23 million cost of the facility (perhaps as much as 40%), the withdrawal by Hines leaves the museum's Downtown dreams dangling for the foreseeable future. AMOA could seek out a new partner to develop the site, or it could sit out the new economic crisis in the hopes that Hines will eventually pick up its option again, but either course of action adds months, if not years, to the timeline for the new museum, which was scheduled to break ground in 2009 and to be completed in 2011.

If there's a silver lining in this sad situation (and you can bet the folks at AMOA would love to find one), it's that this blow to the museum's plans wasn't a knockout punch, sidelining development of the new facility for a decade or more, as previously. The staff and support that made this recent plan seem so strong are still in place and in a good position to rebound from this setback. Here's hoping that happens sooner rather than later.

- R.F.

A Revolution of Spirit

Ritual jazz theatre pioneer Sharon Bridgforth premieres a new work, her last in Austin

BY ABE LOUISE YOUNG

'i remember i born'

Deltas are those places where rivers pour into the ocean. Light blurs, birds congregate, and things change. The South is full of them. It's good to sit down on a log at a delta to look at your hands or the sky. Sometimes you hear messages, decode mysteries, and feel the future from there.

The performance piece *delta dandi* is one such place. This new work from writer and ritual jazz theatre artist Sharon Bridgforth opens with the main character of the Gurl giving birth – to her mother.

water hush birds sit wind tight/blood moon turn white

she born.

tiny hands slow move touch face

The Gurl is trying to save her own life. She must make her way through slavery to freedom by learning how to relate to the spirits, ancestors, and her inner voices – and by using her powers of love.

In the playwright's words, "delta dandi asks how does collective grief and trauma inform the Black-American experience and what must a Soul do to heal."

The cast of *delta dandi* dances, reads, sings, chants, and makes ritual on a stage set with light and shadow. Three acclaimed stage artists from New York and six younger performers from Texas and California evoke the delta where modern black Americans meet ancestors in the spirit world to learn how survival, creativity, and love intertwine.

'she stomp each note right to heaven'

In 1997, *Chronicle* writer Kate X Messer wrote, "If you've never seen [Bridgforth's]

work, now's the time to get out from under that rock." If you still haven't, this may be your last chance to see it in Austin: After 15 years of artistic craft and collaboration here, Bridgforth is heading back to her family home of Los Angeles.

Bridgforth's national break came when her performance novel, *the bull-jean stories*, won a Lambda Literary Award. *bull-jean* centers on a black butch lesbian living in the 1920s rural South. Bridgforth's unique spellings and rhythm bring oral tradition to the page:

na/i's a wo'mn whats Lovved many wy'mns. me/they call bull-dog-jean i say thats cause i works lik somekinda old dog trying to git a bone or two

... trouble/came in smelt lik sunshine lik freedom on a bed of posies/trouble made me want her befo I ever saw her face she entered my Heart and held me/trouble came in ass popping from side to side

Bridgforth started writing at age 15. "I was depressed, and in retrospect, from being queer. I was reading the Song of Solomon from the Bible – the Psalms. They were so beautiful that they moved me to start writing poetry. From then on, it just became like breathing.

"The way that I make work is to re-create the sounds of the parties and gatherings we would have when I was a child. I have the most beautiful memories of these fine, young black people and dancing and food and singing. They told stories, there were many things happening at the same time, and I knew I was loved. That feeling, that sound – finger-

Art + Activism Intertwined Steps on a path

1958

Sharon Bridgforth is born to Sonja Annjeanette Bridgforth in Chicago.

The family moves to Los Angeles.

1973

Bridgforth starts writing poetry.

1982

Daughter Sonja Perryman is born.

1985

Bridgforth starts working as a family-planning counselor at Planned Parenthood.

1989

Bridgforth moves to Austin. For the next nine years, she works with the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department as a disease intervention specialist, HIV-tester, educator, and outreach worker.

1990

Word of Mouth Women's Theatre produces Bridgforth's handwritten poems as a one-woman show, sonnata blue, performed by Starla Benford.

1993

Bridgforth founds root wy'mn theatre company (r) and premieres lovve/rituals & rage at the Vortex.
Bridgforth directs The Wrap It Up Show, a Planned Parenthoodsponsored call-in radio show on KAZI for teenagers to discuss se



teenagers to discuss safer sex and relationships.

1994

root wy'mn tours *lovve/rituals* & rage to San Antonio and Chicago. **1995**

Bridgforth gets sober in Austin. root wy'mn tours *no mo blues*.

1996

Bridgforth receives a residency at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

L997

Bridgforth's "that beat" is included in does your mama know?: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Coming Out Stories, published by RedBone Press.

no mo blues is produced in Minneapolis and North Carolina. dyke/warrior-Prayers is produced at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival and in Chicago, North Carolina, and Austin.

1998

Bridgforth begins to work with international theatre pioneer Laurie Carlos.

Bridgforth's performance novel the bull-jean

Bridgforth's performance novel *the bull-jean* stories is (r) published by RedBone Press and wins a Lambda Literary award.

Laurie Carlos directs *blood pudding* at Frontera@ Hyde Park Theatre.

Bridgforth and then-partner Luz Guerra start the Institute for Radical Living in their living room. The

free group, which teaches young artists of color about history, alliance-building, writing, and social justice tools, meets weekly for two years.

CONTINUED ON P.28

popping, as my mom would call it - that shaped how I create."

In the words of Dr. Joni Jones/Omi Osun Olomo, the leading scholar on the theatrical jazz aesthetic and director of UT's Warfield Center for African & African American Studies. "Bridgforth's work creates a black experience, with black speech, where blackness is absolutely valorized - not glorified but is given its beauty in all of its complexity. And that can be mighty rare."

'i hang my shingle out at sunrise/for all to see'

When she moved to Austin in 1989 with her 7-year-old daughter, Sonja, Bridgforth had "suitcases of writing that I'd never done a damn thing with." She walked into the Foundation for a Compassionate Society's Peace Building on Congress Avenue, which housed numerous radical organizations - the Austin Latina/o Lesbian and Gay Organization, the American Friends Service Committee, the United Farmworkers, Ebony Connection, and others – and that situation swiftly changed.

"I came into that building looking for the queer people. But I discovered the idea of art as a vehicle for social justice and the people who would be key for me in finding language for myself as an artist." When Bridgforth met Austin's arts activist community, she was home.

Before bull-jean was published, Bridgforth founded root wm'yn theatre company, which toured her poem-plays in mostly small venues, mostly on her own dime, for five years. She worked full time as a publichealth educator, hosted two radio shows, curated an arts series, and raised her daughter. (See "Art + Activism Intertwined: Steps on a Path," p.26.) After bull-jean established her as a literary figure, Bridgforth's mission crystallized: "the jazz of my work assumes that art and Life are not separate; that artists are responsible to community; that art is about innovation."

Dr. Jones, Bridgforth's champion and collaborator, says: "Sharon has transformed the lives of so many people here! But she is moving into a whole new world of desire. She is being much more articulate and bold. I think she wants her work everywhere."

Bridgforth confirms that desire: "My dream is to have my work fully produced and toured around the world."

Will Austin miss her? Yes. But Bridgforth has taught at least 100 younger writers, who will carry the torch of art and activism locally.

Will she miss Austin? Yes. "I've been loved and held and supported in Austin in a profound way," Bridgforth says. "People offered themselves to me. It is a beautiful city that's focused on wellness. I was able to find myself here."

CONTINUED ON P.28





"Bridgforth's work

creates a black

experience, with

black speech, where

blackness is absolutely

valorized - not glorified

- but is given its beauty

in all of its complexity.

And that can be mighty

rare." - Dr. Joni Jones/

Omi Osun Olomo

'today i call my own name proudly/today i take old skin off and eat it'

One lesson of Bridgforth's biography is that "finding oneself" is, in large part, about finding others who can see you. The extraordinary caliber of the artists coming here to do delta dandi demonstrates how rooted Bridgforth's work is now in a national theatre scene. Helga Davis, Baraka de Soleil, and Sonja Perryman (Bridgforth's daughter) have been conjured here from New York, and other performers came from Los Angeles and Houston for

the two-week rehearsal-toperformance sprint.

An acclaimed stage talent with operatic vocal range, Davis currently co-stars in the European tour of The Blue Planet, a multimedia theatre piece written by Peter Greenaway. She's a woman of expressive energy who talks like a living exclamation mark. She exhorts the cast to "sing it from your pelvis! Feel it in your sex - it's not sex, but it comes from the same place, people! It's life! Don't miss it! Don't drop it!"

Brooklyn-based dancer de Soleil is the founder of D UNDERBELLY, a performance-art company and network for black artists. Exactly half of his head is shaved in a style he calls "the African mohawk, my homage to Basquiat."

De Soleil is training the delta dandi artists in movement traditions rooted in Africa, such as the ring shout, in which dancers bend low to the ground, move in a counterclockwise circle, slap rhythms into the earth with their feet, and vocalize in call-and-response. An ecstatic spiritual dance form, it comes grippingly alive onstage in delta dandi.

Afterward, de Soleil coaches the performers: "If you walk back to the plantation after that ritual showing what you know and carrying what you just learned there around that fire, you not gonna live! You will be killed! You need to change your gait now. You are crossing a threshold!"

De Soleil's concept of blood memory of the Middle Passage - the forced migration of more than 40 million Africans during the European slave trade - informs his choreography. "Blood memory is deeper than muscle memory," he says. "Muscle memory is personal; blood memory is ancestral. Blood memory goes back to the beginning of time. When we don't release old stuff, it creates points of pain. So performatively, we're oxygenating memory and moving it along. Blood memory is deadly when it is stagnant."

This, then, is a central theme of delta dandi: transforming the "thunder of memory." "All of the voices are the Gurl in different time dimensions," says Bridgforth. "Her past/present/future lives are coexisting. Her ancestors and her self and her future descendants are calling her so that she elevates, so that she can release some of the trauma of history. The essence of that girl is me. Every single thing that happens here is to save

the Gurl's life for all eternity. She has to become willing to love herself – all parts of herself."



Sorting out who's who in delta dandi is best done with a script in hand, since all the characters are actually aspects of one. Souls transmogrify continually, and there is no distinction between past, present, and future (an element of all theatrical jazz, according to Jones). Blues is represented by a female king who sells the Gurl into slavery, but she's also a hard-drinking juke-joint pianist named Honeypot, "the kind of woman who'll steal your gurlfriend." Above all, Blues is the voice of shame, addiction, and cruelty.



The Gurl (Florinda Bryant) narrates her journey in the present tense, and the Seer (Azure Osborne-Lee) pours forth story and memory. Elder Spirit/Returning, vocalized by Davis, is the bearer of light, love, and unchanging truths: "You are loved. You are not alone. In this moment you are safe." Chorus voices are stationed in the audience, and Spirit/Dancers embody the stories in the center of the stage.

delta dandi builds to a frenzy and crescendos in a love ritual chant, in which all the various elements and characters are embraced and integrated into one:

slave woman shattered I love you. old man stuttering I love you. veiled baby I love you. African King who sold me I love you. woman praying at the river I love you. himshe I love you ...

this is where we meet. the shift is now. the Change has come. i move from the crossroads stand where all the rivers meet ...

Watching this work, it is easy to feel like a child, an ancient crone, a slaver, or a slave. It doesn't offer plot logic, and it's nonlinear. The mind is stymied, but the body throbs and chimes. It feels like church, yet you're not sure quite if you're an insider or an outsider. Do divisions like inside and outside hold true here? The answer is for each audience member to discover - and the inquiry is expected. The last line is "ask your question child."

As de Soleil says: "The role of audience is not passive. We turn it inside out. They are an active witness in this ritual, and it activates their own blood memory. Then they are helping to create our new collective memory. The slave and the slave owner, they both have pain. They both have blood memory. And they must both unlock, we all must experience, communicate, and release, to move forward. The moment you make the decision to come to this show, you become a participant in this ritual."

delta dandi will be performed Friday & Saturday, Jan. 9 & 10, 8pm, at the Long Center, 701 W. Riverside. For more information, visit www.thelongcenter.org.

ART & ACTIVISM INTERTWINED CONTINUED FROM P.26

1999

Bridgforth establishes the Finding Voice method of creative writing, leading writers to "examine the socio-political realities of their lives in a form that is part poetry, part oral history."

Bridgforth is voted Best Author/Poet in The Austin Chronicle "Best of Austin" Readers Poll.

2000

The Theatre Communications Group/ National Endowment for the Arts grants Bridgforth a playwright-inresidence award at Frontera@Hyde Park Theatre, which produces her play con flama (r).

2001

YWCA votes Bridgforth Woman of the Year in Arts & Communications. Bridgforth facilitates workshops at the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center in San Antonio.

2002

Bridgforth helps organize Fire & Ink: A Writers Festival for GLBT People of African Descent at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Bridgforth teaches Point of Entry: Radical Writing/Historical Context in the Americas at Hamilton College in New York.

The Center for African & African American Studies at UT-Austin hires Bridgforth as "anchor artist" for the Austin Project, bringing women scholars, artists, and activists together for a 10-week artistic process.

Bridgforth is named artist-in-residence at ALLGO.

With her daughter Sonja Perryman, Bridgforth records amniotic/flow, a spoken-word and music CD exploring the queer mother-straight daughter bond.

Bridgforth curates "Bringing Light Spoken Word/Performance Season" at Resistencia Bookstore.

On 91.7 KVRX Radio Caracol, Bridgforth curates the finding voice radio show to present new voices of women artists.

love conjure/blues is published by RedBone Press and wins an Urban Spectrum Black Book Award.

Bridgforth and Jennifer Margulies co-edit the anthology voices for racial justice: eliminating racism, empowering women.

ALLGO appoints Bridgforth artistic director.

Bridgforth is diagnosed with cervical cancer and has a radical hysterectomy.

Bridgforth teaches Community Activism/ Internships for UT's Center for African & African American Studies.

2007

delta dandi is commissioned by Women & Their Work through a Creation Fund Award granted by the National Performance Network.

2008

Bridgforth wins an Alpert/Hedgebrook Residency Prize.

2009

delta dandi premieres at the Long Center.

Bridgforth maps her move to Los Angeles, via a year of artistic collaborations in New York City.

The Austin Project Archive: Experiments in a Jazz Aesthetic, co-edited by Bridgforth, Dr. Joni L. Jones/Omi Osun Olomo, and Dr. Lisa L. Moore, will be published by University of Texas Press.



LAND OF MARVELS: A NOVEL by Barry Unsworth Nan A. Talese, 304 pp., \$26

"He who owns the oil will own the world, he will rule the sea and the land, he will rule his fellowman ... the day will come when oil

his fellowman ... the day will come when oil will be more desired, more sought after than gold." The 100-year reign of oil may now be slowly coming to an end with the birth

of green technologies, but back in 1914 Mesopotamia, the prescient appetite for oil, in lieu of coal, was just beginning to be fully realized. It's in this historically rich locale, at this politically volatile time, that Booker Prize-winning author Barry Unsworth sets his novel, the relevance of which is uncanny for obvious reasons. The story is told through a cast of international characters, all with different operational motives. Somerville is a British archeologist search-

ing for an ancient Assyrian

palace but worried that a Baghdad-bound railroad being built by the Germans will come right through his site. Jehar is an ambitious, if possibly unscrupulous, Mesopotamian working for Somerville and motivated by his desire to amass a dowry.

Elliott is an American geologist posing as an archeologist sent

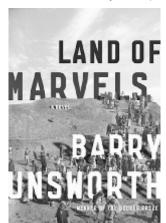
to the region by an oil company to explore for possible drilling sites. Most interesting is Lord Rampling, quick to espouse platitudes boasting of Britain's international benevolence, who from afar exerts the most influence, wheeling and dealing with government officials, international bankers, and private global financial concerns, à la today's Carlyle Group. A host of minor players also

adds to the intrigue. The discovery of oil ultimately plays out in dramatically different and unexpected ways for those involved. Shortly thereafter, the area would become a battleground in World War I; the oncemighty Ottoman Empire would be dismembered. and Britain would take control of a vast portion of Mesopotamia. This region, which had never been governed as a single nation, would be named Iraq. It's virtually unavoidable to read this story without peering

through the prism of America's current imperialist endeavor. But Unsworth's finely drawn characters and intricately woven relationships provide a flesh-and-blood grounding

to the larger political events beginning to unfold. We already know what lies in store nearly a century later.

- Jay Trachtenberg



MILES FROM NOWHERE: A NOVEL by Nami Mun Riverhead, 304 pp., \$21.95

There is a long tradition in literature of the earnest young orphan embarking upon hard circumstances to achieve a place in society through strong moral fiber and a persistent idealism. *Miles From*

Nowhere, the debut novel from Nami Mun (a Pushcart Prize winner), recalls this tradition but drags it into the muck and the modernity of a runaway struggling with homelessness and addiction. Mun's portrait of a Korean-American teenager living on the streets is brutal yet infused with occasional tenderness and hallucinatory beauty. The main character. Joon, has not much of a home to start with. After her parents succumb to alcoholism and mental illness - collateral damage in the immigrant experi-

ence – 13-year-old Joon takes off on her own. Joon finds periodic guardians along the way, among the junkies and street-people whose lifestyle she soon adopts. But their betrayals, in tandem with her own destructiveness, eliminate her hopes for refuge again and again.

In an early scene, a fellow runaway aptly named Knowledge takes the role of Joon's adviser. "'So, what did we learn today,' she asked [Joon]. 'Trust your instincts.' 'Wrong. Stay

in shape 'cause you never know when you have to kick some ass.

Okay, what else.' 'Help people when they're in need.' 'Wrong again. Help only strangers. You can't go around helping all your friends 'cause they start depending on you and that gets you nowhere, okay?'"

This unexpected humor is one of few

respites from the failure and exploitation that characterize Joon's existence, including her ideas of love. Pain provides Joon with definition, even affirmation. She describes dissociating while being severely beaten: "[W] hen the sound left, the pain left, too, leaving you flat on the floor, watching a peaceful movie of yourself taking every hit and feeling absolutely nothing. During those times, I was a superhero." In a culminating, drug-soaked incident, Joon's boyfriend expresses his love for her - "I want to

see your insides" – by literally flaying her. The relentlessness of these degradations in the end is numbing to the reader, despite the flights of poeticism and Joon's halting progress. The prospect of Joon's finding a measure of security becomes a matter of indifference, as one expects the devastation in some sense to prevail.

— Elizabeth Jackson

Nami Mun will be reading at BookPeople on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 7pm.



Spotlight on Arts & Ideas Presents:







Saturday, January 17 • 8 PM JCC Community Hall 7300 Hart Lane (off Far West Blvd.)

Laughter is typically not the first thing that one envisions when Israelis and Palestinians come together, particularly considering the current situation in the Middle East. Yet, four internationally acclaimed standup comedians are coming to Austin, spinning jokes from both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They believe humor is a critical necessity to help temper the anger and animosity, and to bring the two sides together.

"If we can laugh together, we can live together."
—Comedian Ray Hanania

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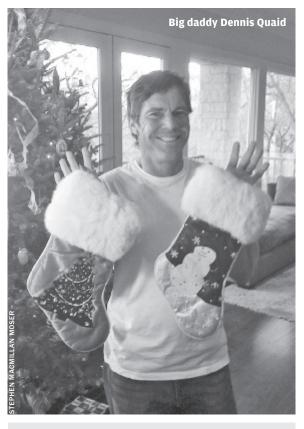


after a fashion By STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

of surprises, hasn't it? I wrote my holiday columns so far in advance that it was hard to really know what was going on with me. Let's step back to the week before Christmas when I made my unforgettable star turn as Mother Ginger in Ballet Austin's Nutcracker. Naturally I was thrilled to be asked; Mother Ginger's shoes are big ones to fill. Now, everyone who plays Mother Ginger tends to look the same. Same wig, same hideous dress, same rolling scaffolding to get the old broad around. How would anvone know it was me under all that? I mean, if they wanted me bad enough to play Mother Ginger, didn't they want to see me? So I personally added a couple of props (with permission, of course) that made me more recognizable: sunglasses and a fan. All I can tell you is that I was an unforgettable Mother Ginger.

LOVE LETTERS (BITCH, PLEASE) After my silly, innocuous remark a few weeks ago about being **Rosa Parks** and refusing to smoke my cigarettes in the wind and rain at a recent party, *needless* to say, a thinskinned, humorless reactionary wrote me a scathing letter asking who the fuck I was to call myself Rosa Parks when I was nothing but a lowly cigarette smoker and Rosa Parks stood up for racial equality. He then went on to suggest that I had been smoking "wacky tobacky" when I wrote the story. Though I *do* live near the **puff-puff-pass** section of **South Austin**, I most *certainly* was not under the influence when I wrote that. Really, I just say things like that to rile up readers whose sense of humor has gone on hiatus.

A CHRISTMAS STORY It's always so fun to hear from old friends during the holidays. My dear friend **Lea Buffington** called two days before Christmas telling me that she'd forgotten something critical. Several years ago, Lea called me and asked if I'd whip up some of my deluxe Christmas stockings for her sister and brother-in-law, Kimberly and Dennis Quaid. I was thrilled, needless to say, and designed a pair called Romeo & Juliet. I saw a photo of Dennis standing in front of the mantle at his Malibu home in front of the stockings. I thought my life was complete. The next year, Lea called and needed a stocking for Jack Quaid, Dennis' son with Meg Ryan. He wanted to be a director, and so his stocking was done in black and white and silver. So this year, Lea calls breathlessly, "Omigod, I forgot about the twins!" So I rustled through the samples of stockings that I had left and picked out a handful to show her. Upon awakening, I realized that I had missed her call scheduling a time for pickup. I was mortified. "No problem," says Lea, "but could you bring them out to us at our house?" No problem. I rushed over there like Santa on Adderall and brought the stockings. My nephew Tyler drove me, and we went to the door where Lea met us and ushered us in. And there in front of us was Dennis Quaid with his arms open wide saying, "Merry Christmas!" Okay, I have to admit that its one of my favorite ways of meeting a movie star. We had a little drink; Dennis visited with Tyler while Lea, Kimberly, and I looked over the stockings. Dennis made the final choice: one red satin stocking appliquéd with a green velvet Christmas tree loaded with hand-sewn beads, crystals, and bells, and for the other, a green moiré taffeta appliquéd with a white velvet snowman, embellished with snowflakes, crystals, and sequins. Dennis posed for pictures in front of the Christmas tree holding the stockings. I was in heaven. On the way home, Tyler kept saying: "Uncle Stephen, you are the shit! You know Dennis Quaid, and he gave you his cellphone number!" Tyler spent the rest of the afternoon texting his friends to share his Christmas Eve story.



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



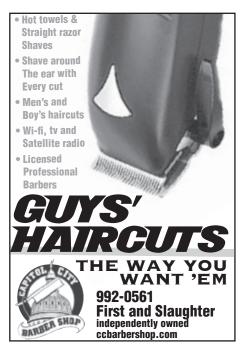




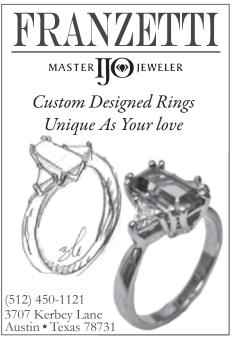


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www.dailygrill.com

Like most parents, especially working parents, I am continually pulled between the urge to order an easy weekday meal from a restaurant and my better judgment not to spend the extra cash. After all, regular meals out for an entire family can become an expensive habit. So when I heard about a recent promotion offering \$2 kids lunches at Daily Grill in the Domain, I knew I wanted to investigate. This Californiabased outlet is a sleek interpretation of a classic American eatery whose concept blends studied chic with timeless comfort. Here, framed black-and-white photos of Fifties movie stars in various Hollywood restaurants line the walls, a fully stocked bar dominates one-half of the restaurant, and snug booths define much of the seating area.

Like diners of old, the nostalgic menu features classics such as chicken potpie, meat loaf, fish and chips, meaty hamburgers, and ampleportioned desserts that reach for the sky. A dressed-up dinner menu of steaks, pastas, fish, and chicken dishes reads like a greatest-hits list from the past 40 years. However, unlike diners of yesteryear, regular meals at this uptown Daily Grill can bring a gold-studded price tag. At lunch, most sandwiches and burgers start at \$10. A BLT runs you \$8.95, while a tuna melt with fries will set you back \$11.50. OK, so the portions are huge, and it is conceivable that two people could split a sandwich. I'll also give extra credit for the fact that the tuna melt, on crisp grilled rye and dripping with cheddar cheese, mayonnaise, and flavorful tuna salad, was an excellent rendition on the genre. Nonetheless, when I drop \$12 on a sandwich, I generally expect to eat something a little fussier than a tuna melt.

Still, as I recently discovered with the kids' meal specials, good values can be had here. For an unspecified time, all kids meals at Daily Grill are just \$2 (with purchase of adult meals) and include a fountain drink, any item off the kids menu, and ice cream for dessert. A few weeks ago, I took four 8-year-old boys to lunch there. Their responses were overwhelmingly positive, and generally, the kids were impressed by the restaurant's clubby atmosphere. Two of the boys stated that "the food was great, and the service was great." And it is true that the waiter was very patient and completely unbothered when one of the boys spilled his drink on the table. However, neither did he make any moves to clean it up, leaving us to manage with saturated root-beer napkins as a centerpiece.

The kids menu offers more variety than most restaurants. Just about everything kids love is on it, from hot dogs and macaroni and cheese to pasta with tomato sauce. I was



delighted that the children's chicken nuggets were made of real chicken breast, cut in strips and flour-dusted to order, and the fish sticks were actually just miniature versions of the same fish and chips featured on the adult menu. My own son ordered the kids cheeseburgers, which were the size of White Castle sliders and served on fresh brioche-style buns. He greedily devoured both of them. "Those were the best burgers I ever tasted," he declared. The kids also uniformly loved Daily Grill's crispy shoestring fries. When asked how Daily Grill compared to McDonald's – the gold standard of restaurants for most 8-year-old boys – one child responded, "McDonald's is down here [holding his hand close to the table], while this place is up here [holding his other hand above his head]."

Mom's opinion of Daily Grill is slightly more tempered. The food is competent if somewhat typical, but with careful ordering and planning, Daily Grill can be a bargain for families.

- Rachel Feit

Event Menu Jan. 8-10

- All five area Chuy's (www.chuys.com) locations celebrate the birthday of Elvis Presley this week with menu specials, impersonator performances, and party favors, plus commemorative drink cups and limited-edition T-shirts. Guests who arrive dressed as the King or Priscilla will receive free entrées. All day Thursday, Jan. 8.
- Appreciate both wine and art at A22 Wine Bar (Central Market Westgate, 899-4300) during an exhibit of "Women & Wine" paintings by local artist Kathy Womack. Guests will enjoy fine wines paired with a distinctive selection of cheeses and gourmet chocolates, along with complimentary posters signed by the artist. Space is limited, and reservations are required. \$50 per person. Saturday, Jan. 10, 4:30-6:30pm. V.B.W.

food-o-file

by Virginia B. Wood

2009 is off to a flying start with the announcement of several new business openings. South Austin's newest sweet shop is **Pie Slice** (2024 S. Lamar, 444-6644), the creation of former Chez Zee chefs Martin Abundas and Vicente Jaramillo. Pie Slice kicks off each day with pastries, coffee, and 99-cent breakfast tacos, then offers bistro fare for lunch and dinner, plus a pastry case stocked with delectable desserts all the time... Farther south, the Kamburis brothers closed both Flipnotics Clothespad and Flip's Satellite Cafe in Oak Hill during December, but they encourage fans to continue to visit them at both Flipnotics outlets (1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646; 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097; www.flipnotics.com) and their Satellite Bistro & Bar (5900 Slaughter, 288-9994) near Circle C in Southwest Austin... A little farther down the road, chef Rino Lanzalotti contacted us with the news that he's back in the restaurant business after many years. The talented Italian immigrant has created Nonna Gina's Italian Restaurant (214 N. Main in Buda, 512/523-8192) in the downtown Buda space that formerly housed Little Texas Bistro. The menu features Lanzalotti's handmade pastas, pizzas, and desserts, as well as beer and wine... And speaking of pizza, the company that recently operated Stortini and the Red House Lounge has refocused the business as the Red House Pizzeria (1917 Manor Rd., 391-9500, www.redhousepizza.com). The new eat-in or take-out menu offers the best of Stortini's popular pizzas in two sizes or by the slice, plus hearty sandwiches (meatball sliders!), calzones, salads, desserts, beer, and wine. They began serving dinner in December, and lunch service should commence this week... Also new on the Eastside is Karibu Ethiopian Restaurant & Bar (1209 E. Seventh, 320-5454, www.ethiopianrestaurant austin.com), in a building that has been home to a series of Mexican restaurants in the past. According to the website, "karibu" is the Swahili word for welcome, and the new spot presents a lunch buffet on weekdays and is open for dinner and drinks nightly... The new owners of the Arpeggio Grill (6619 Airport, 419-0110) report they have remodeled the restaurant and revamped the Mediterranean/Middle Eastern menu at this friendly eatery near Highland Mall... In that same vicinity, we're told the long-empty Outback Steak**house** building on the other side of the mall is now home to locally owned Chosun Korean Barbecue & Sushi (713 E. Huntland, 419-1400). The e-mail promises fine, spicy Korean food and unique barbecue, which sounds intriguing, so our **Mick Vann** is definitely on the case... Locals who bemoaned the recent closure of Living Arts Bakery might want to stop in at the Peoples Rx in West Lake Hills (4201 Westbank, 327-8877) to check out the extensive selection of gluten-free and dairy-free desserts created by chef/nutri-therapist Alain Braux. The longtime Austin pastry chef also teaches monthly baking classes utilizing gluten-free and/or dairy-free recipes. We've also heard that Living Arts founder Susan Fein is back in business as Sol Catering and will be selling prepared foods and gluten-free baked goods at both the Sunset Valley and Downtown farmers' markets, beginning this month... On the local restaurant philanthropy front, the annual ThunderCloud **Subs Turkey Trot** raised a whopping \$176,500 for **Caritas** of Austin just before Christmas, and Mobile Loaves & Fishes (www.mlfnow.org) received 2,000 dollars' worth of fuel for its distribution trucks plus 450 hot meals prepared and served by volunteers from Z'Tejas (www.ztejas.com) and PGC Marketing (www.pgccreative.com) on Dec. 29. The owners of Pluckers Wing Bar (www.pluckers.net) have created a "community profit-sharing program that allows local youth leagues, schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations to earn money back in food purchases." The restaurants will designate a day, week, or month to an organization, and the donation will consist of 20% of the profits from sales generated by guests supporting that organization. For more info about the profit-sharing program, contact kwollman@pluckers.net.

www.DailyJuice.org

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Keeping Those Weight-Loss Resolutions

Diet-friendly dining

BY KATE THORNBERRY

Gym attendance skyrockets in early January, as folks struggle to keep their New Year's resolutions to lose weight, become fitter, or at least follow a healthier lifestyle. For many, a big stumbling block is eating out: Most restaurants are geared toward serving enormous portions of high-calorie, popular foodstuffs such as burgers, fries, enchiladas, steaks, gigantic sandwiches, and fried tortilla chips. Even when menus include a low-calorie option, it is difficult to order the plain chicken breast with cottage cheese when the rest of the table is throwing back heaps of barbecue and washing it down with ice-cold beer. To be truly diet-friendly, it's best if the menu doesn't offer much to tempt you to stray off your path. Here is a list of local diet-friendly places, beginning with the best places for the strict dieter and branching out to the places that are appropriate for folks just trying to make healthier choices across the board.



ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST

1303 S. Congress, 444-8081
Daily, 11:30am-10pm
3423 Guadalupe, 300-2633
Monday-Saturday, 11am-11pm; Sunday, 11:30am-10pm
2900 W. Anderson #250, 451-4811
Monday-Saturday, 11am-10pm; Sunday, 11:30am-8:30pm
5207 Brodie, 899-2222
Monday-Saturday, 11am-10pm; Sunday, 11:30am-10pm

Zen has made a niche for itself as the place to go for food that is healthy, economical, and fast; most menu items are less than \$6. They care about your health and even care about your diet, with a handy chart that denotes which menu items are dairy-, wheat-, gluten-, and sugar-free, as well as how many Weight Watchers points are in each. A free 21-day meal plan developed by their nutritionist is also available. Zen serves sushi, salad, and appetizers, but the bulk of its business is in bowls: noodle or rice bowls that range in price from \$4.25 for vegetables only to \$8.50 for the Atlantic Salmon Enlightened Bowl. You can choose a protein (black tiger shrimp, Atlantic salmon, natural chicken, tofu, or filet mignon), a vegetable mix, a sauce, and rice or noodles, all expertly stir-fried to order, or you can choose a chef-created bowl from the menu. In either case, it will cost in the neighborhood of \$6, and it is always easy to choose a guilt-free, cheap meal.

WEFUSE

120 E. Fourth (in the Frost Bank Tower), 236-1011 2025 Guadalupe #152 (in Dobie Mall), 236-0207 Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm www.wefuse.net

WeFuse is my No. 1 choice for anyone trying to stick to a diet and still have a lovely, satisfying experience. Both WeFuse locations are aesthetically pleasing, with a clean, bold design that adds to the feeling that you are giving yourself a treat. The fusion alluded to is that of light French cooking with Japanese cuisine, and the resulting bento boxes and salads manage to be simultaneously wholesome and devastating. The Bento Box Deal (\$10) is a bowl of hearty miso soup and a generous portion of high-quality protein (seared tuna, grilled shrimp, roasted chicken, roasted salmon, or tofu) along with three vegetable dumplings, one small ball of rice, and two lovely vegetable sides, such as cucumber salad or roasted peppers and leeks. There are at least three unsweetened teas to choose from and a tiny

complimentary sweet (usually a small piece of fresh fruit, such as a strawberry or a tangerine section, half-dipped in "good for you" dark chocolate). I always leave feeling I have dined

sumptuously, yet it is a low-fat, low-carb, high-protein meal that leaves one positively virtuous. (Lunch hour is ridiculously busy; go after 2pm if possible.)



1112 N. Lamar Ste. D, 472-1674 Monday-Thursday, 7am-9pm; Friday, 7am-7pm; Saturday-Sunday, 8am-5pm www.food4fitness.com

You don't need to be a member of Castle Hill Specialized Fitness to patronize Food 4 Fitness Cafe, originally part of the gym but now its own destination. Food 4 Fitness is more a smoothie bar than an eat-in restaurant, but it does offer a marvelous dieting option: premade, premeasured, fresh-daily meals in the cold case that can be heated and eaten there or taken home. For busy folks who have barely managed to squeeze in time for their workouts, it's a godsend to be able to grab a salmon, free-range chicken, grass-fed bison, or pasta dinner, with vegetable sides included, and dash. The premade meals are protein-heavy and carbohydrate-light, expertly prepared, and a perfect complement to fitness activity. Ranging from \$8 to \$13.50, the dinners aren't supercheap, but the quality is superb. Breakfast items, salads, sides, and sugar-and-butterfree desserts are also available and range in price from \$1.75 to \$12. I highly recommend Food 4 Fitness as a great place to grab a premade meal when you're exhausted or pressed for time and might otherwise skip a meal or a workout.

SOMNIO'S CAFE

1807 S. First, 442-2500

Tuesday-Friday, 11am-2pm & 5-10pm; Saturday, 11am-10pm; Sunday, 11am-3pm

www.somnioscafe.com

Somnio's is a new cafe on South First that specializes in local and organic ingredients in its chef-driven cuisine. Somnio's does serve a few fried foods that could tempt, and not all of the menu offerings are suited to a weight-loss regimen, but there is a heavy emphasis on local, organic vegetables, and all of the meats it serves are free-range, grass-fed, pastured, and hormone-free. Salads (\$4-7) as well as customized rice bowls (\$8) are both great choices, and usually at least one of the appetizers is low-calorie. Somnio's is the only sit-down restaurant with wait service on my list (the rest are order-at-the-counter) and a good choice for a leisurely, healthy, diet-compliant dinner. You can BYOB, too, for that single glass of white wine!

LΕΔΕ

419 W. Second, 474-5323 Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-9pm; Monday, Friday, Saturday, 11am-4pm www.leafsalad.com

Leaf has a wonderful array of tossed salads, some more dietetic than others, granted, but at leaf you can't be tempted to get anything other than a salad, because that's all there is. The "Big 12" chef-created salads listed on the wall are fabulous, and each is around \$10. The salad makers tend to take it easy on the fattening ingredients such as bacon, cheese, and avocado, so even the most sinful salads are still fairly virtuous. If you are following a particularly strict diet, you can make a customized salad, and there are several low-fat and no-fat dressings available. Leaf is a great place to meet nondieting friends for lunch.

A Little Help in the Kitchen

The Central Market Cooking School offers some great keepyour-resolutions resources this January for anyone who wants to learn more about cooking healthy at home. Food as Fuel for Fitness & Health (\$45), taught by Robert Jenkins and Christine Tusa, addresses new approaches to breakfast, lunch, and dinner specifically designed to help you rethink food as fuel for bodily energy and tailor your menu to support fitness. Eating Light for the New Year (\$50), taught by chef Myrna Sloan, teaches yearlong strategies for guilt-free, flavorful cooking, and in Lou's Healthy Winter Meals (\$60), Austin chef Lou Lambert shares some of his famous recipes for healthy, flavorful cuisine. Better Choices for a Healthy Difference (\$45), taught by Houston TV chef Molly Fowler, teaches how to make satisfying, delicious meals with less fat by substituting healthier ingredients. Also offered is the ongoing, perpetually sellingout Sushi 101 class taught by chef Timothy Thomas (\$70). See www.centralmarket.com/cooking-school.aspx or call 206-1014 for more information.



DAILY JUICE CAFE 4500 Duval St., 380-9046 Daily, 7am-9pm www.dailyjuicecafe.com

Daily Juice has succeeded against all odds and become a thriving health-food-oriented juice bar, simply by offering a truly superior product: great-tasting smoothies and juices formulated to be truly healing and good for your body. Now Daily Juice has expanded into the restaurant business, opening a rawfood cafe at its 45th and Duval Street location. The raw-food movement hasn't made the same waves here in Austin that it has in Hollywood, but there are enough raw-foodists and vegans desperately in need of a place to go for brunch to make Daily Juice Cafe a bustling concern. Although raw-food restaurants aren't strictly concerned with weight loss, the fact remains that everything on the menu is composed of raw vegetable matter of one kind or another. Most people who are following a raw-food regimen have difficulty getting enough calories in their meals. Therefore, in my opinion, you can order anything you like off a raw-food menu and be pretty sure that you aren't violating your diet, while being certain that you are giving the cells of your body a treat. Entrées include Texacali Tacos (\$12), a BBQ Coconut Sandwich (\$11.50), a green curry bowl (\$8), and mole enchiladas (\$10.50), all prepared without the use of heat (or meat). Make no mistake: This is health food of the hippie variety, and it is not for everyone's palate. But if eating healthy is what you are going for, you can't do better, and everything is expertly prepared. And the smoothies are great, too!

BABY GREENS

2316 S. First (South First & Oltorf), 462-1697 10025 Burnet Rd., 835-2229 Monday-Thursday, 10am-9pm; Friday, 10am-7pm; Saturday, 10am-6pm www.ilovesalads.com

If you are trying to stick to your diet, but you have to eat in your car in between errands and appointments, this is the place to go. Baby Greens has won many Austin Chronicle Restaurant Poll and "Best of Austin" awards, and it truly is a wonderful, popular, healthy alternative. Drive-through salads may sound a little difficult to eat, but Baby Greens offers the option of having your salad wrapped in a big, thin tortilla, making it into an easy-to-eat-while-driving salad burrito. The Cobb salad wrap with chicken is especially good (\$6.18), but the Southwest chicken (\$6.18), grilled veggie (\$4.79), and chicken Caesar (\$5.34) all have devoted followings, too. Nearly everything Baby Greens serves is made fresh daily, including all the salad dressings, and every salad and salad wrap is made to order.

Whole Foods Market 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206 Daily, 8am-10pm www.wholefoodsmarket.com

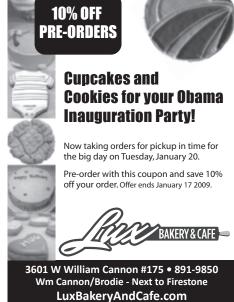
LAMAR STREET GREENS

This is Whole Foods' vegan and raw-food bar, and although it is just a lunch counter in a grocery store, it offers just as many dishes as Daily Juice Cafe, and it's a little cheaper. The vegetable pad thai is a favorite at \$9, and the raw tostada plate, also \$9, is marvelous, too. Located in the produce section, you don't have to walk past the bakery or the pizza stand to get here, and Lamar Street Greens features its very own eating area.

6TH STREET SUSHI

The bad news is: You *do* have to walk past the bakery and the pizza stand to get to this prepared-food counter. The good news is: You can get noodle bowls, satay and barbecue, and teriyaki bowls in a hurry, and it is good, diet-conscious food that won't break the bank. Noodle bowls (both hot and cold udon and soba) are \$6.10, and the shrimp Thai basil bowl is \$7.65. The satay and barbecue run from \$6.60 for the vegetarian to \$10.45 for steak and ribs. Teriyaki bowls are \$7.65-8.75, and all contain a healthy portion of fish, chicken, tofu, steak, or shrimp. The offerings are not unlike Zen, but the meat/protein portions are much larger. My steak satay was delightfully medium-rare, and though it came with steamed greens and rice, my box was primarily filled with steak. Warning: At lunchtime, this counter is madness itself.







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www.oldpecanstcafe.com. \$\$\$

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FINE DINING: DRISKILL GRILL A grand and sophisticated experience you can share with the most exacting Manhattanite. Housed in the ornate Driskill Hotel, the Grill is home to cuisine that is hardly economical but certainly a value. 604 Brazos, 391-7162. www.driskillgrill.com. \$\$\$\$

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

MEDITERRANEAN: ATHENIAN BAR & GRILL The location may be new, but you'll find the same traditional Greek cuisine at this longtime local favorite. Enjoy live Greek music on Friday and Saturday evenings. 600 Congress, 474-7775. www.athenianbargrill.com. \$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: LOUIE'S 106 Crisp, elegant, multitiered setting for Austin's original tapas. The beautifully lit bar is the perfect place to make your pitch. 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997. www.louies106.net. \$\$\$

PUB GRUB: 219 WEST An attractive, comfortable place with exceptional small-dish food, great drinks, and a stunning wine list. It also has a 16-foot, hi-def TV and lots of beer specials. 219 W. Fourth. 474-2194. www.219west.com. \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE

& WINE BAR The main attraction is perfectly pre-pared beef presented in a comfortable, clubby setting and enhanced by an extensive wine list and accomplished service. 320 E. Second, 457-1500. www.flemingssteakhouse.com. \$\$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: STAR SEEDS CAFE This institu days, when hungry cosmic cowboys restored themselves at its booths. Breakfast selections galore. 3101 N. I-35, 478-7107. www.starseedscafe.com. \$

RAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: PROGRESS COFFEE Serves Fair Trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35. 500 San Marcos, 493-0963. www.progresscoffee.com. \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: QUACK'S
MAPLEWOOD BAKERY Find the same great pastry and sandwich offerings as the Hyde

Park location, as well as the addition of grilled sandwiches and pizzas. 1400 E. 381/2. 538-1991.

CAJUN/CREOLE: PAPPADEAUX SEAFOOD

KITCHEN Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled with a variety of side dishes. 6319 N. I-35, 452-9363. www.pappadeaux.com. \$\$\$

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

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

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: MAXINE'S SOUL KITCHEN Look for beef tips, chopped steak brisket, and other multiple-napkin treats that stick to the ribs, as well as the soul, 2931 E. 12th, 220-3650. \$

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

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

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA ARANDAS #1 Mexican breakfasts, sweet horchata, and the sunny red-and-white interior could whisk the fog out of anyone's morning brain. 3518 E. Seventh, 389-3834. \$

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA CHAPALA IALISCO This taqueria features cheap breakfast specials and lalisco-style barbacoa by the plate or pound. 2101 E. Cesar Chavez, 320-0308. \$\$

FINE DINING: THE EMERALD RESTAURANT

This cozy, candlelit cottage has been known for more than 20 years for voluptuous European meals with ample cuts of meat. fish, and fowl and a lengthy, expensive wine list to match.

13614 Hwy. 71 W., 263-2147. \$\$\$\$

TEX-MEX: FLORES MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Still offering delicious grilled items, afford able lunch specials, friendly service, and good margaritas. 1310 FM 620 S., 263-9546

www.floresmexican.com. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, TAKEOUT: JASPER'S GOURMET BACKYARD CUISINE This Dallas-area transplant offers big hospitality and big flavors. Try the Maytag blue cheese potato chips. 11506 Century Oaks Terrace #128, 834-4111. www.iaspers-restaurant.com/austin. \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: LIZ'S GRILL Located in the Harris Branch General Store, locals love the place for the homemade Mexican fare, but you can find barbecue and down-home specials, as well. 11003 Harris Branch Pkwy., 278-0558. \$

BARBECUE: COOPER'S PIT BAR-B-QUE The second generation of a Hill Country barbecue leg-end, Gary Cooper has been serving his family's style of barbecue in downtown Round Rock since 1985. 403 N. Mays, 255-5638. \$\$

CAFETERIA/BUFFET: DOT'S PLACE Lunchtime comforts such as beef tips and chicken-fried steak keep everybody coming back. For those of us who can't get away, Dot's is once again open for dinner on Thursdays and Fridays. 15803 Windermere, 252-9300. \$

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

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

MIDDLE EASTERN: BYBLOS FALAFEL & DELI Think authentic Lebanese comfort food (tabikh), enormous servings, inexpensive prices, and warm, friendly natives doing the cook ing. Everything here is fresh and handmade, and even the vegans get to stuff themselves 13000 N. I-35. Bldg. 12 #204. 490-1212. \$

VIETNAMESE: SUNFLOWER RESTAURANT Austin's go-to restaurant for traditional Vietnamese flavor. You'll find dishes here that you can't get at the competition. The shaking beef makes us quiver! 8557 Research #146, 339-7860. \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL

Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know But this spot at the fork in the road does other beef. 4206 Duval St., 458-3168. www.hvdeparkbarandgrill.com. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: WHICH WICH? This counter spot offers a practically limitless selec tion of customizable sandwiches designed specifically for takeout, though there is table space to dine in as well. **4700 Guadalupe #5**, 533-WICH www.whichwich.com \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: SAGO MODERN MEXICAN RESTAURANT Find a unique approach to both Tex-Mex and Interior Mexican cuisine with options such as achiote-grilled shrimp with avocado and pumpkin seeds, as well as a fantastic brunch. 4600 W. Guadalupe Ste. B-5, 452-0300.

CONTINUED ON P.38



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Frank & Angie's might just be the pie enthusiast's best bet; its great thin crust version is accompanied by reasonably priced, classic home-style dishes named after famous Italians and served with a bit of nostalgic attitude, making it great for a casual date especially those on a budget. - Zagat

Friendly staff and quick service are especially good given the volume of business this pizzeria does. What shines at Frank & Angie's is the pizza. The sauce is made daily, the crust is thin and crisp, toppings are fresh, and the cheese blend is delicious, a bit salty, and carmelized beautifully at the edges. Don't miss the cannoli for dessert. It's one of the best in town. - Fearless Critic

Beautifully baked, thin, chewy crust holds sauce and mozzarella cheese packing incredible flavor. Forks up. One of the "Standouts of Austin's Best Pizza." - Dale Rice, American Statesman

If you think pizza parlors should be low-key, colorful - and, of course, have great pizza - you've come to the right place. - Frommer's

Frank & Angie's is the closest you can get to Brooklyn in Austin. From great pizza and excellent pasta to the Sinatra memorabilia on the walls, this place is bellisimo! - *Insite Magazine*

In defiance of the Austin area's college-fueled pizza saturation, Frank & Angie's has fought its way to the top of the pack with its unique, New York-style pizza, ingredient-intensive calzones, and a general Brooklyn-esque atmosphere. - City Guides

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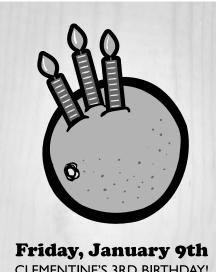
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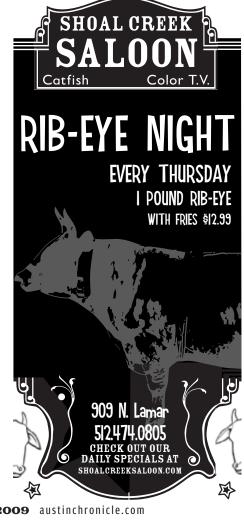
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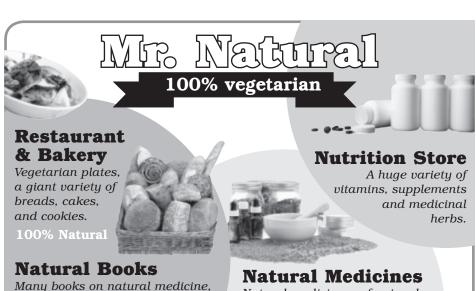
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screens

INTO THIN AIR AND BACK AFS Documentary Tour: 'Stranded'

The AFS Documentary Tour pres-

ents Stranded: I've Come From a

Plane That Crashed on the Mountains

on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7pm, at the

Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, Tickets

are \$4 for AFS members and \$6 for

the general public. For more informa-

tion, visit www.austinfilm.org.

Thirty-six years after the fact, most of us have at least some knowledge of the subject of Uruguayan filmmaker Gonzalo Arijón's doc Stranded: I've Come From a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains. The 1972 headline story of the disappearance into the Andes of a plane carrying the 45-member entourage of a Santiago-bound Uruguayan high school rugby team and the astounding rescue, 72 days later, of 16 survivors has been recounted in Piers Paul Read's 1974 best-

selling book, Alive, and in the 1993 film of the same name, starring Ethan Hawke. The memory-prompt here will probably always be that the 16 survivors of the crash achieved survivor status - well after the search for the plane had been abandoned - by consuming the flesh of those who had died in the accident.

Arijón, a boyhood friend of some of the survivors and a resident of Paris for the past 30 years, decided that on the auspicious 30th anniversary of the tragedy with a miraculous ending, an essential dimension of the story remained unexplored: the thoughtful, philosophical, and spiritual reminiscences of the survivors. Interviews with these men. now middle-aged, conducted at the scene of the crash, the Valley of Tears (sans snow), reveal both what they felt then

and how they feel 30 years later. We hear their first-person accounts of the trauma of the initial crash, followed by an avalanche that took the lives of still more of their group; their discovery of a functioning radio, which cruelly allowed them to follow the progress and subsequent abandonment of their own rescue by the authorities; and their many forays away from the crash site in failed attempts to be discovered. Particularly harrowing in an already harrowing ordeal was

that of their final rescue - thanks to the death-defying mission of two of the group, Nando Parrado and Roberto Canessa. Two months following the crash, these two, deemed the most fit of the group, were fed extra rations and deployed on an extended mission for help into the Andes – a last-ditch effort. Miraculously,

they managed to keep going for 10 days, walking 44 miles over 13,000-foot, snow-covered summits until they spotted a Chilean shepherd in a valley, across a torrential river, and were able to flag his attention. The shepherd threw the two men, whom he described later as "smelling of the grave," a piece of paper and a pen wrapped in a handkerchief. They identified themselves and immediately led a rescue team by helicopter to the others.



Stranded: I've Come From a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains

Arijón's film downplays the fact that the survivors had stayed alive by eating the flesh of the dead - a revelation that was sensational at the time it was made at a press conference shortly after the rescue. Instead, we learn from the mostly Catholic survivors that many of them continue to believe, as they did at the time, that this seemingly unthinkable taboo decision was akin to a form of Holy Communion. They remain convinced that their survival, when so many others perished, is as inexplicable as it was miraculous.

Stranded tells its story using interviews of the survivors supplemented by impressionistic and realistic re-enactments of the events leading up to the rescue three days before Christmas in 1972. There are only two actual photos used in the film. Although the re-creations are done quite well, it can be somewhat confusing – particularly with a subtitled film – to separate the real from the reimagined.

FUNNY FACE: CENTENNIAL COLLECTION Paramount, \$24.99

Adored for her style, her smile, and that lovely swan neck, Audrey Hepburn never received her fair due as an actress. But take a closer look at the still-spry Funny Face: Not once does she break character when Fred Astaire - at 58, fully 30 years her senior - pitches woo to her sunny, funny face. Hepburn co-starred with the greats of

Hollywood's golden age - Humphrey Bogart, Gary Cooper, Cary Grant - but she typically got at them when they were way past their prime. Grant purportedly found their age difference of 25 years so unseemly that he insisted Charade's script be revised to make her the pursuer, not him. Charade was the second collaboration between Hepburn and her Funny Face director, Stanley Donen, and 1967's marvelous Two for the Road, which cast Hepburn and a hale, hella sexy Albert Finney as warring husband and wife, was their last; in those three films, which spanned a decade, one could chart the maturation of Hepburn the actress from wide-eyed innocent into something finally, fully adult. In Funny Face - only her fourth Hollywood role - she's all gamine, the bookish Jo Stockton who dreams of philosopher revolutionaries and Paris salons. To get that ticket to Paris, she has to sell her soul, at least a little bit (ah, but Astaire

did have a devilish grin); after railing against Quality Magazine's high-fashion frippery, she concedes to a supermodel makeover, knowing full well where the catwalk is situated ("Bonjours, Paris!"). Astaire plays the Richard Avedon-like photographer who discovers her, then remolds her – shades of *Pygmalion* seven years before Hepburn tackled My Fair Lady with Rex Harrison (another leather face). This time, nobody's overdubbing Hepburn, and her sweet, featherlight take on the Gershwin songbook? S'wonderful.



- Kimberley Jones

ALSO OUT NOW ...

Breakfast at Tiffany's: Centennial Collection (Paramount, \$24.99):

It made hash of Truman Capote's source novella - the cynic knows Holly Golightly never had a happy ending in her future, at least not with that milquetoast writer - but it gave Hepburn the chance to show tougher stuff.

BEING BAD NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

APL tackles some Tough Guys and Feisty Femmes

Jan. 12: It Happened One Night (1934)

Jan. 26: Double Indemnity (1944)

Feb. 9: Bringing Up Baby (1938)

Feb. 23: The Big Sleep (1946)

March 9: Ball of Fire (1941)

March 23: White Heat (1949)

April 13: The Philadelphia Story (1940)

April 27: Key Largo (1948)



In addition to motormouths moving faster than the speed of sound, the film noirs and screwball comedies of the Forties had something else in common:

bad behavior. There was drinking and brawling and betting on horses, women on the lam and men chasing after - with a ring or a tommy gun, depending on the genre. Also depending on the genre: whether or not that bad behavior went unpunished. For all their shenanigans, the men and women of the screw-

balls wound up wedded in the end; if they pulled the same stunts in a film noir, they were more or less bound to be plugged full of lead.

The Austin Public Library's Hampton Branch at Oak Hill will host a twice-monthly series through April that skips between the screwballs and the noirs, with a lot of the same names and faces

skipping between programs. Shape-shifter Howard Hawks directed three films in the series (The Big Sleep, Bringing Up Baby, and Ball of Fire). Before there was Kevin Bacon, Hawks surely could have been a fine substitute for six degrees; almost every iconic face in the series - Cary Grant, Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall - worked with him at some time or another. Edward G. Robinson starred in Barbary Coast for him, and he pops up twice in the APL series (albeit for different directors). Chewing a cigar and splashing in bathwater, Robinson thankfully doesn't get up for his introduction as exiled mobster Johnny Rocco in John Huston's Key Largo; he's far more avuncular and less keen for killing in Billy Wilder's Double Indemnity. That's the same Billy Wilder who co-scripted Ball of Fire. which starred the incomparable Barbara Stanwyck,

three years before she was a bad-news blonde in Double Indemnity. In Ball of Fire, she plays Sugarpuss O'Shea, a jive-talking nightclub singer who hides out with a group of unsuspecting academics, led by Gary Cooper. About Sugarpuss, Cooper's stodgy housewife sniffs, "She's the kind of

woman who makes whole civilizations topple." That may very well be, but it's a hell of a fun fall to watch. - Kimberley Jones

The APL film series runs second and fourth Mondays at 6pm at the Austin Public Library's Hampton Branch at Oak Hill (5125 Convict Hill Rd.). Admission is free. For more info, visit www.cityofaustin.org/library.

The Obsessive

AFS Essential Cinema presents the early films of Brian De Palma

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

It's been 40 years since cinematic enfant terrible, postmodern jokester, and aspiring "American Godard" Brian De Palma appeared on the American film scene. And while that time has seen the deification of most of his New Hollywood rebel buddies from the early Seventies, such as Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola, De Palma has remained mostly outside of the mainstream, an avant-gardist who – despite the occasional big-studio hit in the Eighties and Nineties (*The Untouchables*, *Mission: Impossible, Scarface*), not to mention the occasional legendary flop (*The Bonfire of the Vanities*) – has spent the better part of his career with one foot planted firmly in the arthouse.

In 2007, De Palma released his 36th film, the Iraq war drama Redacted, and was awarded the Silver Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival. The critical success of that film aside, it's still De Palma's early movies, those from the late Sixties and the Seventies, that will ensure his legacy when he's gone, that show just how revolutionary the man once was as a filmmaker and how rebellious he still can be, especially when placed alongside his more successful, more socially acceptable contemporaries. (Quick: The Departed or The Black Dahlia - which is more likely to show up in your parents' DVD collection, and which is more likely to already be forgotten?) Like some precocious teenager grown old but not up, De Palma still delights in popping balloons, a scattergun ironist who's just as interested in upending the expectations of moviegoers as he was 40 years ago.

Starting this Tuesday, the Austin Film Society is presenting First Blood: The Early Films of Brian De Palma as part of its ongoing Essential Cinema Series. The program includes De Palma's first released feature, *Murder à la Mod*, released in 1968; campy cult-classic *Phantom of the Paradise*; and his 1976 breakout hit, *Carrie*, which momentarily launched the director into that rarefied land then being colonized by Lucas and Spielberg before he vanished happily again into the absurdist, Kirk Douglasstarring haze of *The Fury*.

De Palma's signature fascination with the conventions and techniques of filmmaking, and his irrepressible desire to exploit those conventions and techniques and then turn them on their heads, can be seen all over the AFS program. First and foremost, De Palma was and is a film fan, a great lover of the French New Wave

(particularly Godard, with his handheld self-awareness and ironic appreciation of film's pervasive cultural influence) and Alfred Hitchcock (a constant experimenter who wasn't afraid to show the gears grinding behind the scenes of a movie as a way to blur the line between reality and fantasy) who wears his infatuation with film way out on his sleeve for everyone to see. Not for Mr. De Palma the way of the seamlessly imagined immersive reality.

Take series opener Murder à la Mod, the story of a naive woman who falls in love with a moody experimental filmmaker/photographer and finds herself dragged into a world of sexual deviance and murder. The film begins with a series of screen tests, young women auditioning for a movie in which one will play a young woman who's been asked by an experimental filmmaker/photographer to pose nude. The young women auditioning are no more comfortable taking their clothes off on camera than the young woman who they're auditioning to play, and so the first 10 minutes of the film play like a kind of postmodern loop, with the intentions and identities of everyone involved open to interpretation. Are the women merely acting shy to get a role as a woman acting shy, or are they actually too shy to do what they need to do get that role? And who exactly is the man prodding them from behind the camera - is he the experimental director, an actor playing an experimental director, or De Palma himself? Whatever the answers, all the resulting confusion and skepticism leave audiences unsure as to how to react when one of those actresses is (apparently) murdered on set, which is exactly how De Palma wants them.

This manipulation of audience expectation would become a De Palma trademark, the signature of a born prankster taking a step past his heroes by never letting his audience forget it was watching a movie.

It's this devilish reveling in the mechanics of filmmaking that series curator and filmmaker Bryan Poyser says makes De Palma's films so "compulsively watchable, no matter how ridiculous some of them might be. Especially the early movies we're screening, they're all so funny and subversive and playful. De Palma's films can be read as satires of the movies themselves, a big joke that you have to be in on but that, once you are, you can't stop appreciating. He would play around with everything

– genres, techniques, even the forms of film-making itself." If Hitchcock was unafraid to show the scaffolding behind the "building" of a movie and if Godard was unafraid to make cultural awareness of the movies part of his movies, then credit De Palma with having no fear when it came to blowing up the whole notion of a movie as a self-contained, organic, unconstructed world unto itself that audiences could simply live in for a few hours.

Of course, the number of critics and movie fans who laud De Palma's fearlessness is considerably smaller than those who see his tinkering and irony as so much stylized posturing and bloody, sexualized exploitation. Which probably goes a long way toward explaining why he's spent most of his career on the far edges of industry acceptance.

Which, serendipitously, is the turf he thrives on. Because, as gaudy and entertaining as Scarface is, as brilliant as Sean Connery is in The Untouchables, as much as Mission: Impossible reinvigorated the red-fear tropes of the 1960s and made them palatable to a post-Cold War, explosion-mad, Tom Cruise kind of a world, nothing De Palma has done since getting an invitation to Hollywood compares with the audacity and subversiveness of early no-budget camp classics such as Phantom of the Paradise, a gory, goofy, ridiculous rock & roll update on The Phantom of the Opera that advertised itself as "the Most Highly Acclaimed Horror Fantasy of Our Time" but could probably be more accurately described as the once-and-forall perfect blending of the nouvelle vague, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, go-go rock sexploitation fantasies, slasher films, and biting cultural satire. Or take Hi, Mom!, in which a Vietnam veteran (played by Robert De Niro) attempts to break into the porn business but gets sidetracked by a radical all-black theatre troupe that terrorizes its white Upper West Side audiences, forcing them into blackface and torturing them with a taste of what life is like on the losing end of the American racial spectrum. Violent, exploitive, unconventional, disrespectful, and deeply contrarian, these early De Palma films weren't just made to get filmgoers to question their lives and their society and their politics; plenty of filmmakers in the early Seventies were doing that. Instead, they forced audiences to question the very way they viewed movies and what they expected from them. They demanded



The Early Films of Brian De Palma

Jan. 13: Murder à la Mod (Austin Studios)*

Jan. 17: Greetings (Austin Studios)*

Jan. 20: Hi, Mom! (Alamo)

Jan. 24: Dionysus in 69 (Austin Studios)*

Jan. 27: Sisters (Alamo)

Feb. 3: Phantom of the Paradise (Alamo)

Feb. 10: Carrie (Alamo)

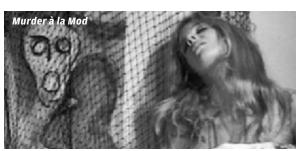
audiences be aware of the effect movies could have on them and doubt everything they'd been shown and would be shown. In De Palma's hands, filmgoers could never trust the movies to supply them with the information they needed or the lessons they craved.

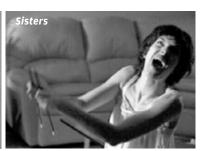
Says Bryan Poyser: "Hi, Mom! is a perfect demonstration of De Palma's approach to filmmaking. Those scenes with the radical theatre group are really disturbing and hard to get through. De Palma shoots them like a documentary, and after a while, you start to wonder if you're watching something that actually exists. But he demands a lot from his audiences. He wants us to be as uncomfortable with the situation as the audience members of the play who are being humiliated and tortured. It's an immersive emotional experience.

"The amazing thing about that sequence is that when the play is over, when all those white people are set free again, they come out of the theatre saying, 'That was so much fun, so fascinating.' So not only do you as the audience feel like you've been raked over the coals along with those theatregoers, but then they turn around and make you feel like the joke's been played on you. Like you were the subject of the experiment all along."

Call him De Palma the Mad Scientist, playing with his audiences, confounding their assumptions, preying on their trust ... and laughing all the while.

AFS Essential Cinema presents First Blood: The Early Films of Brian De Palma on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 7pm at Austin Studios Screening Room (1901 E. 51st) and the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar (1120 S. Lamar). (* indicates additional shows at 9pm.) Admission is free for AFS members and \$4 for the general public. Advanced tickets encouraged for the Austin Studios screenings. For more info, see www.austinfilm.org.







All That Glitters

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

The Golden Globe Awards are right around the corner, signaling the start of award season. While the Globes are focused on the big screen, the **Hollywood Foreign Press Association** (the group which hands out the Globes) offers nods to TV as well, with some interesting choices.

Nominated for Television Series – Drama: *Dexter* (Showtime), *House* (FOX), *In Treatment* (HBO), *Mad Men* (AMC), *True Blood* (HBO). I just don't get it. *House*? Really? Everything else makes sense to me, but *Mad Men* should be the winner. Beautifully shot, skillfully acted, riveting storytelling: It's simply the best of the rest.

Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy: **30 Rock** (NBC), *Californication* (Showtime), *Entourage* (HBO), *The Office* (NBC), *Weeds* (Showtime). When it comes to laugh-outloud funny, *The Office* gets my vote.

Best actress in a drama: Sally Field (Brothers & Sisters), Mariska Hargitay (Law & Order), January Jones (Mad Men), Anna Paquin (True Blood), Kyra Sedgwick (The Closer). What a strange assortment here. On one end you have Field as the mother hen over a brood of adult children and Hargitay as the lone female cop in the boys club. Solid but not heart-stopping performances. Sedgwick is always appealing, even when the material does not match her performance, and it's the supporting cast of True Blood that was worth watching. Overall, it's Jones who should take the Globe home. She earned it for her eating-chicken-after-a-onenight-stand scene alone. But of course, anyone who has watched Mad Men knows that is only one

Best actor in a drama: Gabriel
Byrne (In Treatment), Michael C.
Hall (Dexter), Jon Hamm (Mad
Men), Hugh Laurie (House), Jonathan
Rhys Meyers (The Tudors). Again, I ask
you: House? Surely, Michael Chiklis from The
Shield would have been a better choice. All the
other nominees are deserving, but you guessed
it – I'm choosing Hamm.

of many amazing scenes.

Best actress in a musical or comedy: Christina Applegate (Samantha Who?), America Ferrera (Ugly Betty), Tina Fey (30 Rock), Debra Messing (The Starter Wife), Mary-Louise Parker (Weeds). Applegate has grown on me after a few more viewings, but I have to say, the real performer in Samantha Who? is the versatile Jean Smart (who won an Emmy for her supporting role earlier this year). Smart's performance is so effortless it makes Applegate look like she's working too hard. The same could be said of Messing. For true acting chops, it's Parker who stands above them all. I still love 30 Rock's Fey, but Parker is better.

Best actor in a musical or comedy: **Alec Baldwin** (30 Rock), **Steve Carell** (*The Office*), **Kevin Connolly** (Entourage), **David**



Duchovny (*Californication*), **Tony Shalhoub** (*Monk*). The real competitors in the pack are Baldwin and Carell. While I think Baldwin is brilliant, I think I would give the nod to Carell, whose nuanced performance made you laugh and cry – sometimes in the same episode.

The nominations in the Best Performance in a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television can be best described as wonky. Collapsing formats and genres together, it's like compar-

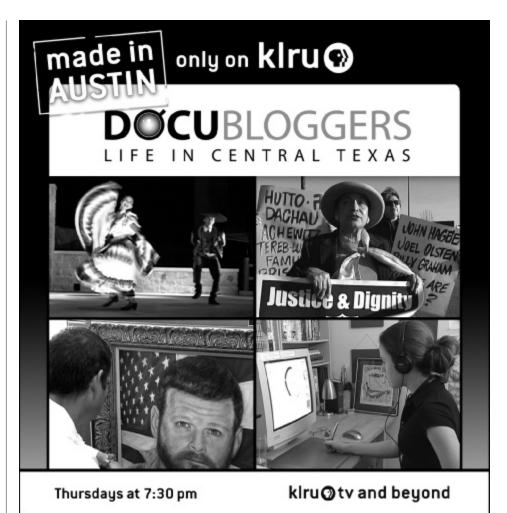
ing apples to oranges. The nominated actresses include: Eileen Atkins (Cranford), Laura Dern (Recount), Melissa George (In Treatment), Rachel Griffiths (Brothers & Sisters), Dianne Wiest (In Treatment). It gets even wonkier with the nominated actors: Neil Patrick Harris ow I Met Your Mother) Denis Leave

(How I Met Your Mother), Denis Leary (Recount), Jeremy Piven (Entourage), Blair Underwood (In Treatment), Tom Wilkinson (John Adams). Wiest and Griffiths have the uncanny ability to make reading the phone book sound thrilling. But I vote for Dern, who managed to keep her performance of Katherine Harris (the former Florida secretary of state who gained prominence in the 2000 presidential election) this side of clownish. As for the men, Harris, Piven, and Leary in the same category with Wilkinson? Overall, I would go with Underwood only because Wilkinson has another nomination in another category for his role as James Baker in Recount, which he should win, hands down.

The complete list of nominees can be found at **www.goldenglobes.org**. The 66th annual Golden Globes ceremony will be telecast live Sunday, Jan. 11, at 7pm on NBC. As always, stay tuned.

Tis always, stay turied.

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











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MUSIC

H.H. THE RECORD MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

The Best Things in Life Are Free

Economically speaking, competition always benefits the consumer, and the Fuckemos' theme song broadcast from the Mohawk PA on Friday provided all the context necessary for the 2009 installment of Free Week. For the first time, local promotion enterprise **Transmission Entertainment** adapted the concept - originally conceived by Transmission principal and former Emo's booker Graham Williams to include its chain of venues. Club de Ville. Red 7. and Mohawk. Red River anchor Emo's, in turn, is finding its big stage brimming as always, due in part to the venue's success at reconfiguring the downstairs area into a more intimate space by having acts perform on the floor. As such. Free Week has evolved into the Austin equivalent of MySpace, a vast social network that allows patrons to sample a seemingly unlimit-

ed amount of free local music and where compensation for participating acts – many of whom are playing gigs for both factions – comes only in the form of exposure. For OTR, the first half of Free Week held an embarrassment of riches. Scope Music Listings, p.74, and Club Listings, p.78, for a glimpse of what's still to come.

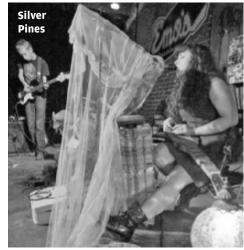
FRIDAY

The cover at Hole in the Wall rarely extends beyond the tip jar, and after some serious technical difficulties setting up, the stage-shy San Saba County gradually knocked the rust off its tightly wound third LP, ... Though Cheating Was Never an Option, with alt.country gems "The Devil & Marie" and "Winter Solstice." On the other side of town, the capacity crowd yabbering inside Emo's front room tried but couldn't dim the ghostly psych-folk of San Marcos' Silver Pines, led by vocalist and slide guitarist Stefanie Franciotti. Taking a cue from Ghostland **Observatory**, the **Lemurs** rigged their own lighting, but the local dance rockers still need new material to rave up to the next level. Pataphysics' bastardized glitch pop, on the other hand, may be an acquired taste, but frontman Pat Healy had the crowd eating out of his hand, like an infomercial pitchman with Lucas Candy.

SATURDAY

Previewing material from their forthcoming LP, Underneath the Owl, returning Free Week champs the Riverboat Gamblers drew a crowd that wrapped around Mohawk as elastic frontman Mike Wiebe incited a stage-crashing mob scene not seen since Iggy Pop & the Stooges (R.I.P. Ron Asheton) ransacked South by Southwest 07. (Gambler side projects Ghost Knife and Broken Gold crash Emo's on Thursday.) The real catch actually turned out to be opener Harlem. The Tucson, Ariz., transplants have quickly become beacons of Beerland's garage punk scene and rattled out gritty, scavenger tales of restless youth. The trio's destined for greatness if only it manages to keep from falling apart. Across Red River at Stubb's, also free, Balmorhea scored poignant







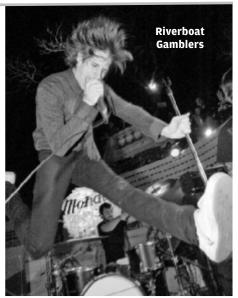
instrumentals with patient perfectionism, a stark contrast to the wayfaring strangeness and crooked folklore of **Precious Blood**.

SUNDAY

The outside bill at Emo's should've been a hoot night tribute to the Jesus & Mary Chain. Precocious trio Woven Bones mined Darklands, looping thick 13th Floor Elevator grooves over standing, tribal percussion. Opener the Astronaut Suit orbited more toward the realm of cosmic country, with an alternative streak that hinted at early Stone Temple Pilots, while the Tunnels siphoned 1960s psych-pop to little effect, but only the Black Angels' Christian Bland got completely lost in space, transmitting mere reverberations. Inside revealed a case of multiple personality disorder, with **Prayer for Animals** and Haunting Oboe Music skittering down parallel trails of dead, the former adding a healthy dose of heavy blues for good measure.

MONDAY

Kicking off a weekly residency at **Red Eyed Fly**, the raucous Southern grit of **Pure Luck**sounded like **Skynyrd** on the skids, with no
less than four guitarists and two drummers,
equaling the size of the audience. Part-time **Butthole Surfer Jeff Pinkus** swapped drinking songs with **Robert Allan Caldwell** and
thumbed his electric guitar as if he were trying
to make Dixie whistle. The crowd picked up at
Emo's substantially after the **Fiesta Bowl**,







though the newly minted **Courses & Angles** proved the runt of the litter, and the meandering indie pop of **Masonic** recalled **Paramore**, aged and seasoned by a decade or so. **Frank Smith**, who visits Mohawk on Saturday, delivered a heavy reckoning of gothic Americana, revealing an underlying darkness that would bode well at the **Continental Club**.

TUESDAY

Red 7 may be undergoing some aesthetic renovations, but little else has changed about the hardcore pit. Arclight Records' newest signee, Pack of Wolves, set fire to a few psalms from **Lamb of God**'s New American Gospel, adding a slightly Texas twist to breakdown-heavy metalcore that showed teeth on instrumental closer, "The Death of My Old Self." The Roller, meanwhile, kneeled at the altar of Sabbath, cutting bottom-feeder stoner-metal grooves that could potentially dig as deep as the **Sword** were it not for the monolithic. Neanderthal vocals. "Are you ready for the heaviest funk-rock showcase of the century?" beckoned headliner Scorpion Child at the start of its set. Apparently not. Scorpion Child is to Led **Zeppelin** what the **Darkness** was to **Queen**, an unintentionally ironic and entertaining knockoff, good for a laugh and probably some blow.

Random Play

Tuesday at **Antone's** proved especially blue as **Derek O'Brien**, **Chris Layton**, **David Grissom**, and **Tommy Shannon**, among others, provided a six-string send-off for **Storyville's Malford Milligan**. The powerhouse vocalist is relocating to Milwaukee, where he'll continue backing guitarist **Greg Koch** in **Nation Sack**, whose new self-titled album is due this spring. "I'm going to miss all the people in Austin, but I got to shake it up a bit," says Milligan. "I don't want to be a bandleader anymore. I just want to work for somebody."

The Austin Songwriters Group hosts its fifth annual ASG Songwriter Symposium this weekend, Jan. 9-11, at the **Hilton Garden Inn** (500 N. I-35), bringing together publishers, recording engineers, and wordsmiths such as **Jimmy LaFave** and **Gurf Morlix** in showcases and seminars. www.austinsongwritersgroup.com.

Local drummer and producer **Eldridge Goins** recently underwent the successful removal of a tumor from his chest. A few of Goins' many collaborators — **Carolyn Wonderland, Guy Forsyth, Suzanna Choffel,** and **Drew Smith's Lonely Choir** — host a benefit at Antone's this Sunday, Jan. 11, to help offset his mounting medical bills.

It's time for OTR to invest in a TiVo. Bluesman **Pinetop Perkins** cropped up in prime time on CBS Dec. 30 for the 31st annual **Kennedy Center Honors** in Washington, D.C., performing with an old-school Chicago band that featured **Koko Taylor**, **Willie "Big Eyes" Smith**, **Bob Stroger**, and **Little Frank**. Black Sheep Boys **Okkervil River** charted "Lost Coastlines" last night (Wednesday, Jan. 7) on *The Late Show With David Letterman*.

The Sword's slice of Metallica

BY TRIVETT WINGO

Okay, so a short preamble to give you some idea of what you may or may not find here.

To start with, I should say it's somewhat out of character for the Sword - myself, J.D. Cronise, Bryan Richie, and Kyle Shutt - to do a "dear diary" piece of our three-month tour with Metallica (James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Kirk Hammett, and Robert Trujillo). Well, don't get too excited. Out of necessity, I have of course omitted all the juiciest parts, not so much with the intention of concealing our own evil deeds, but for the benefit of all involved. I never know what anyone intends for me to repeat or recount, and I err on the side of discretion.

So if you find these scanty notes to be lacking in the way of certain colorful elements or anecdotes you might expect me to relay, it's not because all the things you imagine aren't true. It's a matter of regard for the company I/we keep, and I don't want to lay bare all that I see or that people tell me, because to us there are no rock stars. Just demystified personages with all their talents and weaknesses trying not to go insane living on a bus or out of hockeyarena locker rooms. That said ...

reg ove: Oct. 21-Nov. 23

DAY ODE: Oct. 21

We all hop into our Ferraris, set the cruise control for 180, and tear ass off into the desert. Before we know it, we're at the first show. My Ferrari is red. J.D.'s is black. Bryan's is green. And Kyle's is the first ever Ferrari pickup truck! Then, we play a show for a measly 50,000 people. Tomorrow will be better.

Now, the reality:

DAY ODE: Oct. 21: Johing Arena. Glendale. Ariz.

Okay then, we're playing "in the round." The stage is a big rectangle that sits in the middle of the arena such that seats are sold in a full 360. I am stuck in one place. (I don't have a revolving drum riser like Lars.) But the dudes are now using wireless units so they can rock out and entertain in complete panoramic mode. This will require a lot of getting used to. I'm accustomed to being able to at least see my bandmates at any given time. Now, they might all be on the other side of the stage, and it's just me rocking one-half of the arena while the dudes are rocking the other half. Oh, hey there's Bryan. What's up dude? There he goes. Later, man. This shit is weird.



"Lars, Heffield, and Trujillo came to our show tonight. We played a really good one. It's crazy to think about 'Tallica on their night off wanting to come see a band they already play with every day. Lars keeps telling me that I am his hero, whatever that means."

Oct. 23: Tingley Coliseum, Albuquerque, D.M.

Let's see ... at sound check I got to jam with Hetfield for a minute before he actually got on my drums and started laying down the beats with Pepper Keenan. That dude's actually a pretty good drummer.

I don't know if anyone's heard this crazy story about Phil Anselmo of Down, also on the bill, slapping the glasses off my face once in Turkey. It's true. It was a strange incident with no real explanation. Short background: Dude went bonkers, came to our dressing room, put his arm around me like he was giving me a hug, mumbled something, and then totally unexpectedly slapped the glasses right off my face while yelling something about me needing to know my place and respect him. Total vulgar display of power! He was promptly hauled off, and Down was almost kicked off the U.S. tour.

Anyway, today Phil came up onstage during sound check, shook my hand, looked me in the eye, and gave me one of the most sincere apologies I've ever received from anyone. Phil's actually a good guy. He just has some shit going on that he has a hard time dealing with. Don't we all. Later, Phil and I had a peace-pipe ceremony. Everything's cool now.

Also, it was Robert Trujillo's birthday today, and Kyle and I threw pies at him onstage at the end of "Seek and Destroy."

Oct. 25/26: Kansas City, Kan./ Des Moines. Iowa

All arenas are basically the same. It's frankly confusing. Concrete corridors. Locker rooms. Twelve thousand to 17,000 seats. You see one, you've seen 'em all.

Oct. 28: Dutty's Dorth, Sioux Falls, S.D.

A Sword show on a 'Tallica off night. The place has a sign out front that says, "Where all the nuts hang out." It's next to Missile Lube and Dick's Vacuum.

The men's and women's bathrooms are respectively designated "nuts" and "no nuts," and our dressing room is actually a bathroom with a table and two chairs in it. South Dakota!

Day Off - halloween: Seattle. Wash.

Saw Torche today in one of their last ever performances with Juan Montoya. Rick dressed up as G.G. Allin, and Steve went for Dog the Bounty Hunter. Hands down, best costumes I saw all day.

Nov. 4: Pepsi Center. Denver, Colo.

I made a really realistic-looking fake turd out of a "chocolate brownie" Clif Bar. I put it in the refrigerator in our greenroom, and hilarity ensued. The hospitality girls came in, and one of them, upon the seeing the "turd" through the clear glass front of the illuminated minifridge, actually said: "Oh my God! Tell me that's not a piece of shit!"

Look, I was bored okay?!

Dov. 6: Owest Center. Omaha. Deb.

Played a total blinder, then Lars invited us to hop aboard the 'Tallica jet and pop up to Chicago for cocktails. That's what we did. Met Anthrax. Nice dudes.

CONTINUED ON P.48





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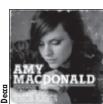
ISOBEL CAMPBELL & MARK LANEGAN Sunday at Devil Dirt

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Everything That Happens Will Happen Today "Everything recalls the three Talking Heads records that Eno produced, played on and/or wrote. Eno was essentially a band member, bringing a darker, more layered and atmospheric sound to the group.

- Rolling Stone \$13.99 CD

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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

Nov. 7: Bottom Lounge, Chicago

Lars, Hetfield, and Trujillo came to our show tonight. We played a really good one. It's crazy to think about 'Tallica on their night off wanting to come see a band they already play with every day. Lars keeps telling me that I am his hero, whatever that means. We went to a bar later where he put "Freya" from our first album on the jukebox and declared it the quintessential metal song. True or not, this is all really flattering.

Nov. 16: The Mad Hatter, Covington, Ky.

Today was the beginning of the end for our bus driver. To start with, the guy was kind of a dick from day one, but today, instead of checking in at his hotel in the afternoon, he decided to get blackout drunk and come back to the bus where he proceeded to go full-on Laurel and Hardy by stepping backward into a small wastebasket that he couldn't get off of his foot. He insisted that it was 4am when it was actually 4pm. What's more, he thought it was time to leave for the next city, didn't know where we had been the previous day, called us a bunch of wannabe rock stars, and then whipped out his dick and pissed on the side of the bus while waiting for a cab that we had to call for him because he couldn't figure out how to use his phone! What a turd! Later, dude. You're fired!

Nov. 18: Bok Center, Tulsa, Okla.

Everyone gets their piece of the pie. Tonight was Kirk's birthday so ... you guessed it. Kyle (among others) got to pie him onstage. There was also a lot of Silly String involved. I'm amazed at what good sports these guys are.

Nov. 20: Toyota Center, Houston

For us, I guess this was as close to a hometown show as it gets. You always want to really destroy on your home turf. I think tonight we played a set that reminded everyone what nutz are for.

Nov. 22: Alltel Arena, Little Rock, Ark.

When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth came to our show. Nice chaps, and of course always a pleasure to see Brandon Crowe, one of my personal favorite drummers.

Nov. 23: New Orleans Arena, New Orleans

Instead of slapping me in the face at the end of this run, Anselmo gave me a big hug! I guess this is the happy ending to the first part of this faerie tale.

LEG TUO: Dec. 1-20

Dec. 1: Ken Arena, Seattle

Freshly rested and our blade honed, the Sword gave it to Seattle *raw* tonight! Hopefully, it won't get pregnant, though I doubt Seattle would mind having our baby. It loves us and wants us to stay.

Dec. 2: General Motors Place, Vancouver, British Columbia

Vancouver is the fucking best! They love metal. They love the Sword. They wear insane amounts of denim. And everybody headbangs! Also, you can smoke weed anywhere. They don't give a *shit!* Not to mention the generous portions of cheap top-grade sushi that you trip over if you take two steps in any direction. I'm moving here.



Dec. 4-7: The rest of Western and Central Canada is boring and cold.

Okay, hold on. Here's an ambiguous aside: If you're a millionaire, you can go to restaurants or bars and just have them close the place for you so you can have it to yourself. Then you can do whatever the fuck you want!!! Whatever you want. Does anyone know how to get rid of a dead hooker? Just kidding.

Okay, one more. Night one of Calgary: Chris Adler of Lamb of God goes out for drinks with Ulrich. He's totally starstruck and, out of the nervousness that can result from suddenly finding yourself in the casual company of one of your idols, proceeds to guzzle Champagne in quantities that lead to Bryan Richie literally walking him around like a zombie, pulling him out of the street, and keeping him from getting hit by cars. At some point in this evening, there took place a now legendary wrestling match between Lars and Chris.



"The punch line to this story is that one extremely hung over Chris Adler threw up in his own mouth during Lamb of God's set the next night. Little do I know, the check is in the mail for me."

I wish I had a picture of that. The punch line to this story is that one extremely hung over Chris Adler threw up in his own mouth during Lamb of God's set the next night. Little do I know, the check is in the mail for me.

Dec. 17/18: The Forum, Los Angeles

Night One: So the night before, Lars had been sending me these text messages about wanting to party. I guess I got excited, because before the show had even ended, I had consumed at least half a bottle of Jägermeister on my own. I got kind of belligerent and was somewhat rude to a guy I later learned was Jon Theodore of the Mars Volta (a drummer that totally blows my mind). At some point, I was with Lars, Dave Grohl, Jon, and I can't remember who else when Lars says: "OK, the top five drummers are here! I'm number one; Trivett, you're number two; three [points to Grohl]; four [Theodore]; and five ..." I don't remember who that last one was as I was beginning to black out at this point.

I tell Dave about my Nirvana cover band, In Dudero, to which he chuckles and replies, "Who are you again?" Next thing I know, we're on Dave Grohl's "Grohler Coaster," a limousine bus that he rents to take people out on the town partying. We're headed to some bar called Red Rocks, but before we get there, all the Jäger kicks in (not to mention the scotch, the beers, and whatever else), and I start spinning. We pull up to the place, and I start barfing immediately and pass out on the floor of the bar. Real classy. Apparently, at some point I'm lying on Dave's lap, and he's babysitting me. I must have been really pathetic.

Eventually I ended up back at Lars' hotel, where I actually threw up in my cupped hands while we were checking in. Woke up totally confused and took a cab back to the Forum, spewing out of the cab on the way there.

After our set, Lars drops by our dressing room to check on me and fill in the blanks a little bit. Apparently, right before I went nonverbal, I was drinking a mixture of Jägermeister and Champagne, which I spilled all over my pants as I became totally incoherent. So the moral of the story is: Don't mix Jägermeister and Champagne, especially if you get nauseous on Grohler Coasters.

Night Two: J.D. is losing his voice due to an infection, so we play a largely instrumental set, and it actually turns out well. It's taken a little persuading, but Lars is now intent on playing with the Sword. Supposedly he's going to get onstage later in the tour (next leg) and play "Freya."

Dec. 20: Oracle Arena, Oahland, Calif.

Fuck yeah! Our buddies from Saviours and Black Cobra are in town and come to the show. This is our favorite thing, to catch up with our raddest duders. We played an okay show and then, as Lars' b-day is just a few days away and this is the last night of the tour for a while, at Hetfield's behest, Kyle and I attempt to pie Lars onstage (at the end of "Seek and Destroy," of course). Man, that dude can *run*! (He actually runs several miles a day.) Seeing everyone coming, he sprinted, jumped off the stage (which is pretty high), and managed to dodge pies for a minute or two hiding down between the barricades. Eventually we caught him.

ECHRONICE OF AUSTIC POLL BALLOT

AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:	LATIN CONTEMPORARY:
AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:	WORLD MUSIC:
AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:	COVER BAND:
AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:	TEEN/U18/KID BAND:
BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:	NONE OF THE ABOVE:
Best Performing Bands	Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)
ROCK:	FEMALE VOCALS:
PUNK:	MALE VOCALS:
METAL:	ELECTRIC GUITAR:
INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:	ACOUSTIC GUITAR:
DJ:	BASS:
INDIE:	DRUMS/PERCUSSION:
JAZZ:	KEYBOARDS:
BLUES:	MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:
HIP-HOP:	SONGWRITER:
INSTRUMENTAL:	PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, ALBUM TITLE):
EXPERIMENTAL:	Related Categories
COUNTRY:	NEW CLUB:
BLUEGRASS:	LIVE MUSIC VENUE:
ROOTS ROCK:	ACOUSTIC VENUE:
FOLK:	ALL-AGES VENUE:
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After 28 years, you know the drill: This is your chance to duct-tape the critics' mouths shut and speak up about Austin music. Not sure whom to vote for? Turn on the radio, drop by the local record store, or head to the clubs. Your favorite band is probably playing.

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

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

Sixteen Deluxe Jo Carol Pierce
The Cherubs True Believers
The Dicks Matthew Robinson
Hosea Hargrove Watchtower
Carolyn Hester Dale Watson
Pariah Danny Roy Young
Kelly Willis

OTHER NOMINEE*

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

Required Information

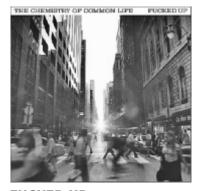
NAME			
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	
ZIP			
AGE	PHONE		

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

Please mail to: Music Poll

The Austin Chronicle PO Box 49066 Austin, TX 78765

[•] Entries must be postmarked by **FRIDAY, JAN. 30, 2009.** • You can vote either by this mail-in ballot or on the Web at **austinchronicle.com/musicpoll.** • Ballot must be mailed in; no hand deliveries accepted. • Absolutely no more than one ballot to an envelope. • Photocopied ballots will not be accepted. • Ballot-stuffing may be punishable by public ridicule or a week in the stocks.



FUCKED UP The Chemistry of Common Life (Matador)

It takes stainless-steel balls to open a hardcore album with a flute solo. but that's exactly what sets Torontoan sixpiece Fucked Up apart from a billion others. This is third wave hardcore. and it's a return to form, where commentary rules and violence and ignorance won't be tolerated. Opening with mouthpiece Pink Eyes' explosive "Son the Father" ("It's hard enough being born in the first place; who would ever want to be born again?") set atop a wall of guitars, Fucked Up's second proper LP mingles aggression with experimentalism. (Are those bongos on "Magic Word"?) "Golden Seal" lowers temperatures toward Icelandic pop, and "No Epiphany," despite Guinea Beat's throttling snare, gazes at its footwear while emitting a guttural growl. "The Peaceable Kingdom" (vinyl/iTunes only), "Black Albino Bones," and the furious "Twice Born" all burn hot and heavy, yet for every screeching power chord there's a "Royal Swan," five minutes of organ tinker giving way to psychedelia, or "Looking for God," a slow, steady guitar instrumental accented by stringlike effects. The killer title track closes The Chemistry of Common Life by bringing it full circle. Fucked Up remains a mystery, a band shrouded in pseudonyms and rumor, untouched by expectations, and writing its own rules. That's hardcore. (Fucked Up schools Emo's Saturday, Jan. 31.)

CEDRIC BURNSIDE & LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM

2 Man Wrecking Crew (Delta Groove Music)

Under the tutelage of grandfather R.L. Burnside



Crew proves there's no sense messing with a good thing. (Burnside & Malcolm headline the Continental Club Friday, Jan. 9.)

Bekka Bramlett and Etta Britt on the Burnside-

grandfather, like grandson, this 2 Man Wrecking

penned "She's Got Somethin' on Me." Like

Chase Hoffberger

FEMI KUTI Day by Day (Mercer Street)

"Do vou know Fela Anikulapo Kuti?" asks his son at the end of "Do You Know" from Day by Day. The question's rhetorical; any fan

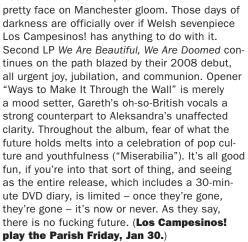


of Femi Kuti most likely basks in the colossal shadow cast by his pioneering Afrobeat father. Fair or not, Femi will never escape that shadow, but he goes a long way toward establishing his own legacy on his first studio album in seven years. Gone are the collaborations with hip-hop stars that gave 2001's Fight to Win a faintly forced feeling; welcome are elaborate jazz arrangements anchored by pounding polyrhythms. Kuti's 17-member Positive Force has never sounded better, delicately building tension on "They Will Run" and unleashing an unstoppable funk groove on "Tension Grip Africa." The album lacks the gut-punch intensity of brother Seun Kuti's recent debut, and the lyrics occasionally border on the trite, but Femi certainly lives up to the family name.

Thomas Fawcett

LOS CAMPESINOS! We Are Beautiful, We Are **Doomed (Arts & Crafts)**

The history of UK pop is built on melancholy and loneliness. Even New Order put a



Darcie Stevens

ISOBEL CAMPBELL & MARK LANEGAN Sunday at Devil Dirt. (Fontana)

This second collaboration between the baritone growl of Screaming Tree Mark



- Audra Schroeder



sheet music

FOR THE

DIGGING DIRT: LIFE AND **DEATH OF ODB Jaime Lowe Faber and** Faber Inc., 273 pp., \$25

Ol' Dirty Bastard's life wasn't an act. From Ason Unique and Osirus to Big Baby Jesus, the late Wu-Tang Clan MC embodied myriad personalities, yet whatever you were getting was full-on authentic. Jaime Lowe's Digging for Dirt gives a legitimate visual, even if it has just as much trouble staying in one place as its subject, Dirt McGirt. One minute Dirt's "bridling at whatever lame leading questions I had written down ... and answering most of the others curtly," and another he's doing promo for 1995's Tha Carter IIIinspiring Return to the 36 Chambers: The Dirty Version by rolling up for food stamps in a limousine. Lowe's strength lies in her ability to convey how ODB's personas actually carried some weight. Joe Bananas and Prince Delight weren't nicknames thought up during rap ciphers like Johnny Blaze and Pretty Toney. They were part and parcel of Dirty's schizophrenia. It's also their consummation that led to Russell Jones' premature death in 2004. Hard enough living as the charismatic and celebrated OI' Dirty Bastard, Jones had to take on so much more than he asked for.

- Chase Hoffberger



in box

THE KINKS

- Darcie Stevens

Picture Book (Sanctuary)

Compiled by Ray Davies, Picture Book's 138 tracks on six discs come stamped with the singer's sole writing credit on all but 13 songs. He positions brother Dave's compositions/vocal contributions to dazzling effect, such as the younger sibling's tangy "Love Me Till the Sun Shines" live in 1968 on the BBC opening the set's third CD. The guitarist's "Living on a Thin Line" at the close constitutes one of the pair's last great collaborations before the two brothers drifted apart in the mid-1990s. Ray and Dave's sole co-write, "Death of Clown," from Sgt. Pepper better Something Else, cries another Hall of Fame moment of the canon, while the latter's cracked pledge ("Strangers") from Lola Versus Powerman and the Moneygoround snaps

a cherry Kodak moment for Picture Book. Don't doubt for one single moment, however, that the Kinks' oeuvre ultimately preserves anything other than the unmatched writings of one "Dedicated Follower of Fashion" in particular. Lennon had McCartney, and Jagger married Richards, but Ray Davies, like the Who's pinball wizard. Pete Townshend – whom Davies claims "actually [stole] our whole style" - converted personal observation into conceptual comment (Arthur, Preservation) both shyly and with withering cynicism. And just how good a songwriter does one have to be to have composed a modern Christmas standard ("Father Christmas")? The first three CDs rain British Invasion manna, from pre-Kinks tracks by the Boll-Weevils (Leiber/Stoller's "I'm a Hog for You Baby") to defining riff rocket "You Really Got Me" and a cascade of Ray mania: "Stop Your Sobbing," "Where Have All the Good Times Gone?" and three tracks off Something Else precursor Face to Face.

Pop's New Deal, rock & roll's Great Society, births the Village Green Preservation Society, "Apeman," and Percy spiritual "God's Children" before the paradigm shift on disc four from UK pop throbs to 1970s Muswell Hillbillies, where "Skin & Bone" fattens its musical bottom even as Ray's everyman continues feeding on Empiric socialism. Hillbillies' title track and crowning "20th Century Man" signal the Kinks' shift into the roots-meet-roots juggernaut of Everybody's in Show-Biz, whose "Celluloid Heroes" remains rock's equivalent to the Hollywood sign. The final two discs rock up the Misfits ('78) as punk blowbacks on Low Budget ('79, complete with meaty outtakes) and Give the People What They Want ('81), a commercial and last artistic peak crashing on 1993 nadir Phobia. "The rockers couldn't outrock us, the hippies couldn't outhip us, and the punks couldn't outpunk us," concludes Ray Davies. He's got the Picture Book to prove it. - Raoul Hernandez ****

LEAD STORY

Aggressive police questioning of a weakwilled suspect can produce an occasional false confession, but experts now believe that six men in a single case, and four in another, confessed to group crimes they did not commit, even though some described their roles in vivid detail. Recent DNA evidence in a 1989 Beatrice, Neb., murder case implicated only a seventh man, and similar evidence in a 1997 Norfolk, Va., murder case implicated only a fifth man, who insists he acted alone. (Governors in both states are currently mulling pardons for the men.) It is still possible that the six, or the four, are guilty as charged and that the DNA was left in completely separate attacks on the victims, but the more likely explanation, say psychologists, is that people with low self-esteem or mental problems, or who are drug- or alcohol-addled, are more easily convinced of fantasy.

IT'S GOOD TO BE A BRITISH PRISONER (CONTINUING SERIES)

1) In November, British Justice Minister Jack Straw discovered, and immediately canceled, a 10-year-old program for inmates at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire for workshops in comedy.
2) Scotland's justice secretary similarly canceled a program in November after he learned that officials at Saughton prison in Edinburgh had set up poker classes, sanctioning games run on paper earnings (but which the inmates converted into real trades and favors). Said one astonished official, "Next thing, roulette wheels ... then a tap-dancing club ... because after this nothing would surprise us."

RECURRING THEME

Five years ago, "News of the Weird" reported that a Philadelphia woman had undergone a \$10,000 elective surgery to shorten one toe and straighten another so that her foot would look better in the fashionable shoes she coveted. According to an October report by London's Daily Mail, foot surgeons' business has improved, especially since Manolo Blahnik's sleek, narrow models have become so popular. In addition to shortening and narrowing, young women seem concerned about the symmetry of their toe cascades (the curve from the big toe around to the little toe) and whether their ankles are shapely enough, with some women opting for liposuction on the lower calf.

CREME DE LA WEIRD

Peter Trigger, 59, was "adamant," according to England's Kettering Evening Telegraph, that he had the right to wear whatever outfits he wanted, even though his favorite hangout was in front of Woodvale Primary School in the mornings, where he usually wore schoolgirl-like short skirts but with nothing underneath. In December, after numerous complaints, a Northampton magistrate issued Trigger a five-year Anti-Social Behavior Order commanding him to stop.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



In November, the Great American Insurance Co. (Cincinnati, Ohio) sought a declaration in federal court in Houston that it was not liable to pay death benefits from a 2007 office fire because the three victims did not die from fire. The company pointed to an exclusion in the policy for death by "pollution" (thought by most people to cover only toxic industrial discharges) and argued that the three victims were actually asphyxiated by smoke, which is air pollution.

A 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' CLASSIC (NOVEMBER 2006)

Though several restaurants in Asia had reportedly been offering delicacies made from various animals' genitals (touted for alleged virility-enhancement), the first restaurant exclusively serving such dishes, the Guolizhuang, in Beijing, opened in September 2006. The staff's nutritionist told BBC News that sheep, horse, ox, and seal penises are good for circulation and that donkey penis improves the skin. Tiger, she cautioned, even though premium-priced, has no special nutritional value, but snakes (which have "two penises each," she said) are great for sexual potency.

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NEW FRONTIERS OF SELF-DEFENSE LAW

Eugene Falle, 35, was acquitted of murder in Edmonton, Alberta, in December, as jurors apparently accepted his claim of self-defense even though the victim had 39 stab wounds. Falle said he was forced to keep stabbing the man because of previous threats by the victim and his gang and that the victim "wouldn't bleed properly the way he should've bled, according to the movies." And in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sydney Teerhuis, on trial for killing a man, claimed self-defense even though he admit-

ted not only stabbing the man 68 times but having sex with the body during the spree. However, unlike Falle, Teerhuis was convicted.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Arousing Suspicion: 1) April Westfall, 40, was arrested in Reno, Nev., in December for DUI. An ambulance crew called the Highway Patrol after spotting her driving down U.S. 395 at 4:30am with a service station's nozzle and severed hose protruding from her gas tank. 2) Jeremy Aron, 33, was arrested for DUI on Thanksgiving night in Portsmouth, N.H., when an off-duty police officer spotted him driving down Lafayette Road with a fire hydrant stuck to his bumper.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission announced plans in December to create a third official gender for government identification: "intersex," for transsexuals, whether or not they have had surgery. Immediately, activists from Sex and Gender Education Australia called the proposal inadequate, demanding a fourth gender for people who feel that gender is either undefinable or subject to daily changes of attitude.

Maryland lobbyist and former state delegate Gilbert Genn was attacked by a deer outside his home in November, butted to the ground and repeatedly stabbed by the buck's antlers in the chest and groin. Genn told WTOP Radio that after finally realizing he was in a life-or-death struggle, he managed to subdue the animal by the antlers long enough to tire it and cause it to flee. Bleeding badly, Genn said he disregarded his wife's admonitions to get to the hospital and instead dressed the wound himself and headed off for a scheduled meeting in Annapolis with Speaker of the House Michael Busch. He told the reporter, "There was no way I could miss this meeting." Only afterward did he report to the emergency room.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at www.newsoftheweird.blogspot.com (or www.newsoftheweird.com).

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE





THURSDAY 08

BOOKWOMAN OPEN MIC New host, new year! Deb Akers brings the lovely literary ladies every week. This week featuring Kaye Abikhaled. Books. Women. Poetry. Heaven! 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. bookwmntx@hotmail.com

GIRLSTART FOR GROWNUPS Learn to give yourself a money makeover at this workshop for the fiscally impaired. Even if you're financially stable, learn to keep your hard-earned dollars. 11:30am. Girlstart Tech Center. 1400 W. Anderson. 916-4775. \$50. www.girlstart.org/workshops/adult-workshops.asp.

KA-ASHO AFRIKAN WOMEN'S TEXTILE

GATHERINGS Women of African descent are invited to hone their skills, learn new ones, and maintain ancestral traditions at this textile lounge. E-mail or call to RSVP. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. 1300 Yorkshire Dr., 552-6277. Free. sankofaasafo@gmail.com.

KISSIN' COUSINS High-energy shows filled with original "Southern-rockin' soul" have earned Nakia & His Southern Cousins this residency on Sixth Street. It's been a big year for the band - and things just keep getting better. Thursdays, 10pm. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. www.nakia.net.

* NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISER PUBLIC

MEETING The six candidates for the city of Austin Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Department's neighborhood adviser position will answer your questions submitted before Jan. 4 to john.beasley@ci.austin.tx.us at this public forum. Listen up, because this guy will be reppin' the hood that is Austin. 7am. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 974-3251.

PARENTS OF DYSLEXIC CHILDREN SUPPORT

GROUP meets today to discuss Structuring a Supportive Home Life. 7pm. Scottish Rite Learning Center, 12871 Hwv. 183 N., Rm. 203, 471-1231



PLANNING A MARKETING STRATEGY Go online to register, and get some small-business know-how. 8amnoon. International Center of Austin, 201 E. Second, 974-7800. \$25. www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL Not Spanish language lessons but an opportunity to converse and fine-tune your conversational skills in a relaxed environment. Thursdays, 4pm; Saturdays, 11am. Faulk Central Branch Library, 800 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) **Dougherty Arts Center**

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Free Week Mohawk, Club de Ville, Red 7 Free Week Emo's Patrice Pike, Joy Davis Saxon Pub

FRIDAY 09

999 EYES FREAKSHOW See box at left.

ASG SONGWRITER SYMPOSIUM The seminars and song-pitch sessions will be lead by local songwriting professionals such as Gurf Morlix, Jimmy LaFave, and Will Sexton, many of whom will be performing, as well. Get those rough songs polished and sold over the course of a weekend. Fri.-Sun.. Jan. 9-11. Hilton Garden Inn, 500 N. I-35, 480-8181. \$250.

KIDS

www.austinsongwritersgroup.com.

PEOPLE UNITED features radical journalist Robert Jensen on the effectiveness of some pop singers as political commentators. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

GAY INTEREST SHARON BRIDGFORTH'S **DELTA DANDI** Yes, darlin's, that's dandi ... with an "i". And that's Bridgforth ... with a brilliant. Do not miss this exclusive world premiere. See "A Revolution of Spirit," the Arts, p.26, for more. 8pm. Rollins Studio at the Long Center, 701 W. Riverside, 474-LONG. \$15. www.sharonbridgforth.com.

SMOKING BANANA Take a peek at the Official Spam of the Austin Outpost of the Guerrilla Queer Bar to learn the location of – and more importantly. what to wear to - this month's invasion. Oh, yes, we have some bananas. 6pm. www.smokingbanana.com

SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW Landscape looking a little tired? Get inspired at this gathering of green thumbs and innovative designers. Tom Silva from This Old House will be there along with an "Ask an Expert" remodeling and consultation booth, an outdoor living-landscape section, and more garden tech and giveaways. Fri.-Sun., Jan. 9-11. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000. \$7.50. www.showtechnology.com.

STAR OF TEXAS TATTOO ART REVIVAL This is the seventh year for the annual celebration of the skin arts. Get that old-school tattoo with the Japanese art of hand-poking (yeowch!), watch the professionals tint skin live and in person, and enjoy the combination of circus performing and burlesque with Baltimore's Lucky Daredevil Thrill Show. You'll have a sleeve before you know it. Fri.-Sun., Jan. 9-11. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500. \$15/day, \$40/weekend. www.golivefast.com

YOUTH FAIR & LIVESTOCK AUCTION The Travis County Youth Show helps support local youths as they become future leaders. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 9-11. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker, 278-8498. Free. www.traviscountyyouthshow.org

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

The Hideout Theatre

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week Mohawk, Club de Ville, Red 7 Free Week Emo's Flash Bovs Beerland Jerry Jeff Walker One World Theatre James McMurtry Cactus Cafe Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm

Continental Club

SATURDAY 10

AUDUBON SOCIETY MONTHLY BIRD

tickets, \$10). www.boarsheadaustin.com

www.cityofaustin.org/sws/xmastree.htm.

COUNT Those birds aren't going to count themselves. 7am & 4pm. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 300-2473. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

this week's

AUSTIN RECOVERY: SECOND SATURDAY

WORKSHOP The Rev. Mike Falls tries to heal the wounds of addiction and help you live life to the fullest. 10am. Austin Recovery, 8402 Cross Park Dr., 997-0101. Free. www.austinrecovery.org. * RECOMMENDED

** BOAR'S HEAD PAGEANT Who doesn't want a little more Christmas in their life? This theatrical presentation of a medieval Xmas features an orchestra playing traditional tunes and performers in period costumes. So brush off your renaissance faire garb, and RSVP online. Hurry before all the wassail is gone. Sat., Jan. 10. 7pm: Sun., Jan. 11. 6pm, St. Albert the Great Parish Hall, 12041 Bittern Hollow, 837-7825. Free (VIP

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Put your Christmas tree at the curb on the same day as your recycling is picked up, and it will be turned to mulch. If it's larger than 6 feet, the city asks that you cut it in half. If you don't have curbside pickup, bring the offending tree to the Zilker Park Polo Fields Sat., Jan. 10. For information on free mulch pickup at Zilker, go to www.cityofaustin.org/parks/events.htm or call 311.

DAN MOODY EXPRESS BUS TOUR Meet at the Round Rock library, and get a three-stop tour consisting of the Williamson County courthouse, the Dan Moody Museum, and, lastly, a book discussion with Ken Anderson. Registration is required. 9:30am-5pm. Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/218-7000. Free.

www.roundrocktexas.gov/library.

EMPOWERMENT SERIES FOR WOMEN Self-Care and Personal Safety for Women, facilitated by Sandra Molinari, life skills coordinator from SafePlace. Register via e-mail. 10am-1pm. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port Dr., 251-0698. staopen@sbcglobal.net.

HOME-BUYER SEMINAR Learn why this is being called the golden age for buying a home and the common mistakes first-time home-buyers make. 1pm. ACC Highland Business Center, 5930 Middle Fiskville, 997-7653. Free. www.livinginaustin.com.

HUMANE SOCIETY PETLAND RALLY Help stop the practice of selling dogs bred in puppy mills. The Human Society of the United States will be there. Will you? 1-3pm. Petland, Southpark Meadows, 9900 S. I-35. Free. www.stoppuppymills.org.

INTRO TO SOLAR This hands-on class will give you the photovoltaic basics and teach you the benefits of going solar. Register online to participate. 10am-4pm. Hubbert's Peak Creative Works, 4704-B E. Cesar Chavez, 535-7424. \$80.

www.hubbertspeak.org

LESFIC: MEET, GREET, & READ Join Brenda Adcock, Dell Robertson, Frankie Jones, Megan Carter, Peggy Herring, Erin O'Reilly, Stacia Seaman, Kelly Sinclair, and Carsen Taite between the pages at this lezzie author-palooza. 2pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. Free.

style showcase features all your favorite freaks. And we're not talking about strange-looking people dressed up all freaky-like; these are honestto-goodness genetic novelties. And sword-swallowers, clowns, and a gypsy band thrown in for good measure. 8pm-12mid. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200. 707-9637. \$15 (\$11, advance). www.999eves.com.

MCKINNEY FALLS HIKE Join in this interpretive hike around the park, and get back in touch with nature. Second and fourth Saturdays of the month, 10am. McKinney Falls State Park, 5808 McKinney Falls Pkwy., 809-4138. Free with admission to park. www.mckinnevfalls.org.

MOVEMENT MAGNIFIED: YOGA &

PHOTOGRAPHY Second Sundays are for families at AMOA. This month, take part in a youth-friendly yoga class at 12:30pm, followed by a photo session with your favorite body part as the central figure. Take home your creation, and get that artwork on the refrigerator, Noon-4pm. Austin Museum of Art, 823 Congress, 495-9224. \$7/family (\$5/member families). www.amoa.org.

RAINWATER HARVESTING & WATERWISE GARDENING Learn how to save every drop of water and not waste it on non-native plants that rob surrounding flora of needed moisture. Use xeriscaping. rainwater-collection systems, and some common sense, and save the environment. 10am. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

RAISE THE TENT Check out the monthly meeting of Austin's own Transgender Education Network of Texas, dedicated to furthering the cause of genderdiverse people in Central Texas. Second Saturday each month, 2:30pm. Call for location, 448-6354 877/532-6789. www.tentex.org, www.myspace.com/TACTx.

REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN EXPO Reptiles, invertebrates. and amphibians. Oh my. Get yourself a slimy or scaly friend and all the supplies and info you might need to take care of him or her (it's hard to tell sometimes). Arts, crafts, face-painting, and educational displays will help you choose the reptile that's right for you. Sat-Sun., Jan. 10-11. Wingate Inn, 1209 N. I-35, Round Rock, 512/837-6253. \$7-10. www.austinreptileexpo.com.

the Lovely, Likeable Letter L Read Leonardo the Terrible Monster and other loony tales lionizing the letter "L." Lollipopping fun! 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

TOILET GIVEAWAY If your toilets were installed before 1996, bring a utility bill to Fiesta today, and get a new, high-efficiency toilet. Don't worry: The city will pick up the tab. Laptops will be set up on-site to quickly apply and receive your toilet voucher. Before you know it, you'll be conserving water and money with every bowel movement. 9am-4pm. Fiesta, 3909 N. I-35, 406-3900. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/sftoilet.htm.

ASG SONGWRITER SYMPOSIUM (See Friday.)

SHARON BRIDGFORTH'S DELTA DANDI

SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW (See Friday.) * STAR OF TEXAS TATTOO ART REVIVAL



BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

HAPPY NEW QUEER Resolved: 2009. Be a better gay. More gay. Solidarigay. As gay as the day is gay. And then some. I hope my fellow Gay Placers (see blog) and readers will join this guest. Further resolved: shall not succumb to capital "G" Gay stereotypical behavior. I will modify my behavior to be an empow-

Send gay bits to

gayplace@ austinchronicle.com.

Visit

austinchronicle.com gayplaceblog.

Resolved (applies to all sexes):

- 10) I will cease to use the word "empowered."
- 9) I will not post bad lesbian poetry or pictures of my wang on the Internet.
- 8) I will only write three blog posts about Broadway musicals this year.
- 7) I will not hit on straight people unless they hit on me first.
- 6) I will not run for another board of a local nonprofit if I have been on the board of a nonprofit within the past five years.
- 5) I will not make fun of lesbians' clothing.
- 4) I will not make fun of gay men's hair.
- 3) I will leave bitchy queeniness to those more qualified (see "After a Fashion" or any Hev Homo event). 2) I will not go into debt over that sweet young trick.
- 1) I will read **Gay Place** every day online and every
- week in The Austin Chronicle.

YOUTH FAIR & LIVESTOCK AUCTION (See Friday.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)

Saturday Night Special Salvage Vanguard Theater

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) Wally Workman Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo

Drafthouse Village, 12mid MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week Mohawk, Club de Ville, Red 7

Free Week Emo's

Sons of Hercules Reerland Ted Roddy's Tribute to the King

Continental Club

James McMurtry Cactus Cafe

SUNDAY 11

BEER TASTING Sample the many beers on tap while learning a little something about how they're made. 6-8pm. The Ginger Man. 304 W. Fourth, 473-8801. \$30. www.gingermanpub.com

CAGED BIRDS SING Rob Faubion and his lovely "ladies" bring La Cage, voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitneys and Barbras done up with ridiculous flair, Sundays, 9:30 & 11:30pm, Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

TRUMLINE LIVE You've seen the film; now it's time for the live show. Top black colleges and universities bring their percussive A-game to this rousing and rhythmic spectacle. Before the show, local high schools will be showing off their drum skills on the outdoor terrace. 7:30pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 474-5664. \$19-44. www.thelongcenter.org.

CHRCNIC

The GAY PLACE

peeps weigh in with individual Top 10s:

"What a

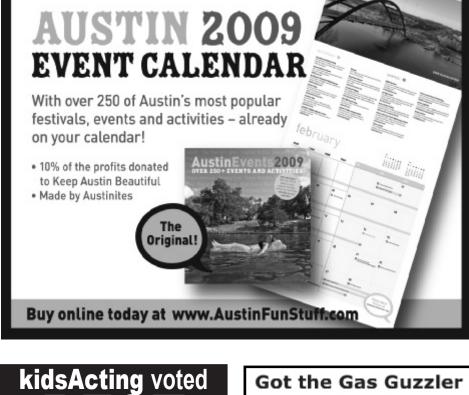
homosexual 365 days we

had, no?"

- KATE GETTY

austinchronicle.com/

chronic





Ages 3-18 12 locations kidsactingstudio.com 836-KIDS



Sick Around the World **PBS Documentary and Discussion**

January 22, 2009, Thursday, 7pm-9pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 14311 Wellsport Drive 512.251.0698

HEALTHCARE REFORM is coming. Are you informed on your

- We are the only developed country without Universal Healthcare.
- The US ranks among the lowest in life expectancy and among the highest in infant mortality of developed countries, yet we pay more than twice per person for healthcare as compared to other developed
- Medical bills are responsible for more than half the bankruptcies in

This film focuses on types of healthcare plans in other developed countries and what works! Afterwards, there will be a short slide presentation and discussion with a panel of doctors and other healthcare professionals. Admission is free, but donations gratefully accepted. Please contact Gaye Kopas for further information at gkopas@msn.com



BY GERALD E. MCLEOD daytrips

Dinosaur World in Glen Rose, Texas, disguises learning as play. Amateur dinosaur hunters have no trouble finding the more than 100 lifesized models among the trees and underbrush of the Texas hills.

At first apprehensive about visiting the snarling giants, my 3-year-old grandson quickly lost his fear of the inanimate creatures. His self-appointed title of "animal keeper" had him leading the way and squealing at every turn of the sidewalk, "Look, there's more."



"Our core audience is the 3- to 12-year-olds," says Nicole Randall, marketing director for the three locations of Dinosaur World. "Of course, any age with an interest in dinosaurs will enjoy the park."

Scientists can only make educated guesses at what the dinosaurs looked like. The color and texture of the hide covering the skeletons has been lost to time. The result is an artist's rendering that often seems whimsical and fantastic. Randall assures visitors that each rendition is based on scientific fact.

The idea for the outdoor dinosaur museum began in Germany, where the curator of the Natural History Museum near Munich helped develop the concept. Swedish businessman Christer Svensson brought the idea to the U.S. The first Dinosaur World opened at an old alligator farm near Plant City, Fla., in 1998. Five years later, the Svensson family opened a similar park in Cave City, Ky. The Texas location opened in March 2008.

What better place for a dinosaur theme park than in "the Dinosaur Capital of Texas"? Dinosaur tracks were discovered in the Paluxy River outside of Glen Rose in 1909. At Dinosaur Valley State Park, the tracks frozen in the riverbed look like fresh footprints in the mud.

"Glen Rose already had the atmosphere to attract dinosaur hunters," Randall says. "I don't think we could have found a better place in Texas to put our park."

The dinosaurs were built on-site using fiberglass, steel, and concrete. Some of the long necks stretch two stories above the treetops. The biggest prehistoric monsters weighed several thousand pounds while the smallest are the size of a large dog. Each species has a sign telling its story. But no story can inspire the imagination like seeing a life-sized replica of what the dinosaurs might have looked like.

Dinosaur World is near the entrance to Dinosaur Valley State Park outside of Glen Rose. The eight-tenths-of-amile walk is an easy stroll and is ADA accessible. There is also a museum of dinosaur fossils, a covered picnic area, a playground, a fossil dig for the kids, and a gift shop that will appeal to all ages. Well-behaved pets on a leash are welcome to join their owners.

Park hours are 9am to 5pm daily. Admission is \$12.75 for adults and \$9.75 for children 3 to 12. For more information, call 254/898-1526 or go to www.dinoworld.net.

914th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

outoftown

THE ICE AT DISCOVERY GREEN turns the modelboat basin on Kinder Lake into a 7.200-square-foot outdoor ice rink with special programs and public skating. Through Jan. 19. Downtown Houston, 713/434-7465. \$10. www.discoverygreen.com/icerink.

PICTOGRAPH TOURS See historic and prehistoric pictographs while walking among the unique rock formations and listening to your guide talk about about the beautiful wildlife, plant life, and history of this oasis in the desert. Reservations required. Wednesdays-Sundays, 10:30am-12:30pm. Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, El Paso, 915/857-1135 www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huecotanks.

MAX ERNST IN THE GARDEN OF NYMPH ANCOLIE showcases the recently restored mural by surrealist artist Ernst, along with some of his rarely exhibited paintings, drawings, and sculptures. Through Feb. 15. The Menil Collection, Houston, 713/525-9400. Free. www.menil.org.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY chronicles the lives of seven ethnically diverse Americans during World War II, who, despite racism, sexism, and anti-immigrant sentiments, served their country in the armed forces during the war and advanced civil rights here at home. Through Jan. 18. UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 210/458-2330. www.texancultures.com

EVENING STAR PARTIES Tour the constellations, and view the moon, planets, stars, galaxies, and other objects through large telescopes with trained professionals leading programs for the entire family. Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, McDonald Observatory, Davis Mountains, 432/426-3640. www.mcdonaldobservatorv.org

TOYS OF YESTERYEAR Now that you've unwrapped the latest in toy technology, take a look back at the toys your grandparents might have opened so many Christmases ago, Through Feb. 8. Stevens Gallery, National Ranching Heritage Center, 3121 Fourth St., Lubbock, 806/742-0498. www.nrhc.com.

GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL is in its 14th year of providing harmonious music with headliner the Melody Boys Quartet from Little Rock, Ark., along with a dozen other groups and soloists. Fri.-Sun., Jan. 9-11. Martha Luigi Auditorium, Rockport, 361/790-1105. Free. www.gospelforce.org/festival.html

WINTER ANTIQUES SHOW sells collectible furniture, pottery, glass, jewelry, Texana, and memorabilia along with a farm ers' market and plant sale. Sat.-Sun., Jan. 10-11. Knights of Columbus Hall, on FM 577 (just north of Highway 290). Brenham. 979/865-5618 or 979/836-3695, www.brenhamtexas.com

REMEMBERING ANSON JONES, the last President of the Republic of Texas, through the customs of the 1850s as the park that preserves his last home pays homage to the man who helped Texas be admitted to the United States in 1845. Sat.-Sun., Jan. 10-11, 10am-4:30pm. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, between Brenham and Navasota, 936/878-2213. www.birthplaceoftexas.com

VINTNER DINNER SERIES On Saturday evenings, an awardwinning chef prepares a gourmet dinner specially designed to highlight a featured Texas wine. Through Feb. 28. Blair House Inn, Wimberley, 512/847-1111. \$62. www.blairhouseinn.com.

THE NEW VOICE OF ELVIS & LEGENDS TOUR features Jesse Aron performing a special Elvis birthday concert along with special tribute performances by Marilyn Monroe and Roy Orbison. Sat., Jan. 10, 7pm. Brauntex Theatre, 290 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, 830/627-0808. www.brauntex.org.

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN COLLOQUY Adam Gravois leads this discussion of renewal. 10am-12:30pm. Laguna Gloria,

3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org. FAMILY FEUD AT RAIN Two shows, every Sunday night. To sign up, see the

manager on duty, who may or may not tongue kiss your boyfriend like Richard Dawson. Slots are limited, and the prizes grand. 8:30 & 9pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE This interactive performance featuring games and stories provides kids ages 4 to 10 with an early introduction to improv comedy. Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5 (free for babies), www.flvingtheatermachine.com

GOGIRLS MEET UP & OPEN MIC Free and open to the public, this open mic features women from any generation speaking their minds. What will you have to say when the spotlight is on you? 7:30-10pm. Green Muse Cafe, 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789. Free. www.gfiremusic.com.

HOT BEARS BEER BUST Join the big boys for four hours of 50-cent drafts 'til you bust. 4pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow. 480-9017. info@heartoftexasbears.org, www.heartoftexasbears.org.

KARAOKE LEAGUE SHOWDOWN The best of the best from the National Karaoke League will be competing in the ultimate karaoke throwdown. Eight teams hit the stage in this three-round competition - one solo, one karaoke roulette round, and one group round. 10pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262.

www.nationalkaraokeleague.com/showdown

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION Learn the practices of mindful sitting, walking, tea drinking, and discussion. It's more than iust lazv voga, Sundavs, 6-8pm, Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 909/503-5296. Free, www.plumblossomsangha.org

OUT DANCING FREE INTRODUCTORY SALSA CLASS No need to tippy-toe around same-sexness in these dance classes. Nope, you may sashay in your tres gay way, as these lessons are choreographed with the LGBT in mind (and body). Come check out this free intro session. 6pm. Go Dance, 2525 W. Anderson, 339-9391. Free. taletha.i@godancestudio.com

www.austinoutdancing.com.

PEACE SUNDAY This monthly gathering features quiet meditation followed by a friendly potluck brunch, all in the name of world peace. 1pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humannotentialcenter.org

STEWARDS OF CASA DE LUZ Join other community-minded green thumbs to do some small repairs, weeding, pruning, and trimming on the grounds of this local eatery Tools, tea, and snacks will be provided, and volunteers earn a free meal token. 8am Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 350-8505. www.casadeluz.org.

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Dr.

Craig Nazor makes an argument for an independent, nonprofit botanical garden in Austin. Sundays, 11:30am. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

ASG SONGWRITER SYMPOSIUM (See Friday.)

** BOAR'S HEAD PAGEANT

(See Saturday.) **REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN EXPO**

SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW

(See Friday.)

🧩 STAR OF TEXAS TATTOO ART REVIVAL (See Friday.)

YOUTH FAIR & LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

(See Film Listings.)

The Times of Harvey Milk @ MonkeyWrench Books, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Benefit for Eldridge Goins Antone's Corridors Salvage Vanguard Theater

MONDAY 12

HAPPY HOUR YOGA Get your hatha flowing. Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase, www.rutamava.net.

LEGAL CLINIC Free legal advice from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Most Mondays & Wednesdays, 6pm. Mondays, Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell; Wednesdays, Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. John's Ave., 374-2700. Free. www.trla.org.

LIVE MUSIC: 'BOUT TIME Yup. You read right. Weekly live music at everybody's fave up-north gay bar. It's ... 'bout time. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.fusenote.com

ORGANIC GARDENERS MEETING 7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 443-7187. Free.

www.austinorganicgardeners.org

QI GONG Let Dr. Tom Gore give your life force a boost through this ancient Chinese art of small, slow movements. Mondays, 9:30am, Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5 suggested donation. www.rutamava.net.

* SPIRITUALITY IN MOVIES: BLADE RUNNER Maybe you can finally figure out what the unicorn is all about in the director's cut. Michael Coffey leads the discussion. 6:30pm. First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis, 478-1933. Free.

www.1stenglish.org.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

(See Film Listings.)

It Happened One Night @ Hampton Library, 6pm James Brown Live at the Boston Garden **1968** @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm The Magic Flute @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Aurora Plastics Co. Plush

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the Jan. 23 issue is Monday, Jan. 12. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910: or e-mail

Kate X Messer or Ash Bell (Gav Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports):

gameplans@austinchronicle.com

James Renovitch (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com

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

TUESDAY 13

CHITCHAT & CHOW is the club you wanna join if you like talking about personal growth while you eat. 11:45am. Bombay Grill, 3249 Bee Caves Rd., 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

DEALING WITH DYSGRAPHIA Dr. Dilip Karnik demystifies this dyslexia-related disorder. 6:30pm. Scottish Rite Learning Center, 12871 Research, 471-1231. \$30.

GIG FOR GOD Creative Spirit's God Investigating Group meets on the deck to discuss anything. We said, "Anything." Tuesdays, 6-7:30pm. Freddie's Place, 1703 S. First, 445-9197.

MISS STACI reads some of her favorite stories to you and sings some of your favorite songs. Put on those dancing shoes! 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

SCIENCE AND CONSCIOUSNESS

DISCUSSION The Institute for Neuroscience and Consciousness Studies discusses where mind and matter meet in physics and metaphysics. Minds will be blown. 7pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 258-9878. Free.

STEAK NIGHT & CHOCOLATES FOR CHARITY Come early for a \$6 steak (or chicken) with all the fixin's, plus the adventure in mouthfeel known as Chocolates for Charity, run by the United Court to benefit local nonprofits. Then stay late for Jame Perry's original amateur strip-off. Tuesdays, 6pm & 12mid. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE (See Sunday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Constant Gardener @ Milwood Branch
Library, 6:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Paul Banks & the Carousels Club de Ville

WEDNESDAY 14

AUSTIN UNDER 40 HAPPY

HOUR Learn more about the Austin Under 40 group, and see who was nominated this year. Attendees must RSVP. 6-8pm. Paggi House, 200 Lee Barton Dr., 473-3700. Free. www.austinunder40.org.

CENTRAL WEST AUSTIN LAND USE
PLANNING WORKSHOP If you live or work
in or around the Seton area on West 38th or
near West 34th between Lamar and Shoal
Creek, then tonight's your chance to provide
feedback about future development in your
neighborhood. 6:30pm. LCRA Red Bud Facility,

3601 Lake Austin Blvd., 974-2857. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/central_west_austin.htm.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE UT'S Dennis McFadden talks about sex, twins, spotted hyenas, ADHD, sexual orientation, and what they have in common. *Tpm. Old Quarry Branch Library*, 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435. Free. www.centerforinquiry.net/austin.

HERE THERE BE DRAGONS! Read The Knight and the Dragon by Tomie dePaola. 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET

This growers-only market features fresh food, chef demos, kids activities, live music, and more every week, rain or shine. Wednesdays, 3-7pm. The Triangle, 46th Street, between Guadalupe and Lamar. Free.

www.austinfarmersmarket.org

PERMACULTURE, CHICKENS, & YOGA Bring a friend to this screening of the *Design E*² series of PBS podcasts narrated by Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman. Discussion and exploration of the themes follow. 7pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

SMALL & MINORITY BUSINESS DISCUSSION Start bonding with other local business owners at this panel discussion. 5:30pm. Waller Creek Office Building, 507 Sabine, 974-7677. www.cityofaustin.org/smbr

FLYING THEATER MACHINE (See Sunday.)

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Poetic Justice @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake
Creek, 7:30pm
Stranded: I Have Come From a Plane
That Crashed on the Mountains
@ Alamo Ritz. 7pm

THURSDAY 15

AUDUBON SOCIETY MONTHLY

PROGRAM Socialize before a talk by Ted Lee Eubanks on the birds of the upper Texas coast. 6:30pm. LCRA, Red Bud Building, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Rm. 108, 300-2473. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

BOAT SHOW More than 600 watercraft will be on display for your ogling (or purchasing) pleasure. Activities for kids and adults help keep things afloat. *Thu.-Sun., Jan. 15-18*. *Austin Convention Center*, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 404-4000. \$8 (\$4, seniors and children). www.austinboatshow.com.

■ DRAGAOKE WITH KNT It ain't singin'. It's draggin'. Join Kings N Things for Dragaoke: BYO music and facial follicles. Sign up at 9:30pm. Rusty Spurs. 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. Free.

MLK CHILDREN'S ORATORY CONTEST

Kids from local elementary schools were asked to explain what dream they would share with Dr. King, and now the finalists share their speeches with the public. Who better than the next generation to kick off Martin Luther King Jr. weekend? 6pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free.

RECRUIT TO RIDE PARTY Come on ride it. Jump on to learn about the Hill Country Ride for AIDS, happening. Sat., April 25. 7pm. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 965-7433. www.hillcountryride.org.

SKILLSHARE AUSTIN BENEFIT Pay what you wish, and get access to this hands-on showcase of shared learning. Before you leave you will have learned a magic trick, learned (or perhaps invented) the latest dance craze, and been part of an instant jam session. 8pm-12mid. Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. www.skillshareaustin.org.

TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

INFORMATION SESSION Learn what UT has to offer those who want to earn a master's degree in science and create new ventures, products, and services. 6:30pm. IC² Institute, 2815 San Gabriel, 475-8900. Free. www.ic².utexas.edu/mstc.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE (See Sunday.)

KA-ASHO AFRIKAN WOMEN'S TEXTILE GATHERINGS (See Thursday, 1/8.)

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL

(See Thursday, 1/8.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

St. Edward's University, Women & Their Work

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
No Drinks Allowed in the Screening
Room @ Austin Film Studios Screening

Room, 7pm **Poetic Justice** @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake

Creek, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Shootin' Pains The Parlor Danny Barnes Cactus Cafe Yo Maiesty Mohawk

now...

HOT BEARS SAY RRRRROOOOW! The cuddliest, hairiest, most barrel-chested bigboys of the Heart of Texas Bears are a social service group dedicated to all things "grrrrr." Get on their list for info about monthly coffees, movie nights, beer busts, etc. info@heartoftexasbears.org. www.heartoftexasbears.org.

HELPING HANDS CENTER needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center*, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.

HOST A CREEK CLEANUP Is the creek you love filled with beer cans and six-pack rings? All you have to do is gather some friends to clean it up, and Keep Austin Beautiful and Watershed Protection and Development Review will give you all the guidance and materials you need. 391-0617. Free. www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/creekcleanup.

especially for the li'l tyke dykes and fag-o-tots. Our local nonprofit support/drop-in center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning peeps, ages 12-19, is open to youth three days a week. A place where they can be. Just ... be. Sun. & Wed-Thu., 4:30-8:30pm. Out Youth House, 909 E. 49th, 419-1233.

AUSTIN ROUNDUP This local nonprofit hosts an annual conference (next one slated for late January) for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of AA and Al-Anon. Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 488-2222. chairs@austinroundup.com, www.austinroundup.com.

DONATIONS FOR WINTER SEASON With temperatures dropping, it's time to remember those without protection from the elements. New or gently used blankets, jeans, and coats are needed. Go online or call for more info. *Austin Resource Center for the Homeless*, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.

YMCA MEMBERSHIPS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Military families across the nation can capitalize on a free membership to the YMCA of their choice courtesy of the Department of Defense. Go online for more on this armed services outreach initiative. YMCAs around Austin.

 $www. asymca.org, \ www. austinymca.org.$

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (*April* 22), you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them they're for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange*, 2904 *Guadalupe*, 480-9925.

www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.

SKATING ON THE PLAZA Lace up the rental skates, enjoy an hour of skating on Whole Foods' plaza, and act like you're a couple of latitudinal lines north. *Through Jan. 12, 10am-9pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260.* \$10 per hour session, including skate rental. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

SCHOOLS FOR IKE VICTIMS The Austin Independent School District is looking for children's clothing and school supplies for students who were affected by Hurricane Ike. Drop them off at Baker Administration Center, 3908 Ave. B, Rm. 204, between 8am and 4pm on weekdays. The deadline for donations is Jan. 30.

PROJECT FEEDERWATCH Help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology track the movements of birds throughout Central Texas. Sign up online, get an instructional handbook and bird-identifying poster, and watch those bird feeders. Report the species and number of flying visitors, and get your data collected and analyzed. You could be part of the next bird breakthrough. 800/843-2473. \$15. www.feederwatch.org.

VOLUNTEER FOR AGLIFF WORKING GROUPS Austin's queer film fest is organizing – big time – for the upcoming year. They've developed a strategic plan, and now all they need is you: dedicated volunteers to fill office, programming, and fundraising goals and to offer feedback to evaluate the festival's current direction. volunteer@agliff.org, www.agliff.org.

SCIENCE CONTEST FOR STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSSRochester Institute of Technology is looking for entries for its National Science Fair for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. See the rules and get an application online, and you might be on your way to majestic upstate New York. Submissions are due by Jan. 15. Free. www.rit.edu/NTID/ScienceFairNR.

CENTRAL MARKET COOKING SCHOOL Whether you need to brush up your knife skills or throw together a romantic Thai dinner for two, these guys have you covered year round with an eclectic array of classes spanning all skill levels. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. www.centralmarket.com/cm/cmClasses.jsp.

STEPHAN PYLES CULINARY SCHOLARSHIP COOK-OFF
Student chefs vie for a \$15,000 scholarship as they create
menus based on a list of Texas ingredients. Applications
are available at www.winefoodfoundation.org and due before

lan. 26. 327-7555.

PLANET CONNECT GRANT PROGRAM Are you a high school student who recognizes an environmental need in your school or community? Then go to www.planet-connect.org for more info or to apply for one of numerous grants being offered by the Weather Channel. Your green idea must be realized before the Jan. 20 deadline.

LETTERS TO SALA AT TEXAS HILLEL On display: a rare collection of Holocaust-era letters, postcards, photographs, and official documents that Sala Kirschner managed to save at great personal risk after surviving five years of Nazi work camps. *Topfer Center for Jewish Life, Texas Hillel,* 2105 San Antonio St. www.texashillel.org.

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIRCUTS Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday through the month of January, Avant's three locations will offer free cuts for those donating their hair to disadvantaged children whose illness has caused severe hair loss. Check the Avant website for a list of donation guidelines. Avant salons, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 318 Colorado, and 9600 S. I-35. \$20.

www.avantsalon.com/newsletter/locksoflove.

lead or do you follow, darlin'? This group of gay-friendly women love to dance and have formed this social group to which all gay-friendly women, 21 and older, are invited. Sometimes, they will meet at dance events; sometimes, they will hit the floor at a local club to practice. What better way to improve (or acquire) those skills? And those skills. Free, austin dancers@vahoo.com.

₩ VIOLET CROWN COUNSELING Specialized individual and relationship psychotherapy for the LGBTQIJKLMNOP and open-minded. Over 86 years experience between 'em. 895-9558. www.violetcrowncounseling.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Local Randalls and H-E-B markets along with St. Ignatius Catholic School (120 W. Oltorf) will be offering prepackaged food bags that can be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank now until the Super Bowl. The goal is to help collect 500,000 pounds of food. **www.souperbowl.org/austin**.

CITIZENS AT LAST EXHIBITION The latest exhibit from the Capitol Visitors Center uses archival photos, newspapers, cartoons, and cards to show the history of the women's suffrage movement in Texas. Through Feb. 15. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

... & later

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY Learn about the many functions and operating procedures of the Austin Police Department. The next session starts *Feb. 10* and meets on *Tuesdays*, 6:45-9:30*pm*. For more information or an application, visit the APD website,

www.cityofaustin.org/police, or read "My Semester on the Beat," News, Dec. 1, 2006, for *Chronicle* Associate News Editor Nora Ankrum's experience with the program. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.

FREE LOVE Mark it in pen: Two weeks from this Sunday, an event to support nice girl (as in Two NGs) Laurie Freelove. A cavalcade of Austin-hottentots, including KUT's Larry Monroe, the Austin Lounge Lizards, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Carolyn Wonderland, Sara Hickman, Greezy Wheels, Gretchen Phillips, Kathy McCarty, Mady Kaye, Paul Pearcy & East Side Flash, and "bluesqueezebox," shall preside to honor and raise dough for the beleaguered musician. Sun., Jan. 25, 6:30pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 873-8925 or 320-8424. \$15 donation.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION RIDESHARE Traveling to the Obama inauguration? Need a ride or just want to keep your carbon footprint small? Go to www.obamainaugurationrideshare.com to learn what your options are and maybe find a like-minded compatriot to play I Spy with on the trip to D.C.

SOULFUL COOK-OFF REGISTRATION As the first Austin Black Expo approaches (*Jan. 31*), it's time to enter yourself into the soul-food cook-off. Go to **www.austinblackexpo.com**, and download an entry form for a complete list of rules and regulations. \$75.

VALKYRIES (SANS TOM CRUISE) Austin's reps in the Texas Rugby Union are calling for newbs. See the website for details. Mon. and Wed. practices begin Mon., Jan. 26. Burnet Middle School, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289. alex.davenport1@gmail.com, www.austinvalkyries.com.

STOROTUS BY MARK FAGAN ISTINGS



Not that I'm complaining, but I'm not sure that winning, but only just barely, made things any easier.

BY THOMAS HACKET

By halftime of the Fiesta Bowl, with the Longhorns looking listless and confused, trailing Ohio State 6-3 in what was shaping up to be a dismal game all around, it seemed we could quietly forget any claim to having the best college football team in the Please write country, sorry that we ever brought it up. Mr. Hackett at The second half was a different story. Colt playingthrough@ McCoy remembered that he was Colt McCoy, austinchronicle.com. completing 41 of 59 passes of the night; Quan Cosby caught everything thrown his way: and then, with 16 seconds remaining and the ball on the 26-yard line, the two once again connected over the middle to give the Horns a 24-21 win.

Afterward, McCoy said, "I don't think there's anybody in the country who can beat us at this point," which seems a little conceited, considering the 10th-ranked team in the country very nearly did beat Texas.

I get his point, though. By all rights, Texas should be playing in the Bowl Championship Series National Championship game tonight, instead of Oklahoma. A first-grader could figure this one out. Both Texas and the Sooners finished the season with only one loss. The difference is, Oklahoma lost to Texas by 10 points, ergo Texas is the better team. But there are dark and mysterious forces at work in this country, my friends – say, a Supreme Court giving the presidency to a perfect nincompoop or an arcane and inane BCS system that denies Texas or USC or the undefeated University of

Utah a shot at a national championship in favor of two teams (OU and Florida) with records that are no better.

Now some might say that Texas had its chance, on Nov. 1, in Lubbock, when all freshman safety **Earl Thomas** had to do was shove Texas Tech's **Michael Crabtree** out of bounds to win the game (a bit much to lay at the feet of a 19-year-old kid). They'll say that for all its imperfections and possibilities of unfair-

ness, the BCS creates a regular season of do-or-die drama, unlike any other team sport, collegiate or professional.

Actually, I agree with all that. The one thing that college football has going for it over other team sports is that every game matters. The first game in August, against Podunk U, matters every bit as much as the last game in November,

against your storied rival. A playoff system would deflate that regular-season drama. But there's no getting around it: From its inception in 1998, the BCS system has been a joke.

My solution? Ditch the BCS, but don't mess with a playoff, either. Leave the matter of a national champion up for endless, irresolvable discussion, the way it used to be. Life is full of ambiguities and seldom brings the clear resolution we'd like. Why should college football be any different? Anyway, virtue is its own reward.

Got a sporting event you'd like to see listed in *The Austin Chronicle*?
Submit your sporty happening online at

austinchronicle.com/commform

THE MAIN EVENT

TEXAS SHOWDOWN The best of the past and present from the National Karaoke League will be competing in the ultimate karaoke throwdown. Eight teams (five past champions, three wild cards) will hit the stage of the Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar in this three-round competition – one solo, one karaoke roulette round, and one group round. So, whether you're "Living on a Prayer" or "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (to Partyl)," you won't want to miss this epic karaoke showdown. Sun., Jan. 11, 10pm. Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar.

ww.nationalkaraokeleague.com/showdown

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN TOROS are our own professional b-ball team and S.A. Spurs' affiliate playing in the heart of Downtown. High-quality hoops for a bargain price. Vs. Bakersfield: Thu., Jan. 8, 5:30pm. Vs. Colorado: Sat., Jan. 10, 7:30pm; Sun., Jan. 11, 3pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's

Basketball Vs. Iowa State: Sat., Jan. 10, 3pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. Women's Basketball Vs. Nebraska: Wed., Jan. 14, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texassports.com.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY

Women's Basketball Vs. Bacone College: Thu., Jan. 8, 5:30pm. Vs. Texas College: Sat., Jan 10, 2pm. Vs. Wiley College: Mon., Jan. 12, 5:30pm. 300 E. Huntland Dr. Men's Basketball Vs. Bacone College: Thu., Jan. 8, 7pm. Vs. Texas College: Sat., Jan. 10, 5pm. Vs. Wiley College: Mon., Jan. 12, 7pm. 300 E. Huntland Dr.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Trinity: Fri., Jan. 9, 6pm. Women's Basketball Vs. Trinity: Fri., Jan. 9, 8pm. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Texas-Arlington: Sat., Jan. 10, 4pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. Women's Basketball Vs. A&M-Corpus Christi: Wed., Jan. 14, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos. tystatebobcats.csty.com.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Now registering for wiffleball through *Jan.* 9. All leagues are coed with happy-hour fun following all games. **www.austinssc.com**

ROUND ROCK SPRING ADULT COED

KICKBALL LEAGUE Registration runs through Jan. 9 for the city of Round Rock Parks and Recreation's coed kickball eight-week league. Thursday nights at Round Rock's Memorial Park, 600 Lee St. \$180 per team. Interested teams can visit the website or call 512/218-5540.

www.roundrocktexas.gov/parksandrec.

WEST AUSTIN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

is now holding registration for its Winter Soccer Skills Academy (deadline Jan. 9) and Lacrosse Skills and Drills clinic. See the website for details and to register. www.waya.org.

MUAY THAI KICKBOXING Muay Thai translates to "the art of the eight weapons." Classes focus on conditioning, instruction, and skill development. They are coed, safe, and should be a lot of fun. Starter classes: Mon.-Thu. and Sat. mornings, through Jan. 24. Premier Martial Arts, 3601 W. William Cannon #50, 447-5425. Free trial class. www.pmaaustin.com.

ARCHERY Wanting to learn the sport of target archery? Check these websites for details on upcoming classes. USA Archery-certified instructors with all equipment provided. Adult 10-week winter league starts: Sat., Jan. 10, 4-6pm. South Austin Karate, 10203 Old Manchaca. 436-8813.

 $www.aajoad.com,\ www.archery.meetup.com/14.$

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

RUNTEX 20 MILER is the fourth race in the Austin Distance Challenge. Run along the back roads of Williamson County in this 20 Miler, which will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown. All finishers will receive a medal. Awards will be given to the Top 3 in each age category. Sun., Jan. 11, 7:30am. Georgetown High School, 2211 North Austin Ave., Georgetown, 512/868-2345.
www.runtex20miler.com.

BY NICK BARBARO SOCCET watch

The local **high school soccer season** started this week, as schools returned from the winter break.

The **Austin Aztex** are just awaiting confirmation from the United Soccer Leagues to announce the schedule for their inaugural season in USL-1. What we do know: The five-month, 30-game schedule will run mid-April through mid-September; with 11 teams in the league, the Aztex will face each other team three times, in addition to U.S. Open Cup games and exhibition games – some of which will be announced early next week. All games will be at **Nelson Field**, mostly on weekend evenings. More info at www.austinaztex.com.

Meanwhile, the Aztex announced a major signing today, English striker **Gifton Noel-Williams**, a powerful 28-year-old who's been the leading scorer at both Stoke City and Watford, in a 10-year pro career in England and Spain. Aztex President Phil Rawlins said he

expects him to be "a 'franchise' player." The Aztex hold their final **public tryouts** Feb. 7-8 at St. Edward's University. Deadline to apply online: Jan. 19.

The holiday season was a tough one for the Aztex English affiliate, **Stoke City**: Three straight losses – culminating in star striker **Ricardo Fuller** getting tossed from a game for slapping his own captain, Andy Griffin – dropped the Potters to 18th place in the league, and they got knocked out of the **FA Cup**, losing 2-0 to third-division Hartlepool. Crisis point in the season. Stoke-Liverpool is on Fox Soccer Channel, Saturday, Jan. 10, at 11:30am. Then on Sunday, Chelsea-Man U, 10am, and Roma-Milan, 1:30pm.

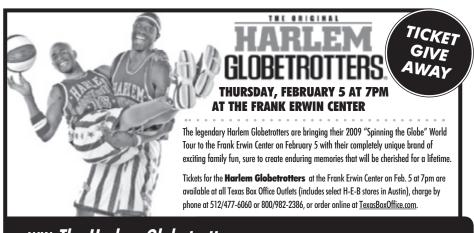
The **U.S. Men's 2009 schedule** was released this week – highlighted by a 10-game **World Cup** qualifying campaign, plus the **Confederations Cup** in June, against Italy, Brazil, and Egypt, and the **CONCACAF Gold Cup** in July.



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Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, POB 49066, Austin, 78765; or e-mail: Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com. Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.



To WIN The Harlem Globetrotters tickets, log on to austinchronicle.com/contests.

CHRCNIC

THE SCORE on the Jan. 1 launch of the MLB Network:

"Happy New Year, baseball fans!"

- MARK FAGAN

austinchronicle.com/

CHRONICLE

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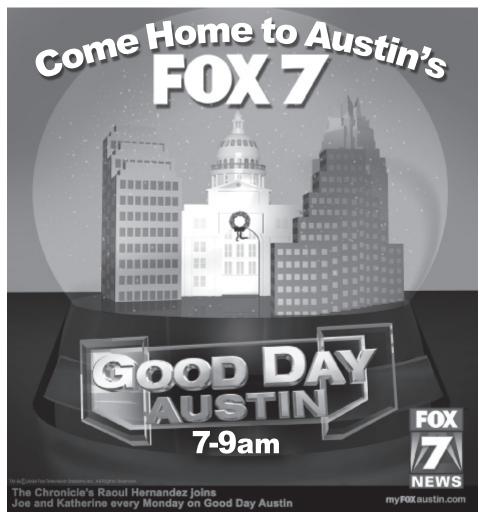
A NEW WAY TO DECORATE YOUR HOME

You have the nice furniture. You have the beautiful accessories. But somehow you just can't seem to put them all together for that special look. That's where Metamorefix comes in. For a low hourly rate our design team will come into your home and – using your furniture and your accessories – transform it into a showcase of style and beauty.

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CONTRACTOR SISTERINGS



Larry L. King Theatre at Austin Playhouse, through Jan. 18
Running time: 1 hr, 30 min

Love is not synchronized swimming. No amount of training or discipline or will will allow you to match your lover's movements through life the way you can another swimmer's through water.

One of you may pull ahead in the world or fall behind, and you can do little about it, just as you can do little when the feelings one of you has for the other change while the other's remain constant. You can't make your love go faster or slower. None of us can govern the pace of our hearts' beating.

That hard truth drives The Last Five Years, Jason Robert Brown's chamber musical that maps the relationship of Cathy and Jamie from beginning to end and end to beginning at the same time. In a novel structure, Brown starts with Cathy reading the note from Jamie that says he's leaving her just as Jamie, on the opposite side of the stage, arrives at her door for their first date. From that point, he moves forward in time while she slips backward, their love's rise and fall charted in alternating songs by the pair. It's a he-said-she-said approach but with a difference: This couple isn't debating a single event but giving us perspectives on their shared history from different moments in it. We're witnessing the entirety of their life together, all their dreams and realities, so that our focus is less on one person or moment than on this connection between them, the fragile bond that frayed and tore because these lovers were out of sync.

With no characters but Jamie and Cathy, *The Last Five Years* is by nature an intimate piece, but it's made more affectingly so in this production by Penfold Theatre Company and Austin Playhouse. In the 55-seat Larry L. King Theatre, we are so near the action that we might be sitting at the kitchen table in the couple's apartment (smartly appointed by designer David Utley). Every joy, every disappointment, registers in vivid, personal detail, some of them landing

with the impact of an arrow to the chest. We're close to Jamie and Cathy in every sense of the word.

Proximity, however, isn't all that draws us to these two. The actors create distinctive, engaging personalities that not only establish the individual appeal of Cathy and Jamie but the love uniting them that we get to see so rarely. With the enthusiasm that fueled many memorable performances at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre, St. Edward's graduate David Gallagher makes Jamie a go-getter intoxicated by his rising star as an author. It isn't that his Jamie is insensitive to Cathy's needs or insincere in his affections, but the rush of recognition, the assurance of his own creative powers, and success ultimately eclipse all else in his life, including, most unfortunately, his wife. Cathy is easier to relate to, starting, as she does, wounded, vulnerable, still struggling with her acting career, but Annika Johansson builds on that foundation with a rich emotional expressiveness in both her face and voice. She makes us feel the weight of frustration and heartache pressing down on her, and it's a pleasure to see, as Cathy's clock turns backward, the clouds clear from Johansson's face and her smile broadens and beams without reservation, without doubt.

What we know of Cathy's future leavens our delight with melancholy. She and Jamie have been — will be? are? — at cross-purposes, their lives moving at different rates, their hearts falling out of rhythm, like how many others in the world. You leave the theatre, an ache of a melody threaded through your chest, tribute to director and music director Michael McKelvey, who has crafted a tender, wistful anatomy of a relationship.

— Robert Faires

theatre

OPENING

SPACEMAN: DADA: ROBOT

The Electronic Planet Ensemble presents this multimedia environment of sight, sound, and words to celebrate the meaning of the universe and all of the creatures in it. *Local* creatures Sergio Samayoa, David Jewell, Chad Salvata, Rachel Fuhrer, and others will entertain and inform you with tales of existential robots, star whales, and what sort of cosmic complications ensue when Spaceman goes looking for his Starwoman. Bonus: Space-themed mail-art exhibition in the lobby. *Thu-Sun., Jan.* 9-24, 8pm. *The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282.* \$10-30 (two-for-one tickets on *Thursday and Sunday, with two nonperishable food items for SafePlace).* www.vortexrep.org.

RED LIGHT WINTER The new Displaced Theatre Company presents this Adam Rapp drama about "two former college buddies who travel Europe and find themselves thrown into a bizarre love triangle with a beautiful prostitute in Amsterdam." Thu. Sat., Jan. 8-17, 8pm. E-mail for location. \$10. myopicgir1@gmail.com.

MISS WITHERSPOON Christopher Durang's acclaimed and sort of *Groundhog Day*-like comedy about a woman who is reincarnated over and over "until she gets it right" is directed by Karen Jambon for Different Stages and features Jennifer Underwood (*The Casket of Passing Fancy's Duchess*) in the title role. *Jan. 9-Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30.*] www.main.org/diffstages.

DELTA DANDI Women & Their Work presents this "living cacophony of monologues, chants, choral tellings, blood memories, dance and song," written and conducted by Sharon Bridgforth, that explores how collective grief and trauma inform the African-American experience. Excellent cast of 10, choreographed by Baraka de Soleil. (See "A Revolution of Spirit," p.26, for more.) Fri.-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 70.1 W. Riverside, 477-1064. \$15. www.thelongcenter.org.

FRONTERAFEST It's time once again for the (16th) annual five-week juggernaut of theatre and performance art based at Hyde Park Theatre but extending itself (in the Long Fringe and other sections) all over town. What sort of short shows are you looking for? Interesting monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Short films? Multimedia? Yes: any of those, possibly all of those, on any given night of the Short Fringe. And then the Long Fringe starts up with its longer presentations, and there's Mi Casa Es Su Teatro, and – wow, damn, here we go again, under the fierce direction of Christina J. Moore and the participation of your most expressive friends and neighbors. You know we'll be running a full schedule in the front of the paper for you soon, but here's the next week's starting lineup just to whet your appetite. Call for reservations; check the HPT website for details. www.hydeparktheatre.org.

Short Fringe at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY

Tue., Jan. 13, 8pm: "Punky Brewster Dyke" This short comedy by Julianna Fry follows a young girl through the world of gender identity, guided by her Gay Godmother and a small cadre of confusing friends. "Southern Gal Sings the Bluez in the Key of E-Flat" This hip-hop theatre choreo-poem by Zell Miller III and Ebony Stewart explores the life of a child who is a survivor of domestic violence, racism, sexism, and her love for the music that saved her. "The Ballad of Doody Hazelnut" Alex Garza previews his solo full-lengther about wanna-be country singer Nathaniel Wayne Hazelnut. "Pop! Process Over Product" Jessica Arnold and the Rapscallions of the Periphery pro-



THE ELECTRONIC PLANET ENSEMBLE
TURNS THE VORTEX INTO AN EXPLORATION OF THE INNER AND OUTER SPACE
OF LOVE THIS WEEKEND.

vide a song-and-dance look at the creative process under deadlines and duress. **Austin Poetry Slam** The city's best slam poets storm the stage.

Wed., Jan. 14, 8pm: "Awaiting Fate" Danielle Ricci's dance piece portrays emotions experienced during the Salem Witch Trials, from the view of the accused. "Really Mature Relationships" Max Langert's comedy uses market research to parse relationship "data and solve a significant issue. "A Work of Consequence" An ensemble physical theatre creation by Zeb West, Hannah Kenah, and Richard Cambier. "**Muntu**" Natalie Marlena Goodnow's one-woman show reflects on the relationships between trees and people, old Austin and its changing cultural landscape, and the author and her many selves. Look Cookie: Improv features the redoubtable talents of Michael Williams, Leah Moss, Bryan Roberts, Jerry Bilbo, and Kerri Lendo.

Thu., Feb. 15, 8pm: "Don't Eat Tomatoes Before Bed or You Will Have Nightmares' is presented by Adam Martinez and Isabelle Salazar for Todo Big Time. "She Creatures: Scenes of Mythic Women" Sarah Saltwick's evocation of selkies and sirens, music and food, and surprises. "A Cure for Boredom" Bastion Carboni's lighthearted buddy comedy about suicide. "Le Sexy" Jason Laney and Stephanie Russo do that French lounge act that they do so very well. Le mrowwwwwwl, baybee. Girttap Improvised comedy from ColdTowne Academy graduates Brent Foshee and Josh Krilov.

CAROL BURNETT We suspect that the other most often-used word to describe this popular performer of stage and screen – the word other than "funny," that is – is "beloved." Oh, definitely. (See "Carol Burnett," p.25, for more.) *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470.* \$31.50-142.50. www.austintheatre.org.



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Register by January 16th and save! sxsw.com/attend

MUSIC

March 18-22, 2009

The SXSW Music and Media Conference & Festival showcases hundreds of musical acts from around the globe on over eighty stages in downtown Austin. By day, conference registrants do business in the SXSW Trade Show in the Austin Convention Center and partake of a full agenda of informative, provocative panel discussions featuring hundreds of speakers of international stature.





Film

March 13-21, 2009

The SXSW Film Conference & Festival explores all aspects of the art and business of independent filmmaking. The Conference hosts a five-day adventure in the latest filmmaking trends and new technology, featuring distinguished speakers and mentors. The internationally acclaimed, nine-day Festival boasts some of the most wideranging programming of any US event of its kind, from provocative documentaries to subversive Hollywood comedies, with a special focus on emerging talents.

interactive

March 13-17, 2009

The SXSW Interactive Festival features five days of exciting panel content and amazing parties. Attracting digital creatives as well as visionary technology entrepreneurs, the event celebrates the best minds and the brightest personalities of emerging technology. Whether you are a hardcore geek, a dedicated content creator, a new media entrepreneur, or just someone who likes being around an extremely creative community, SXSW Interactive is for you!



ECHRONICLE





IFC always, uncut.



Final 3 Shows This Opens Next Week! Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 8 pm! **David Sedaris'** Written by Larry Gallagher • Directed by Dave Steakley iaries The Biggest Hit in ZACH's History, on Stage for the Last Time! Featuring the Hits of Aretha Franklin. Directed by Dave Steakley **Connie Francis. Tina Turner.** Starring Esther's Follies' Janis Joplin & more! Espie Randolph January 16 - February 22 (star of ZACH's Shear Madness) With music by Meredith McCall and Jason Connor "This Elf **Delivers** Laughs!" - Austin Americai



FUN VIDEOS, PHOTOS & MORE ONLINE! CHARGE TICKETS BY

PHONE OR WEB 476-0541, x1 or ZACHTHEATRE.ORG TODAY!



'Marjorie Moore: Remains'

D Berman Gallery through Jan. 24

A lifeless bird is a sorrow all its own. Many creatures in death may move us, but the particular tragedy of the bird is that its nature is to fly, to be in motion and of the air. And in death it is still, profoundly still, and forever fettered to the earth, like any other beast.

This singular sorrow flutters and falls upon your heart many times in viewing Marjorie Moore's current work at D Berman Gallery. Almost every piece is centered on the corpse of a bird or some part thereof, either a rendering by the artist's hand or, more commonly, the thing itself, collected from the wild by Moore and carefully preserved under glass. These bodies seem impossibly fragile, the hollowed legs and talons frailer than eggshell, the wings brittle as a glaze of ice. And the plumage: frayed and faded to a dull, lusterless crisp. If, as Emily Dickinson would have it, hope is the thing with feathers, then these are shells of despair.

And yet Moore has framed them with such care, in displays of such beauty and elegance, as to rescue them from their desiccated state and, if not restore their former splendor, at least pay tribute to it. Most of the tiny skeletons are laid on rich fabric and showered with and surrounded by dozens, even hundreds, of colored, pearllike beads no larger than a bird's eye. A couple are nestled inside the drawers of specially made and decorated standing chests, which you may pull open to see the dead birds lying in great beds of salt, like tree limbs in a snowdrift. Several others rest under Plexiglas boxes atop wooden tables just a couple of feet high. That these displays are so clearly handcrafted and put together with so much apparent feeling makes them seem

personal, as if the fallen animal was known truly and well by the maker, as if these were birds with names.

If these exhibits were only memorials to anonymous birds discovered in yards and on the roadside, it would be enough to make this exhibit a little heartbreaking. But in the smaller tables is another element: Below each box and lifeless bird is a drawer with a pull like the perch of a birdhouse, which, when pulled out, reveals an excerpt from a story in *The New York Times* describing catastrophic deaths in Iraq. Explosions. Suicide bombers. Blood in the streets. Death.

It is the same in box after box, drawer after drawer, accounts of bloodshed and carnage and loss of life. Suddenly, it isn't only the birds that are fragile but ourselves; it isn't just these beautiful, innocent creatures of the air we are mourning but a host of other beautiful innocents whose lives have been ripped away and who lie still, profoundly still, forever fettered to the earth half a world away. We close the drawers, and a weight falls, a deep sorrow settles in, not as the result of some aggressive political statement, some loud condemnation of the current war, but because a connection has been made by Moore and felt by us: life threaded to life, each one so delicate, so vulnerable, so precious. Hers is but a gesture made in appreciation of flight, in memory of life, and it is exquisitely moving. - Robert Faires

CLOSING

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris' ascerbic Christmas memories get some excellent rejuvenation in the form of new elf-star Espie Randolph (who so delightfully galvanized the Zach stage in Shear Madness a couple of years back), with director Dave Steakley answering the knock of color-specific opportunity by adding new material, including the Christmas story "Six to Eight Black Men," to the holiday mix. There's also musical enhancement by Meredith McCall and Jason Connor. Through Jan. 11. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43. www.zachsott.com.

ONGOING

THE LAST FIVE YEARS The two sides of a romantic relationship at its end are revealed in this Jason Robert Brown play, directed by Michael McKelvey for Austin Playhouse and Penfold Theatre, featuring David Gallagher and Anikka Johannson as the parallaxed lovers. (See review, p.58.) Through Jan. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$15, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

AUDITIONS

SHERLOCK HOLMES Weird City Theatre Company is casting this play to be directed by Patti Neff-Tiven in February. Auditions by appointment only; bring head shot and résumé. *Thu. Jan.* 8. 7-10pm, 745-2636.

THE E WORD: A PLAYGROUND ADAPTATION Sharon Sparlin's new play is about the science vs. religion conflict over evolution, and it's set in a kindergarten – but it's not a children's play by any means. Seeking men and women (ages 18-45); all ethnicities encouraged to audition for a production at the Off Center in May. Also, \$500 compensation available. Call or e-mail for appointment. Sat., Jan. 24; Mon., Jan. 26. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 507-8535. sharonsparlin@gmail.com.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

GNAP! THEATER PROJECTS: DAVID RAZOWSKY'S VIEWPOINTS INTENSIVE The former artistic director of Second City L.A. is in town to present the Viewpoints technique to local actors and improvisers, with the class culminating in a workshop performance at Salvage Vanguard Theater. Recommended for the serious performer. Jan. 9-11. Fri., 7-10pm; Sat-Sun., 10am-4pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$200. www.razowskyintensive.eventbrite.com.

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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:

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Benné Rockett, visual arts.

art@austinchronicle.com

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings

brenner@austinchronicle.com

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Cap City Open Mic Hey, it could be *you* up there slaying your friends and neighbors as they've slain you. *Sundays*, 8pm. Free with college ID.

Andi Smith This touring comedian's got a wicked (and wicked funny) mind working the mouth in that pretty face of hers – all of which are sufficient reasons to catch her act. Oh, and one more reason: The almost equally pretty **Lucas Molandes** opens. *Through Jan.* 10. Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

Mark 'the Chinaman' Britten He's not just a funny impressionist, he's the man who does those spot-on bits as Rob Thomas from Matchbox Twenty and Steven Tyler of Aerosmith fame, among others, y'know, so catch his act for a truly Chinamanese New Year. Jan 13-17. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 524-2807 www.coldtownetheater.com

This Week The energetic

Parallelogramophonograph rearranges your mind's furniture with Ratliff & Jackson. Thu., 8pm. TKO: Sketch Comedy Open Mic Oh, we can barely imagine ... 10pm. Once again, it's that Proctor show, now with the Faculty and Girltrap. Fri., 8pm. Residencies The improv showcase starts with Unfurled. Fri., 9pm. Punchline The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues! Fri., 10pm. Stool Pigeon features "Revenge of the Improv Widows," hoo boy. Sat., 8pm. Cage Match Two teams wage unholy war and heathen mayhem upon each other, improv-style. Sat., 9pm. Cold, Cold Improv The ColdTowne house troupe dishes up a comedy conflagration for your entertainment, along with Murphy. Sat., 10pm.

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

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its riotous musical comedy and sketches, now with the Unleaded Supremes singing "The Big Three Bailout," guest comedian Derek Reid as Barack Obama with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and a new illusion (it's called "Wet!") from 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.

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

Friday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which three different troupes, drawn from the best in town, battle for improv supremacy. 8pm. \$10. Next comes the eminently topical **This Week Tonight** show, working its wild improv off the news (of the weird, of the wonderful, of the just plain newsworthy) of the past seven days. Holy current events, anchorman! 10pm. \$10.

Saturday: After School Improv Here's some fresh improv based on audience suggestions and performed in the style of those old-school teenage cautionary tales. Marijuana! Gangs! Sexual predators! Oh noes! 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.

Open Mic Night These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Bob Khosravi**. Aw, we *like* that Khosravi feller! *Thursdays*, *10pm*.



DEREK REID AND KERRY AWN DOUBLE-TEAM THE VELVEETA ROOM'S LUCKY STAGE
THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Derek Reid and Kerry Awn Here's a prime instance of Mister Double Happiness, so to speak, as Derek Reid (visiting from Hollywood and currently doing his Obama thing at Esther's) throws down against Kerry "Ronnie Velveeta" Awn for a night of laughs aplenty. **David Cole** and **Faye Haire** open. *Fri.-Sat., Jan.* 9-10, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects busts the new year wide open with this excellent improv showcase. This week features those character-driven improvisers the **Frank Mills** and the mighty McCormick & Merlin magic of **Get Up**. Jan. 10, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.

SEE. HEAR. SPEAK. FOUR. With such a minimalist name for a maximalist amalgamation of comedy excelence, this fourth annual festival has got the goods to kick your ass toward perihelion right from the start. Your friends at ColdTowne have been scheming and arranging for months and are now ready to unleash four days and nights of improv and stand-up and, oh, just about anything that'll make you laugh 'til your *musculus buccinator* is torn to shreds. They've got quite a line-up – locals and stars from around the country – and it runs from Jan. 15-18, and we'll have a full schedule for you in the next issue. But here's what's coming on the opening Thursday at ColdTowne Theater (4803-B Airport, 524-2807, unless a different location is noted, and see the website for more):

The P! Company This company of absurdists presents its popular video sketch comedy. **Lovey & Lovey** Fix me another gimlet, darling, and let's see this modern version of Nick & Nora Charles cracking wise under the influence of their own sparkling wit and other, equally strong spirits. Michael Jastroch and Tami Nelson, oh, how we drunkenly swoon! *8pm*.

Midnight Society ColdTowne Academy's shining graduate class goes ballistic and balletic with bullets of sketch comedy. Murphy The way this troupe brings its rebellious improv verve onstage, you'd suspect its first three names were Randle Patrick Mc, y'know what we're sayin'? Studio8 These comics are from L.A., and here they're hosting a debate on the merits of various YouTube videos. The video-enhanced debate, we've heard, is even funnier than the clips. (Well, except maybe that one clip, with the two cats and the snorkeling device, right?) 10pm.

Comedy Networking Party Everybody in Austin is invited to this shindig, but especially all writers, actors, improvisers, and stand-up comics interested in getting involved with ColdTowne. *11pm. Conjunctured*, *1309 E. Seventh.* **www.seehearspeakfest.com**.

KICK BUTT COMEDY ComedySportz Reunion Shows Les McGehee and his coterie of seasoned comedy cutups return to the stage with this series of tomfoolery. Lesfoolery, actually. Saturdays, 6pm. Monday Night Mash: Improv Mondays, 8pm. Open Mic Comedy Wednesdays, 8pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.

LAST GAS COMEDY Stand-up comedy every Saturday. Sat., Jan. 10, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK features the best comics in Austin, so they suggest – right there in the Hole, on the Drag, in the heart of collegiate Texas. *Tuesdays*, 10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe. \$5. www.myspace.com/austincomedytrainwreck.

dance

CALL FOR CHOREOGRAPHERS: BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL Big

Range Austin is a dance festival that presents contemporary dance exploring diverse concepts within the movement arts, encouraging experimentation, collaboration, and performance excellence in a fun and challenging environment for artists and audiences. Festival dates are *June 5-14* at Ballet Austin's AustinVentures StudioTheater. See the website for details and applications. Deadline: *Jan. 31.* www.spankdance.com.

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE: SUMMER INTENSIVE NATIONAL AUDITION TOUR

Intermediate and advanced students, ages 12-22, are invited to audition for ABT's New York, Collegiate, and satellite Summer Intensives, as well as for the Young Dancer Summer Workshop. See the company's website for details. Sat., Jan. 10.

www.abt.org/education/summerintensive.asp.

TWO LEFT FEET

ARIEL DANCE THEATRE: NEW MODERN CLASSES

Andrea Ariel teaches modern dance to students of all levels. Please call for more information. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 458-4258. \$12 drop-in/\$10 class card.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all ever town courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's

over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. 323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAKON

Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. Various locations, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.

BELLY DANCE WITH FINGER CYMBALS Stacey Lizette teaches all levels of dancers, using different cymbal rhythms with a focus on fluidity of hand and arm movements. (Finger cymbals are available for purchase or loan.) *Mondays*, 7:30-8:30*pm. Tapestry Dance Company*, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys. No partner needed, but couples welcome. *Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100,* 327-2869. First class free. **TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY ACADEMY: POLLY MOTLEY** Guest choreographer Motley leads a pair of workshops: one for finding new movement and experimenting with your own personal style, the other for "mature art makers" of all disciplines that focuses on performance. Check the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company*, 2302 Western Trails, 474-9864. www.tapestry.org.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE

Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call for details. *Mon. & Wed., 8:30-9:30pm, 12687 Research at Oak Knoll, 971-0188.* www.twylabellydance.com.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ'd music weekly, year-round. Saturdays, 7:30-11pm. Austin Uptown Dance, 8868 Research, 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.

THE DANCE ZONE: ADULT DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES Unique twists on standard favorites: Ballet
NEXT, L.A. Street Jazz, Cardio Jamz, Cardio Strip-Hop,
and more. See the website for details. *The Dance Zone*,
2323 San Antonio. 236-9328. www.inthedancezone.com.

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

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.

ESQUINATANGO: GET READY FOR CARNAVAL! A variety of Brazilian samba classes for all levels of dancers, led by Rebekah Fowler, includes a special workshop, a free open house, and weekly classes, all to get you in shape and in the mood for the biggest party of the year. Thus far, anyway. See the website for details. *Through Jan. 30. 209 Pedernales.* 524-2772. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). Times and prices vary. See the website for details. *Tapestry Dance Company studios*, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.

FLAMENCO CLASSES Intermediate classes at the Khabele Studio Downtown. Call Chloe for details. 923-3270.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes, centrally located. *Saturdays, noon-1pm (beginner),* 1-2:30pm (intermediate). 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. Fees vary. www.estudioflamenco.com.

SECOND FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

At this fragrance-free event, dances are called by expert teachers, so you can be a beginner and still enjoy this elegant form of dancing. No partner necessary! Fri., Jan. 9, 7:30-10pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 266-9949. \$6. www.austinuu.org.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA

DANCE Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3 donation.

www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.

NIA CLASSES The Nia technique is an energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. First class is free. Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class. www.cityofaustin.org/parks/hancock.htm.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.alfd.cc.

KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. *Fridays* (except third *Friday each month)*, 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbuttcoffee.com.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* www.fouronthefloor.com.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$5 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.

classical music

OPENING

CORNELL UNIVERSITY GLEE CLUB One

of the finest American all-male choral ensembles, the Glee Club was founded almost 150 years ago. Now under the direction of Scott Tucker, the chorus performs traditional works; modern arrangements by the Glee Club's a cappella subset, the Hangovers; and other classic collegiate selections. Fri., Jan. 9, 7:30pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 577-6788. \$10 (\$5, children; cash or check only, please). www.gleeclub.com.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: GARRICK OHLSSON Pianist Ohlsson joins Maestro Peter Bay and ASO for a pair of evenings that feature music by three of Russia's greatest composers: Mussorgsky, Dvorak, and Rachmaninoff. Ohlsson performs Dvorak's Piano Concerto in G Minor, Op. 33. Come early for Bob Buckalew's Concert Conversation, previewing the evening's musical selections with an eye toward history and the social climate of the composers' times. Fri-Sat., Jan. 9-10, 8pm (Concert Conversation, 7:10pm). Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$19-48 (student rush tickets available 20 minutes prior to performance for \$5 cash with current student ID). www.austinsymphony.org.



PIANIST GARRICK OHLSSON JOINS THE AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR A VERY RUSSIAN WEEKEND.

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: STRING AUDITIONS

AYO seeks to fill strings spots in each of its five performing orchestras. Membership is open to orchestra students in grades K-12 from public, private, charter, and homeschools who are members in good standing of their respective school orchestras. Students should prepare a solo piece or étude of their choice. Scales and sight-reading may also be required. There is a \$100 fee per semester for tuition. See the website for details. Mon., Jan. 12, 6pm (registration); 6:30pm (auditions). Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.

TEATRO DE ARTES DE JUAN SEGUIN: NOCHE DE GALA CONTESTANT SEARCH The 24th annual competition is *March 7*, and there is a mandatory meeting for auditioners on *Jan. 31*. The competition is open to anyone wishing to showcase his or her mariachi singing talent onstage, accompanied by a professional mariachi group. Vocalistas will compete in four divisions: youth, amateur, professional, and masters (previous winners of the professional division). Vocalistas wishing to participate in the competition should provide name, address, and telephone number by phone or e-mail; registration packets are available on the group's website. Mandatory meeting: Sat., Jan. 31, 5pm. Teatros Cultural Arts Center, Seguin. 830/303-3320. www.teatrodeartes.org.

visual arts

OPENING

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: LACEY RICHTER "Paint, Dance, and Dialoques" showcases the new works by this artist. Reception: *Thu., Jan. 8, 6-10pm*. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 31. 1110 Barton Springs Rd.,* 397-1468. www.ctyofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR New works from the gallery's 50 represented artists, each piece priced less than a grand. Highly recommended. Reception: Sat., Jan. 10, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 30. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: FACULTY ARTReception: *Fri., Jan.* 15, 6pm. Exhibition: *Through Feb.*5. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400. www.stedwards.edu.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: LESLEE FRASER
Suburban malls, the Bible, scientific theory, and
domestic talismans all provide ripe fodder for
Fraser's miniature parables as she assembles familiar tokens into vignettes both tender and thoroughly
skewed. Reception: Thu., Jan. 15, 6-8pm. Exhibition:
Through Feb. 21. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.
www.womenandtheirwork.org.

CLOSING

ARTHOUSE: RAPTURE IN RUPTURE Curator Elizabeth Dunbar presents new works by Lauren Kelley, Shiri Mordechay, Mindy Shapero, and Nicolau Vergueiro. *Through Jan.* 11. 700 Congress, 453-5312. Free. www.arthousetexas.org.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: DARK AND LEAFLESSNew York-based painter Benjamin Butler presents new paintings that reflect his continued interest in combining varying modes of 20th century abstraction with those of the decorative arts, folk art, and "Sunday" painting. *Through Jan.* 10. 360 Nueces Ste. C. www.lorareynolds.com.

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW Here's another fine group show offering work by some of the most exciting artists around: Stella Alesi, Laurel Daniel, Chris De Dier, Matthew Fuller, Joseph Hammer, Sandra Langston, David Leonard, Randall Reid, Christopher St. Leger, William Wahlgren. Be still, my heart; be generous, my wallet. Through Jan. 10. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.
www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

SUPER ALRIGHT: WAY DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS

This is the nationally touring exhibition for the third anniversary of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, featuring original artwork by artists from the Big Easy and beyond, here invigorated by fine pieces by five Austin locals. Recommended. *Through Jan.* 10. 301 Chicon, 524-1841. www.superalright.com.

STUDIO ELY: JENNIFER ELY The artist renders canvasses colorful with an elegant, eclectic style. *Through Jan.* 31. 2124 E. Sixth, 482-8680. www.studioely.com.

ONGOING

GAY FAY KELLY: DICK LAVINE Lavine organizes diptychs and triptychs based on repetition of form and color but bound by an overreaching play on words. Call for appointment. *Through Jan.* 28. 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. 2309 Thornton.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERSOriginal lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.

C. ANDREW BOYD'S 'YAGI STEPS OFF' IS PART OF THE 'EXPOSURE' SHOW FROM ARTSEEN ALLIANCE.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaboadastudio.com.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905.

www.artspoken.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glass-blowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527.

www.austinartelass.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM: ALTERNATE WORLDS The work of self-taught artists often reflects a unique perspective framed by complex personal experiences. See how here. Through March 8. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770.

BROCCA GALLERY New paintings by Augusto Brocca and sculpture from award-winning sculptor Gary Yarrington. *Through Feb. 2.* 1103 *E. Sixth*, 628-1306. www.broccagallery.com.

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.

D BERMAN GALLERY: ANN MATLOCK & MARJORIE MOORE Two Texas women respond through their intricate and compelling artwork to different aspects of their environment of the last few years. (See review, p.60.) Gallery talk: Sat., Jan. 10, 1pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 24. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGEEleven whimsical and captivating metal sculptures are on display through the gardens. *Through Jan.* 31.

4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

MEXIC-ARTE: CREANDO FUERZA: CAMBIO Y PERMANENCIA A collective portfolio by members of Consejo Gráfico, an independent network of Latino printmaking centers, explores the centers' diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES ART EXHIBITION Opening reception and awards ceremony: *Thu., Jan.*

Opening reception and awards ceremony: Inu., Jan. 15, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 14. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART presents an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. www.mitchie.com.

REAL GALLERY: MULTICULTURAL ARTISTS
PARTNERSHIP Members' holiday art exhibition.
2824 Real, 775-0458. www.artworksbykathiherrin.com.

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT $102\ Krebs.$ ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFIELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432. www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

SLOANERIFFIC'S PREMIER ART SHOWCASE

Reception with live music from Jordan Tanner: Fri., Jan. 9, 8-10pm. 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.myspace.com/sloanart.



ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

NASTARAN KHERAD The author presents her *In the House of My Bibi*, a firsthand account of the Iranian Revolution: She was falsely imprisoned at the age of 18 along with thousands of other university students. *Wed., Jan. 14, Tpm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* www.bookpeople.com.

NAMI MUN The 2007 Pushcart Prize winner maps her debut novel, *Miles From Nowhere*, set in the world of Korean immigrants in 1980s New York City. Highly recommended. *Tue., Jan.* 13, *7pm. BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. **www.bookpeople.com**.

MARCELLA WOOLF GRENGA goes home to Willow Run Farm, her memoir of growing up on a working farm in the rural Midwest during the (last) Great Depression. Sun., Jan. 11, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

NEW WRITERS EVENT features signings by Karen Daniels, Kimberly Dillon, Gabrielle Faust, John Gratton, and David Levin. Sat., Jan. 10, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

LESFIC AUTHORS' BOOKSIGNING The Sapphic reading group hosts a meet and greet for eight wonderful Texas authors, including Brenda Adcock, Carrie Carr, Frankie Jones, Megan Carter, Peggy Herring, Erin O'Reilly, Kelly Sinclair, and Carsen Taite. Sat., Jan. 10, 2-5pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. Free. www.genuinejoe.com.



POFM OF THE ISSUE

and there is death peaking round the veil here she is he says shall i take her you don't want her shall i make her mine? – Jason Crowson

'COCKFIGHT #2' IS PART OF LESLEE FRASER'S 'NO SURE FOOTING' EXHIBITION AT WOMEN & THEIR WORK.

AAIM BOOK CLUB welcomes *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. *Mon., Jan.* 12, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

HOWSON BOOK CLUB is earnestly Loving Frank by Nancy Horan. Tue., Jan. 13, 7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.

OLD QUARRY BOOK CLUB hits On the Road by Jack Kerouac. Tue., Jan. 13, 7-8:30pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435.

OPEN MICS

THE ARBORETUM Austin's longest-running continuous poetry venue is hosted by Herman Nelson and co-hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr. Next up are Carr herself (who will read selections from her latest Ancestor Series book, *Whispers in the Wind*) and Austin stalwart John Berry. Thu., Jan. 8, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

BOOKWOMAN features Kaye Abikhaled and is hosted by Deb Akers. *Thu., Jan.* 8, *7pm. BookWoman,* 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom the World Poet. Craig La Salle promises to astound. Bring canned food for the Poets Pantry. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

HOT MAMA'S OPEN MIC Food, beer, wine, and caffeine available. *Tuesdays*, 7:30-9pm. *Hot Mama's Espresso Bar*, 2401 E. Sixth, 476-6262. www.myspace.com/hotmamasespresso.

SPOKEN AND HEARD is co-hosted by Stacey Shea and Element 615. Uncensored round robin. Sundays, 7-9pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcoffee.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays*, 6-9*pm. Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetryaustin.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn & Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.austinslam.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! the inside is further than stars & what escapes being held what lingers in absence or how the fresh rose placed on a step or the silence in her field (remember the ember lying in the ore). Namaste. Vaya con dios.



WALLY WORKMAN
GALLERY'S MULTIARTIST
'GRAND AFFAIR' INCLUDES
PAINTINGS AS LOVELY
AS THIS ONE: 'BLUE JAY
MATING RITUALS III' BY
DIANE ATCHETEE.

PATTI DIGH circles into action with her Life Is a Verb: 37 Days to Wake Up, Be Mindful, and Live Intentionally. She asks, "What would you do if you only had 37 days to live?" Fri., Jan. 9, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

THE KICK ASS AWARDS! Spike Gillespie, in cahoots with Austinist and BookPeople, presents the 75th annual Kick Ass Awards, give or take a few decades. Anyway, time again for Spike to salute Austin's unsung heroes, literary and otherwise, recognizing their kickassness. Music by Southpaw Jones. *Fri.*, Jan. 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

LITERATURE AS FILM Literary agents-provocateur Ben Reed and Billy Cope read from their cineastic work. *Fri., Jan. 9, 7pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634. <i>Free.* www.cafemundl.com.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

THE AUSTIN FICTIONISTS are looking for a few good writers. They meet every two weeks for workshops and reviews; they specialize in fiction but have critiqued essays and other writing; they're very selective about finding serious candidates who will commit to developing their own work and provide balanced critiques of others'. Interested? Send a sample of your writing (between 2,500 and 5,000 words) for consideration. **justincgordon@gmail.com**.

SISTERS IN CRIME present CSI Mayberry with Sam Kittrell, police chief of Orange, Texas, talking about big city policing in small town America. Sun., Jan. 11, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652. Free and open to the public. www.hotxsinc.org.

THE MYSTERY GROUP catches a Cold Moon by Jeffery Deaver. Wed., Jan. 14, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

THE SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS welcomes the lovely Jennifer Ziegler, author of *How Not to Be Popular* and *Alpha Dog*, who enlightens us about the inner workings of the publishing world: the good, the bad, and the literary. Sat., Jan. 10, 9:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A NEW ROMANCE

with a turn on to Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's online dating community for Chronicle readers just like you. On Lovers Lane you can read profiles, look at pictures, and listen to voice greetings – absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, video, and record a voice greeting for free.



Place a profile with a photo by 5pm, Monday, February 3, and you'll be entered to win \$100 worth of GIFT CARDS from OPAL DIVINE'S!

ECHRONICLE

austinchronicle.com/loverslane

listings



Gran Torino

D: Clint Eastwood; with Eastwood, Bee Vang, Ahney Her, Christopher Carley, John Carroll Lynch. (R, 116 min.)

Nick Schenk's Gran Torino screenplay wasn't written with Eastwood in mind as the film's star and director, but you'd never guess that was the case, so comfortably does the film fit

the lauded filmmaker and icon's public persona and body of work. Eastwood's performance as Walt Kowalski perfectly caps a career spent playing gunslingers and outsiders. characters who dance on the thin line that separates the lawful from the lawless, characters motivated by moral compasses that are embedded within rather than applied from without. Should the 78-year-old Eastwood chose this role to be his last onscreen performance, it would be a fitting decision as the character of Kowalski seems such a mature condensation of everything that has come before. As we are introduced to him, we learn Kowalski is a retired auto worker and newly minted widower. He lives in suburban Detroit where the American flag flies in front of his Craftsman-style home, and a cherry '72 Gran Torino (whose steering column he personally installed while on the assembly line) resides in the garage out back. Over the years, he's seen his neighborhood change to the point that he is one of the last white residents remaining in an area now inhabited largely by Hmong immigrants from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The young Hmong men regularly fall into gangs that compete for neighborhood turf with black, Mexican, and other ethnic gangs. Bigoted epithets emerge freely from Kowalski's lips, but as the film proceeds we sense his offensive language is more a result of culture and upbringing - it's the way men of his day were taught to navigate the world. Kowalski, no doubt, has been the butt of many a Polish joke, and besides, what's a man to think when he genuinely worries that his Asian neighbors might steal and cook up his dog, Daisy, for dinner? Kowalski's ignorance gradually melts as the troubles of the

matriarchal Lor family next door spills over onto his property. He embarks on a tentative mentorship of teenage Thao (Vang), who lacks the skills to get a decent job and the strength to resist the lure of the gangs. In the process, Kowalski also gets sucked into the gang warfare and becomes the Lor family's protector and finds the means of his own redemption (rectifying, among other things, wrongs that have haunted him since his time fighting in Korea). As director, Eastwood's usual economical yet efficacious style marks the film, but it is his performance that is really the heart of this show. Still lithe and taut in his movement. Eastwood nevertheless allows his aging body to sag in places and shows how Kowalski's body doesn't always respond fully to his bidding. His sinewy and seasoned performance stands in contrast to the immediacy conveyed by the nonprofessional cast of Hmong actors. Eastwood finds the humorous aspects of the character as well, no more so than when the appetite of the widower who lives on beef jerky and Pabst Blue Ribbon becomes the center of attention among the Hmong women cooks. There's also Kowalski's instinctive growl that he directs toward all annoyances, be they his own money-grubbing family members, gangbangers, or the neighborhood priest. Eastwood plans to go on making more movies, but it's doubtful any will be as satisfying a career culmination as - Marjorie Baumgarten Gran Torino.

**** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

new *reviews*

BRIDE WARS D: Gary Winick; with Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen, Kristen Johnston. (PG, 87 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this bridal romcom which, no doubt, seeks to replicate the surprise success of last January's bridal rom-com, 27 Dresses. Here, two best friends become enemies when each schedules her wedding for the same day. Hathaway's still basking in the acclaim from her star turn in Rachel Getting Married, and Hudson's romantic-comedy career can only tilt upward after her recent flops. - Marjorie Baumgarten Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NOT EASILY BROKEN D: BILL

Duke; with Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson, Maeve Ouinlan, Kevin Hart, Wood Harris, Eddie Cibrian, Jenifer Lewis, Niecy Nash. (PG-13, 99 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Following the successful film Woman Thou Art Loosed, this is the second of bestselling author T.D. Jakes' novels to be turned into a movie. The popular Dallas pastor's fiction is grounded in black middle-class melodrama in which the participants draw strength from their spiritual beliefs. In this film, which was not screened in advance, a couple hits a rough patch in their marriage but eventually discovers that their vows are "not easily broken." – Marjorie Baumgarten Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD

D: Sam Mendes: with Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio. Kathy Bates, Michael Shannon, Kathryn Hahn, David Harbour, Dylan Baker, Zoe Kazan, Richard Easton. (R, 119 min.)

I suppose you could call Revolutionary Road a movie about the killing effects of the suburbs - something director Mendes previously explored in his debut film, American Beauty - but that'd be a facile reduction of a film that aims, far more cuttingly, to sandblast the myth of "specialness" - that very American idea that we are all destined for greatness. A seductive opening scene introduces Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet), before they've married and moved to Revolutionary Road. In that first meet, they catch eyes across a party. They both possess looks that are better than most and imagination, too. April is studying to be an actress, and Frank saw Paris while serving in the Army. They sniff out in each other a similar yearning - to be different, to live life more boldly than the so-called middle-class automatons all around them. The film then cuts to a half-decade later: The Wheelers are now saddled with two children - who, quite tellingly, are never given a close-up - and a two-story in the suburbs of Connecticut. They're expert brawlers by now, both of them chafing at the expectations of their gender roles. Some detractors have claimed Mendes and screenwriter Justin Haythe have inserted into the film a feminist slant absent from Richard Yates' acclaimed

1961 source novel. I haven't read the book. but that argument suggests a righteousness and imbalance of power that don't exist in the film. The Wheelers are both miserable, both pitiable, simply manifest in different ways (he is feckless, while she is strident; he rationalizes and over-emotes, while she turns chilly and shuts him out). You can practically see DiCaprio and Winslet coiling in advance of the starter shot to each monumental screaming match, and Revolutionary Road ranks right up there with Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? in its characterization of a coupling deeply scabrous and defective. But, as with Virginia Woolf, you may marvel at the technique but not particularly revel in it. There's an airlessness to Mendes' picture - a precise match for the manicured lawns, the men's fedoras just so - that doesn't leave much room for error. One slight bobble from the (admittedly very good) leads, and the illusion crumbles. Not a bobble in sight, though, from bit player Shannon, as a mentally unstable neighbor who sees right through the pretty artifice of the Wheelers. Shannon is monstrously good - unpredictable where the other actors are clipped and careful - and he steals the whole picture in two short, shattering scenes. When Shannon exits the film, the air gets sucked out again, and you realize the pretty artifice extends to more than just - Kimberley Jones the Wheelers.

*** Arbor

THE UNBORN D: David S. Goyer; with Odette Yustman, Gary Oldman, Cam Gigandet, Idris Elba, Meagan Good, Jane Alexander. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. No advance screenings were held for this new movie directed by esteemed horror writer Goyer (Batman Begins, the Blade trilogy, Dark City). In The Unborn, a young woman is possessed by the spirit of her twin brother who never made it to term. - Marjorie Baumgarten Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE WRESTLER D: Darren Aronofsky; with Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood, Mark Margolis, Todd Barry, Wass Stevens, Judah Friedlander, Ernest Miller, (R. 109 min.)

As far as I'm concerned, you can keep your Sean Penns and your Brad Pitts and your Frank Langellas; if there's any justice in the world, this year's best actor Academy Award will be going home with Rourke (assuming Rouke has a home and doesn't just sleep in alleyways and bus stations). In the latest from Aronofsky (Pi, The Fountain), Rourke rips his tattered name out from the dustbin of history with his portrayal of Randy "the Ram" Robinson, an aging professional wrestler (and fellow dustbin inhabitant) who long ago said goodbye to the thrills of Madison Square Garden and hello to the dreary resignation of run-down gymnasiums: Nowadays Ram spends more time wrapping cold cuts at a grocery store than he does body-slamming opponents in the ring. But those looking for a grand discourse on the suffering nobility of the aging pseudo-athlete in modern, youth-obsessed America will probably go away disappointed from The Wrestler.

Aronofsky and screenwriter Robert Siegel are less interested in tragedy than they are the intimacy that develops between men engaged in close-contact battle and the contrivances needed to make that contact look as "real" as possible. Together they create innumerable fascinating moments that have the air of documentary truth about them. Take Ram and a Mohawked, snarling baddie talking shop backstage at some VA hall in New Jersey and laying out the game plan for that night's fight. Or Ram dying his hair and crawling into a tanning booth and injecting himself with steroids and doing the 101 other things a professional wrestler has to in order to maintain the appearance of superhuman, ageless health. And then there's Ram pulling staples and glass shards out of his chest after a particularly brutal "extreme" wrestling bout that nearly kills him. In these scenes, Rourke is the very soul of a modern movie actor, baring himself physically and emotionally in an effort to expose the soul of a man whose entire life is predicated on artifice – a broken old actor playing a broken old actor playing an unbreakable superman. For those searching for still more proof of a damaged life, you get Ram at the strip club, where he befriends another quickly aging soul in dancer Cassidy (Tomei), and Ram with his long-estranged daughter (Wood), to whom the wrestler returns in a bid for redemption. But let's be honest: The story of the waning athlete, the stripper he loves, and the daughter he left behind is an old one, and if The Wrestler is ever in danger of slipping into sentimentality, it's here. Thankfully, Aronofsky knows what he has in Ram and his wrestling buddies; whenever the risk of cliché arises, he takes us back into the ring, where fake combat breeds true intimacy and where a once-huge, now-humbled actor can tear his body and his soul to pieces, leaving the blood and tears around for everyone to see, in a desperate attempt to make good on the promise of his youth. - Josh Rosenblatt *** Alamo Ritz, Arbor

openings & ratings

Bride Wars (PG)

Gran Torino (R)

Not Easily Broken (PG-13)

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

*** Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

Revolutionary Road (R)

The Unborn (PG-13)

The Wrestler (R)

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba



first runs

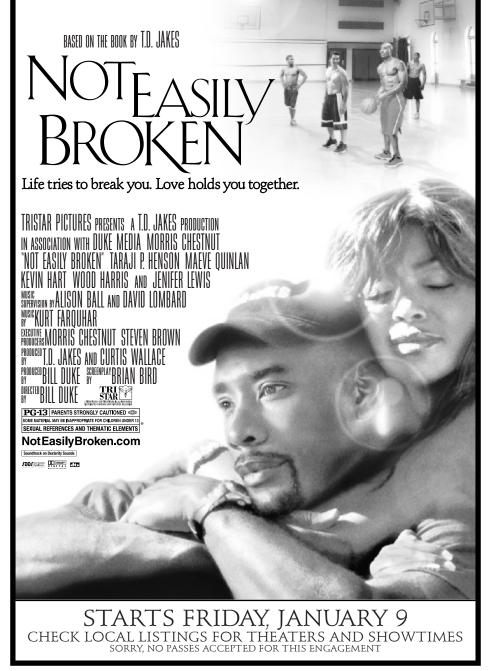
*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

APPALOOSA D: Ed Harris; with Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, Jeremy Irons, Timothy Spall. (R, 114 min.)

Appaloosa is a suitable slow burn punctuated by sudden acts of violence. It's 1882, and lawmen-for-hire Virgil Cole (Harris) and Everett Hitch (Mortensen) arrive in the titular township, a barely conceived place of wood and dirt and whiskey. They come at the town council's request: A scheming, would-be cattle baron by the name of Bragg (Irons, resplendent in his villain's finery and subtexting the inherent dangers of a nascent capitalist system on the range) has murdered the sheriff and his deputies and must be brought to justice. No easy task, that, and it's complicated by the arrival in town of a comely, piano-playing widow, Allie French (Zellweger, wearing a permanent aw-shucks smile), who plays Virgil's heart like a seasoned pro. Harris, directing from an adaptation of Robert Parker's novel, cuts a leathery, desiccated figure as the love-blinded Virgil, who lets his heart get in the way of his work. (10/03/2008) Marc Savlov

★★★ Movies 8





showtimes friday, January 9 - Thursday, January 15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth.

176-1320.
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along:
Thu (1/15), 8:00pm
Terror Tuesday: Demons: Tue, 10:35pm
Welrd Wednesday: Flying Masters of Kung Fu: Wed, 12mid
Music Monday: James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968:
Mon 10:20pm.

Music Montay: James Joven Let Mon, 10:30pm Mon, 10:30pm Mon, 10:30pm Mon, 10:30pm Mon, 10:30pm Mrs Doc Tours: Stranded: I Have Come From a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains: Wed, 7:00pm The Wrestler: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:35, 2:35, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 7:50, 9:35, 10:25, 12:mid; Mon-Tue, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35; Wed, 4:15, 5:30, 8:00, 9:45, 10:35; Thu (1/15), 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 9:35, 11:55

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

13729 Research, 219-5408.

Bedtime Stories: Firiue, 12:20, 3:15, 7:10, 10:00; Wed, 12:20, 3:15, 7:10, 10:00

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:00am, 3:00, 6:50, 6

*Gran Torino: 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15

*Gran Torino: 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
John Singleton Movles: Poetic Justice:
Wed-Thu (1/15), 7:30pm
Seven Pounds: 11:30am, 3:20, 7:05, 10:10pm
The Spirit: Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 3:05, 7:15, 10:20pm;
Sun-Mon, 11:45am, 3:05, 10:20pm; tue, 11:45am, 3:05, 7:15, 10:20pm; Wed, 11:45am, 3:05, 7:15, 10:20pm; Wed, 11:45am, 3:05, 7:15, 10:20pm
TV ⊕ the Alamo: 24: Sun-Mon, 7:00pm
Walkyrie: 12:10, 3:25, 7:25, 10:30
Yes Man: 12:00, 3:10, 6:45, 9:45

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar.

Bedtime Stories: Fri-Sat. 11:15am. 1:40. 4:05. 6:45. 9:15pm:

Bedtime Stories: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45pm; Mon, 1:40, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40, Tue, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45pm; Mon, 1:40, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40, Tue, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20

The Curlous Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm; Mon, 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 2:45, 6:30, 10:05pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 2:45, 6:30, 10:05

Doubt Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon, 1:50, 4:20, 7:15, 9:55pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 1:50pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Mon, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm; Med-Thu (1/15), 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

10:35pm; Mon, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35; Tue, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35pm; Wed-Thu (1/15), 1:45, 4:35, 7:40,

The Spirit: 9:50pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for

Davy Day Sirows, inclusion of me day) are included to parents and children aged infant to 6 years old.

TV at the Alamo: Gossip Girl: Mon, 7:15pm
"Gran Torino: Fir-Sun, 11:00am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15pm;
Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
Marley & Me: 12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

Marley & Me: 12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55
The Rocky Incrory Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009: Fri, 12mid
Valkyrie: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:20, 6:30, 9:30;
Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
Yes Man: Fri-Sun, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:20; Mon, 1:55, 4:40, 10:20; Tien-Thu (1/15), 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:20

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesdays. **Doubt:** 11:30am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25pm Frost/Nixon: 12:30, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Milk: 12:10.3:20.7:20.10:10 Mill. 12:10, 3:20, 7:20, 10:10

Rachel Getting Married: Fri-Mon, 4:10, 9:55; Tue, 4:10pm; Wed-Thu (1/15), 4:10, 9:55

The Reader: 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:45

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and

before 4 pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. **Bedtime Stories:** Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55pm; Tue-Wed, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 9:55; Thu (1/15), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35 **Bride Wars:** Fri-Mon, 10:00am, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:45

10:45pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:45 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fir-Mon, 10:00am, 1:30, 5:00, 8:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 5:00, 8:30 Doubt: Fir-Mon, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35 Frost/Nixon (closed captioned): Fir-Mon, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05 Gran Torino: Fir-Mon, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10 Martley & Me: Fir-Mon, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:45, 10:25pm; Tue-Wed, 2:05, 4:45, 7:45, 10:25; Thu (1/15), 2:05, 4:45, 7:45

Milk: Fri-Mon, 10:45am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00pm; Tue-Wed, 1:35, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00; Thu (1/15), 1:35, 4:25,

Seven Pounds: Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05pm; Tue, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05; Wed, 1:10, 3:55; Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:35, 7:20

Inu (1/15), 1:50, 4:35, 7:20

Slumdog Millionalre: Fir-Mon, 10:55am, 1:40, 4:45, 7:25, 10:15
The Tale of Desperaux: Fir-Mon, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:40, 5:00pm; Inc-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 2:40, 5:00

Nillight: 7:20, 10:05

NWIngir: 7:20, 1,007.

The Unborn: Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 1:45, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45pm; Tiue-Thu (1/15), 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 Valkyrie: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 1:55, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

Yes Man: Fri-Mon, 10:05am, 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35pm; Tue-Thu (1/15), 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone.

GINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Wnitestone, 800/FANDAMGO.

Bedtime Stories: Fit, 2:40, 5:15, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:25; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:40, 5:15, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:25 Boit: Fit, 1:50, 4:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:15, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:40am 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 9:20 Park Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:10, 4:20, 6:40, 9

The Curious Case of Beniamin Button: Fri. 2:30, 7:00, 10:30: Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:30, 7:00, 10:30pm Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:30, 7:00, 10:30

The Day the Earth Stood Still: 10:15pm **Gran Torino: Fri, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine: Sat, 12:00pn Martey & Mr. Fin, 200, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 9:00; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:00, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 9:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:00, 3:20, 4:50, 6:15, 7:30, 9:00 Seven Pounds: Fri-Sat, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Mon-Wed, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Thu (1/15), 4:00, 10:00

10:00

The Tale of Despereaux: Fri, 1:30, 4:10; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 1:30, 4:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 4:10

*The Unborn: Fri, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 Valkyrie: Fri. 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10: Sat-Sun. 10:50am, 1:40

Vallyte: Fri, 1.40, 4.30, 7.20, 10.10, 36-30li, 10.30, 41.30, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 Yes Man: Fri, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14
12812 Hill Country Bivd., 8800/FANDANGO.

Bedtime Stories: Fit, 2:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30; Sat, 4:40, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30; Mon-Wed, 2:00, 4:40, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30; Mon (1); 5:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40, 10:30

Bolt: Fri, 2:10pm; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:10pm

Bride Wars: Fri, 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:40, 4:55, 6:10, 7:25, 8:45, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:25, 3:

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 3:45, 7:40;

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 3:45, 7:40; SatSun, 12:00, 3:45, 7:40; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:45, 7:40; SatSun, 12:00, 3:45, 7:40; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:55, 7:05, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:50, 3:55, 7:05, 10:05; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:55, 7:05, 10:05 Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:55, 7:05, 10:05 Mortopolitan Opera: La Pandine: Sat, 12:00pm Martey & Me: Fri, 1:40, 3:05, 4:30, 6:05, 7:20, 8:55, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 1:40, 3:05, 3:30, 6:05, 7:20, 8:55, 10:10; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 1:40, 3:05, 4:30, 6:05, 7:20, 8:55, 10:10; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:05, 6:45, 9:50; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:25, 6:33, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:25, 6:35, 9:45; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 3:25, 6:35, 9:45; The Tale of Despereaux: Fri, 2:35, 5:00; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:35, 5:00pm; Mon-Thiu (1/15), 2:35, 5:00

2:35, 5:00pn; mon-mu (1/13), 2:35, 3:35 **The Unborn: Fri, 2:30, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 2:30, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00; Mon-Thu (1/15), 10:00; Mon-Thu (

Valkyrie: Fri-Sat. 3:35, 7:10, 10:20; Sun-Mon. 12:30, 3:35. Vally 16: 71:53 (3.53, 7.10, 10.20, 501:1401, 12.50, 5.55), 7:10, 10:20; Tue-Thu (1/15), 3:35, 7:10, 10:20

Yes Man: Fri, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK

2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm

*Appaloosa: Fri, 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:35, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50

Reverly Hills Chihuahua: Fri, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15,

Beverly Hills Chilhuahua: Fri. 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:45, 8:45, 8:11:15am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:35, 9:45 Eagle Eye: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40 High School Musical 3: Senior Pear: Fri, 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 12:00, 1:50, 2:45, 3:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 8:30, 1:30, 2:45, 8:30, 8:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 8:30, 8:20, 7:15, 8:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 2:45, 8:30, 8:20, 7:15, 8:20, 8:2

**Religulous: Fri, 2:00, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05 pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:00, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05

Role Models: Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:10, 4:50, 7:45, 10:10

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35,

800/FANDANGO.

Bedtime Stories: Fri, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:10, 7:30, 9:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 9:40am, 12:20, 1:40, 3:10, 4:30, 6:10, 7:30, 9:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 1:40, 8:10 10:15; Wed, 3:10, 5:00, 6:10, 9:00, 10:35; Thu (1/15), 3:10, 5:00, 6:10, 7:30, 9:00

Bolt: Sat-Sun, 10:40am *Bride Wars: Fri, 1:50, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, *Bride Wars: Fri, 1:50, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 11:15, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, 10:pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 3:00, 4:10, 5:20, 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, 10:00
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 12:40, 4:20, 8:00
The Day the Earth Stood Still: 6:50, 9:30
Four Christmasse: Fri, 1:15, 3:55; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:15, 3:55; pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:15, 3:55
*Grann Torlio: Fri, 2:00, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:50, 10:30 pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:00, 4:

7:50, 10:30 Marley & Me; Fri, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 11:30, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35pm; Mon-Tue, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35; Wed, 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10; Thu (1/15), 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 6:20, 7:45, 9:10, 10:35 Seven Pounds: Fri, 1:10, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:10, 10:20pm;

The Tale of Despereaux: Fri, 1:30, 4:05; Sat-Sun, 10:30am,

The late of Despereaux: rr, 1:30, 4:05pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:30, 4:05 Thillight: 6:40, 9:40 Thillight: 6:40, 9:

Yes Man: Fri, 1:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:10

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

9900 S. 1-35, 800/FANDANGO. **Bedtime Stories:** Fri, 1:00, 2:15, 3:35, 4:55, 6:20, 7:35, 8:55, 10:10; Sat, 1:00, 3:35, 4:55, 6:20, 7:35, 8:55, 10:10; Sun, 1:00, 2:15, 3:35, 4:55, 6:20, 7:35, 8:55, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:00, 2:15, 3:36, 6:20, 8:55, 10:10

**Pride Wars: 12:45, 2:05, 3:15, 4:25, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:30, 10:30

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Sun, 12:55, 2:35, 4:30, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45; Mon-Thu (1/15), 12:55, 4:30, 6:10,

*Gran Torino: 12:50. 3:50. 6:45. 9:50 Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine: Sat, 12:00pm Marley & Me: 1:35, 3:05, 4:15, 5:45, 7:00, 8:25, 9:40 Seven Pounds: 1:50, 3:60, 4:10, 0:40, 7:30 The Tale of Despereaux: 1:15, 3:45 Twilight: 6:30, 9:20

*The Unborn: 1:25, 3:55, 6:40, 9:35 Valkyrie: 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25 Yes Man: 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:55

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall. second floor), 472-FILM.

Second floor), 472-FILM.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri, 4:40, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:40, 8:00; Mon-Thu (1/15), 8:00pm

Let the Right One In: Fri, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thu (1/15), 7:20, 9:50

Synecdoche, New York: Fri, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu (1/15), 7:00, 9:30

Mallyrie: Fri, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 2:0, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Mon, 7:10, 9:40; Tue, 9:40pm; Wed-Thu (1/15), 7:10, 9:40

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without

Bedtime Stories: Fri. 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid

Bedtime Stories: Fri, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sat, 10:00am, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sun, 10:00am, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sun, 10:00am, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, mid; Mon-Thu (1/15), 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, mid; Mors: Fri, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45; Sat, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, mid; Mor-Thu (1/15), 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, mid; Mor-Thu (1/15), 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 7:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (1/15), 12:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (1/15), 12:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (1/15), 12:00, 4:00, 7:45, 11:00; Sun-Thu (1/15), 12:00, 4:45, 7:10, 11:45pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 11:45pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10

Mon-Thu (1/15), 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:10

Fran Torins: Fi, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; Sat, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; ms, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 11:55; ms, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, Mardy & Mer Fri, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, 12mid; Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35, 12mid; Sat, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35; ms, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35

Seven Pounds: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 1:000; Sat, 1:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15; ms, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15

Fluthorn: Fri, 1:2:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20m; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:230, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20m; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, 1:155; Sat, 10:30am, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, 1:155; Sat, 10:30am, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35, 1:155; Sat, 10:30am, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35, 1:155; Sat, 10:30am, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35, 1:155; Sat, 10:30am, Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:20

Will-Hill (1/15), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 1:10, 5:20 Wilkyrier fri, 120, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35, 11:55; Sat, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 9:35, 11:55pm; Sun, 10:30am, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35 Yes Man: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (1/15), 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.

Australia: 1:10. 7:00 .10, 7.00 pries: 11:40am 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00nm

Bedtime Stories: 11:40am, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00pm
*Bott 3-0, 11:35am, 1:55, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10, 9:10
Bride Wars: 12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: Fri-Mon, 1:00, 4:30, 6:55, 8:00, 10:20; Thu; (1/15), 1:00, 6:55, 8:10, 10:20; Wed, 4:30, 6:55, 10:20; Thu (1/15), 1:00, 6:55, 8:10, 10:20
Fran Torino: 11:30am, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:20, 7:20, 8:00, 10:00, 10:400m, 1

Marley & Me: 11:20am, 1:30, 2:00, 4:20, 4:50, 7:40,

10:30pm
Not Easily Broken: 11:50am, 2:05, 4:25, 7:10, 9:30pm
Quantum of Solace: 4:35, 10:25
Seven Pounds: 11:25am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45pm
The Bile of Despereaux: 12:15, 2:05, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
The Unborn: 12:10, 2:20, 4:45, 7:45, 10:15
Vallyrie: 11:45am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40pm
Yes Man: Fri, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; 5:41, 12:35, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Tue-Thu (1/15), 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Tue-Thu (1/15), 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:35; Sun, canditionally additionally addi

Yes Man (open captioned): Fri, 12:35pm; Sat, 3:00pm; Sun, 12:35, 10:35; Mon, 12:35, 8:05

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum.

IMMA I HEARIK L'eXaS State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-MAX. Livel: Fri-Sat, 5:00, 7:30, 9:00 Sun-Thu (1/15), 5:00, 7:30 Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River a Risk: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 3:00; Sun, 3:00pm, Mon-Thu (1/15), 12:00, 3:00 Evas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00pm;

Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 10:00am, 1:00pm Wild Ocean 3D: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/15), 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:30pm

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm all day Wednesday.

Bedtime Stories: 11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:45pm Bolt: 12:00, 2:20, 4:50 Bride Wars: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:20am, 2:50, 6:30, Gran Torino: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm Marley & Me: 11:30am, 2:10, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40pm The Tale of Despereaux: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 Twilight: 7:10, 10:25

Valkyrie: 12:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:30 Yes Man: 12:20, 3:10, 6:50, 9:40

FOR LIPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE austinchronicle.com/film. METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassnev, 447-0101.

Australia: 2-05, 6-30, 10-15

Bolt: 11:50am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40pm

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:40am, 12:50, 3:15, 5:10, 6:50, 9:20, 10:25pm

Doubt: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

Doubt: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondline: Sat, 12:00pm
Marley & Me: 12:05, 1:10, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:25, 9:30, 10:20
Not Easily Broken: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
Seven Pounds: 12:20, 1:00, 4:00, 4:40, 7:00, 7:40, 10:00, 10:35

Twilight: 12:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30

wingin: 12:44, 4:20, 1:30, 10:30 file Unborn: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45 fee Man: Fri, 1:15, 2:35, 4:10, 5:15, 7:15, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35, 11:55; San, 2:35, 4:10, 5:15, 7:15, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35, 11:55; Sun-Wed, 1:15, 2:35, 4:10, 5:15, 7:15, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35, 11:55; Thu (1/15), 1:15, 2:35, 4:10, 5:15, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35, 11:55

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. Adults, \$6; children, \$4.

Jomplex. Adults, \$6; children, \$4.
Seven Pounds: Sat, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30pm;
Wed-Thu (1/15), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30pm
Twilight: Fri, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and FM 1825 regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.

Bedtime Stories: 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45 Bedtime Stories (in DLP digital): 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

*Bolt (3-D): 12:15pm *Bride Wars: 12:15, 1:25, 2:30, 3:40, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15,

7.13, 10.30 The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:50am, 1:05, 2:20, 3:25, 4:40, 6:00, 6:55, 8:15, 9:35, 10:35pm **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

The Day the Earth Stood Still: 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Doubt: Fri, 1:2:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Sat. 5:10, 7:40,
10:10; Sun-Wed, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10; Thu (1/15), 12:05, 2:35, 10:10

*Gran Torino: 11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40pm
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine: Sat, 12:00pm
Metropolitan Opera: La Rondine: Sat, 12:00pm
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*The Spirit: 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45

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*The Unborn: 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Valkyrie: 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50 Yes Man: 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:15pm TINSELTOWN SOUTH South 1-35 at Stassney. 326-3800. \$10 "special event" ticket prices apply to

Rudan HIMS. **Bedtime Stories:** Fri, 3:30, 4:25, 5:15, 6:05, 6:50, 7:50, 8:40, 9:35, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 12:55, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:25, 5:15, 6:05, 6:50, 7:50, 8:40, 9:35, 10:25; Mon-Thu (1/15), 3:30, 4:25, 5:15, 6:05, 6:50, 7:50, 8:40, 9:35, 10:25 Indian films.

9:35, 10:25

*Bride Wars: Fri, 2:50, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50;
Sat-Sun, 12:30, 1:40, 2:50, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50; Mon-Thu (1/15), 2:50, 4:00, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40, 9:50

The Day the Earth Stood Still: Fri, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 6:55, 8:20, 9:50, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:20, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 6:55, 8:20, 9:50, 10:30; Mon-Thu (1/15), 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 6:55, 8 Films to Die For III: After Dark Horrorfest: Fri-Thu (1/15)

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The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: 11:30am, 3:00, 6:30 Gran Torino: 11:25am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30pm Marley & Me: 11:15am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm Milk: 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:05

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> An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

> Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

AUSTRALIA D: Baz Luhrmann; with Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Brandon Walters, David Wenham, David Ngoombujarra, Bryan Brown, Ray Barrett. (R, 170 min.)

Luhrmann has never been afraid to go big, and with this, his long-awaited follow-up to 2001's Moulin Rouge, his canvas stretches as wide as the continent it chronicles. But the bigger the scope and the bigger the ambition, the less control Luhrmann seems to have over his epic productions. Australia is a fairly straightforward and occasionally quite involving love story between a man and a woman, a woman and an orphaned child, a people and the land, It's an overpacked film, to be sure, and Luhrmann front-loads the best stuff in the first of the film's three distinct sections, including a breakneck cliffside cattle stampede that ends in a gorgeous, three-person clutch. Luhrmann wants it all - comedy and tragedy, bombast and wet-eyed sentimentality. When it works, his kid-in-a-candy-store giddiness is infectious. When it doesn't - when he goes from silly to turgid in 60 seconds flat - he punctures Australia's proportions down from epic to simply overwrought. (11/28/2008) - Kimberley Jones

★★ Gateway, Metropolitan

BEDTIME STORIES D: Adam Shankman; with Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Guy Pearce, Russell Brand, Richard Griffiths, Teresa Palmer, Lucy Lawless, Courteney Cox. (PG, 99 min.)

Adam Sandler has finally found his audience: 3-year-olds. It makes perfect sense, really. From setting bags of dog feces on fire in Billy Madison to urinating on buildings in Big Daddy to ogling bouncing breasts in Click, Sandler has always prided himself on being the poster boy for American male regression, so it was only a matter of time before he gave up the pretense of being an adult and just started making kids movies. In his latest, Sandler plays a goofy hotel handyman with a passion for the simpler things in life – gum balls, sports cars, laughing at little people – who is suddenly thrust into the world of adult responsibility. But unlike previous films in which Sandler's infantile irrepressibility played like an act of rebellion against the square world, in Bedtime Stories, the actor's childishness, when in such close contact with the childishness of real children, comes off merely weird, if not borderline mentally challenged.

(12/26/2008) - Josh Rosenblatt ★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North. Tinseltown South, Westgate

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

D: Raja Gosnell; with Piper Perabo, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Urie; with the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia, George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez, Plácido Domingo, Edward James Olmos, Loretta Devine. (PG. 85 min.)

If you are an adult going to see this film solo or with a peer, you deserve every tired cliché trotted out. But if you or your moviegoing companion are anywhere within whistling distance of adolescence, you'll howl at this lowbrow, familyfriendly trifle. Aunt Viv (Curtis), an L.A. makeup mayen, entrusts her spoiled, designer-clad Chihuahua, Chloe (voiced by Barrymore), to her niece Rachel (Perabo). The niece prefers dashing across the Mexican border for the weekend with her girlfriends to overseeing the dog's ritzy round of beauty treatments and spa appointments. Naturally, the prissy pooch gets lost, and naturally, a string of characters emerges to assist in Chloe's return, including Aunt Viv's studly landscaper, Sam (Manolo Cardona), and his Chihuahua, Papi (voiced by Lopez). The CG effects are fairly irresistible, as is the enormous canine cast. Beverly Hills Chihuahua is a silly, if guilty, pleasure. (10/10/2008)- Margaret Moser

★★ Movies 8



BOLT D: Byron Howard, Chris Williams; with John Travolta, Miley Cyrus, Susie Essman, Mark Walton, Malcolm McDowell, James Lipton. (PG, 96 min.)

Bolt, an animated American White Shepherd (voiced by Travolta), has been born and raised on a film studio lot and truly believes himself to possess those "radical canine enhancements" that his character displays every week on TV. Bolt is completely oblivious of his status as a flesh-and-blood nipper, so when he ends up accidentally shipped from his closed Hollywood environs to "the real world," aka New York City, the stage is set not only for a classic Disney road trip but also for a series of alternately comic and wistful revelations regarding the true nature of heroism, friendship, and love. The writing team of Dan Fogelman (Cars) and co-director Williams (Mulan) has concocted one of the most witty and often hilarious Disney outings in years. Add to that the beautifully nuanced vocal work from all involved, plus some of the most deliriously inspired animation to come out of Disney in years, and the end result is, to quote Rhino, awwwesome. (11/21/2008) - Marc Savlov

*** CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON D: David Fincher;

with Brad Pitt. Cate Blanchett. Julia Ormond. Taraii P. Henson, Tilda Swinton, Jason Flemyng, Jared Harris. (PG-13, 159 min.)

It's quite a feat, really, to have stretched F. Scott Fitzgerald's slender, unsentimental curio into a three-hour-long - very long - motion picture about Benjamin (Pitt), who is born with the arthritic creak of an old man and proceeds to age in reverse. Everything that was sharp in the original text has been rounded and buffed; Fitzgerald's cynical eye toward humans' fleeting attractions, and attractiveness, has been junked for a love story - you know the kind – that spans decades of rising hemlines and missed opportunities. Screenwriter Eric Roth transposes the action from antebellum Baltimore to Armistice Day in New Orleans (which accommodates an ineffective framing story involving Hurricane Katrina). The problem with this kind of episodic (un)coming-of-age tale - as with Roth's previous Oscar bait, Forrest Gump - is that too often, transitions, major life decisions, feel unmotivated. Fincher is a master craftsman, to be sure, but I didn't buy this story for a second. (12/26/2008) - Kimberley Jones ** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD

STILL D: Scott Derrickson; with Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly, Kathy Bates, Jaden Smith, John Cleese, Jon Hamm, Kyle Chandler. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Unsurprisingly, this loud, hammy, and, above all, pointless do-over only serves to point out the genius of the original. Screenwriter David Scarpa sticks to the rudiments of Edmund H. North's 1951 script but garnishes the film's overriding and still-resonant message with wooden warnings from the equally wooden Reeves and then ladles on the CGI destruction to little effect. Reeves displays precious few emotions and even less acting. He plays the character of Klaatu (who is, lest we forget, the potential destroyer and/or savior of all mankind) as though he were on robo-pilot. Connelly does her best as the sci-gal whose rocky relationship with her preteen stepson eventually leads to tears, hugs, and the redemption of all mankind (maybe). But even she - or a stern Bates or a decidedly unsilly cameo by Cleese - can't save this dull, unnecessary film from its total lack of "Gosh, wow!" sense of wonder. (12/12/2008)- Marc Sayloy

★ CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

DOUBT D: John Patrick Shanley; with Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams, Viola Davis, Joseph Foster II. (PG-13, 104 min.)

Shanley adapted his Pulitzer- and Tony Awardwinning play, Doubt, for the movies and also chose to direct the film. The cast he gathered is peerless, but unfortunately, the actors don't all behave as though they're performing in the same movie. A collection of acting styles, from the broad to the contained and the exacting to the unrestrained, creates an unevenness of tone and interpretation. Streep plays Sister Aloysius, the unwavering principal of the St. Nicholas school, into whose dominion comes the new young priest, Father Flynn (Hoffman). The ensuing struggle between the two over morality and power carries with it all the baggage of Catholic tradition and hierarchy as well as the period's secular strife between men and women. It's a cerebral tug-of-war for the viewer, a struggle that's made only more opaque with the film's closing line of dialogue. Meanwhile, storms suddenly stir up outside, and lightbulbs repeatedly burst in Shanley's effort to cinematically underline the pent-up emotions within. (12/26/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten ** Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek

Square, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



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EAGLE EYE D: D.J. Caruso; with Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Rosario Dawson, Michael Chiklis, Anthony Mackie, Ethan Embry, Billy Bob Thornton, Anthony Azizi. (PG-13, 118 min.)

I could be wrong, but it feels like Eagle Eye is arriving a few months late. With its frenetic car chases: its near-erotic fascination with explosions. gadgets, and guns; and its improbable and, in the end, totally disposable storyline, it's the very definition of a summer blockbuster: good, manic fun plus a heavy dose of political intrigue adding up to two hours of clamorous, mind-numbing nonsense. Jerry Shaw (LaBeouf) is a sweet-talking slacker with a chip on his shoulder who gets dragged in to a violent conspiracy against the U.S. government. He is on the run from the FBI (led by a deliciously dyspeptic Thornton) after being framed as a terrorist for reasons he can't understand and narrowly escaping the gaping maw of the post-PATRIOT Act American justice system. Like Enemy of the State, Eagle Eye's backdrop is a world gone mad with surveillance and, like The Terminator trilogy, one where the machines have slipped their leashes and taken over. (09/26/2008) Movies 8

FOUR CHRISTMASES D: Seth Gordon; with Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon, Jon Favreau, Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Jon Voight, Kristin Chenoweth, Dwight Yoakam, Tim McGraw, Katy Mixon. (PG-13, 82 min.)

No yuletide season would be complete without the crappy Christmas movie. This year's entry in this lowly subgenre is Four Christmases, a D-list comedy with A-list actors. (No doubt, the five Oscar winners in the cast were motivated by an easy paycheck and the audience exposure found in a critic-proof movie starring Vaughn.) Generously speaking, Four Christmases plays like a series of skits randomly connected to one another. So, when the script turns a serious corner to impart a warm and fuzzy message about the importance of a traditional holiday with the family, the sentimentality starts to smell. Vaughn and Witherspoon make for a cute couple – the height difference between the two alone is worth a good laugh



The Magic Flute

The Magic Flute (2006) D: Kenneth Branagh; with Joseph Kaiser, Amy Carson, René Pape, Lyubov Petrova. (NR, 135 min.) Austin Lyric Opera. Branagh's 2006 film of the opera was never distributed in the U.S. Soprano Petrova, who stars as the Queen of the Night, will also sing the role of Gilda in ALO's upcoming production of Rigoletto. Petrova will be in attendance at this screening. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Monday, 7pm; \$10, reserve seats at www.kevinpatterson.org.



but their different approaches to comic acting clash onscreen. Maybe moviegoers are still keen on Vaughn, but his incessant prattling is quickly becoming stale. (11/28/2008)
 Steve Davis

★ ★ CM Round Rock, Tinseltown South

FROST/NIXON D: Ron Howard; with Frank Langella, Michael Sheen, Sam Rockwell, Oliver Platt, Kevin Bacon, Matthew Macfadyen, Rebecca Hall. (R, 122 min.)

Frost/Nixon is a behind-the-scenes account of the momentous interviews with Richard Nixon conducted by British TV personality David Frost in 1977, three years after the former president had resigned from office in disgrace. The film is adapted for the screen by Peter Morgan from his play and stars the play's two leads: Langella (who also won a Tony for this role) as Nixon and Sheen as Frost, Almost by definition. Frost/Nixon is a two-handed work, a psychological boxing match between the two protagonists, and Langella and Sheen, the actors, are evenly matched. Each man also counts a few coaches and assistants in his corner, making the taped interviews seem all the more like a prizefight. Frost/Nixon, like Morgan's The Queen, is at its best when it's examining the fragile intersection of media and politics. On its own, however, I'm not sure that this story of Frost's chutzpah and Nixon's intractability is inherently that gripping. (12/26/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Arbor, Barton Creek Square

GHAJINI D: A.R. Murugadoss; with Aamir Khan, Asin Thottumkal, Jiah Khan, Riyaz Khan, Pradeep Rawat. (NR, 180 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. This new Hindilanguage film is a remake of a 2005 Tamil film, which was inspired by Christopher Nolan's Memento. In the romantic action thriller, a business suffers from amnesia. (12/25/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten Tinseltown South

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR D: Kenny Ortega; with Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Corbin Bleu, Monique Coleman, Alyson Reed, Olesya Rulin, Bart Johnson. (G, 112 min.)

Jumping in with the third film in the series presents no continuity problems: The teens from the previous two films are getting the inevitable heave-ho from high school, and they weigh their futures while younger classmates are introduced into the mix (HSM4 is already in the works). And all the while, they burst into song and dance with a frenzy that's almost beyond human. The music (by David Lawrence) is heavy on the power ballads and fairly undistinguished, but the dancing ... oh my goodness Director/choreographer Ortega is the best thing to happen to movie musicals in decades. Ortega, who

also directed the first two films in the series, seizes the possibilities afforded by the big screen and pushes the frame to its outer limits. Full of color, energy, precision, and creativity, Ortega's choreography unleashes the true spirit of movie musicals, which exist to remind us that if the beat is right, it can't be wrong. (10/31/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten $\star\star\star$ Movies 8

JCVD D: Mabrouk El Mechri; with Jean-Claude Van Damme, François Damiens, Zinedine Soualem, Karim Belkhadra, Jean-François Wolff, Anne Paulicevich. (R, 96 min., subtitled)

Jean-Claude Van Damme is the JCVD of the title. and in this career-adjusting film, the Muscles From Brussels advances from laughingstock to smart, respectable action-film star. JCVD is a postmodern action movie in which Van Damme, here cast as himself, becomes innocently entangled in bank robbery/ hostage crisis. Director and co-screenwriter El Mechri uses nonlinear strategies to tell the backstory of how Van Damme has arrived at this particular moment in time, starting with a stunning, several-minute shot of nonstop action. The film becomes a dark reflection of Van Damme's real life in which his five marriages, a custody dispute, and legendary drug, violence, and money problems have been the stuff of international headlines. JCVD shows us Van Damme as a defeated, sympathetic man, a hulk of aging flesh and blood (and muscles). One standout passage - a Van Damme soliloquy - is hotly disputed as either the film's pièce de résistance or primary foible. (11/21/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten

*** Alamo Drafthouse South

LET THE RIGHT ONE IN D: Tomas Alfredson; with Kåre Hedebrant, Lina Leandersson. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

Knives, fangs, and budding desire; corpses in copses and snowbound ire: Ah, young love. This multi-award-winning Swedish film could be summarized as a vampire tween romance, but that cheap and tawdry sum-up does zero justice to the magnificent emotional resonance of this gemlike bloodstone of a film. The film is a complex examination of what it means to be a young outsider, and its bracing honesty in these matters is on par with Gus Van Sant and Larry Clark. It's creepy in the same way that a youngster's first stirrings of adolescent desire are creepy – both to them and often more so to their elders - when strange attractors come into play and everything seems frighteningly freighted with the surreal, the mysterious, the forbidden. Oskar (Hedebrant), a blond wisp of a bullied, shy boy, and a strange young girl name Eli (Leandersson) are the adolescent outsiders. Their story creates a beautiful horror film and, more important, a beautiful film. (11/14/2008) Marc Saylov

*** Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2

AFRICA D: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath; with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, Sacha Baron Cohen, Cedric the Entertainer, Andy Richter, Bernie Mac, Alec Baldwin, Sherri Shepherd, Will.i.am. (PG, 89 min.)

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa extends what Madagascar did best: fill up the screen with computer-generated visual novelty. The slapstick humor remains, as does the slack plotting. Introducing only a few new characters that are unfortunately unmemorable, this sequel is likewise a decent diversion that's not much worth talking about afterward. The visual cleverness arises foremost from the central quartet of friends - lion, zebra, hippo, and giraffe – which gets placed strategically in the frame to create funny tableaus. But Madagascar 2 makes the dubious choice of splitting up the foursome in order to explore kid-worthy lessons about individuality vs. fitting in. Many of the zippiest scenes involve Julien the lemur (Cohen), who's puffed up with selfregard yet eager to entertain. There's something bemusingly weird about his character. More of such quirkiness would help adult viewers, but young children will enjoy this piece of sweet cartoon candy. (11/07/2008)- Theresa Everline

★★★ Tinseltown South

MARLEY & ME D: David Frankel; with Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston, Eric Dane, Kathleen Turner, Alan Arkin, Haley Bennett. (PG, 111 min.)

Be you a dog or cat person, you'll likely enjoy Frankel's adaptation of journalist John Grogan's bestselling account of life, love, deadlines, and death with the "world's worst dog," a yellow Labrador retriever named Marley. Never mind the frisky CGI superheroics of Bolt or the teary mawkishness of Old Yeller - Marley is into extinction-level household devastation, scandalous fecal shenanigans, and the terrorization of Kathleen Turner, all of which sound like great fun and indeed are. Wilson, seemingly fully recovered from whatever personal demons were tormenting him last year, plays Grogan with his usual battered charm, and Aniston, as his wife, Jennifer, is, well, Jennifer Aniston. Ostensibly a story about a mad, bad, dangerous-to-walk dog, Marley & Me has far more to say about the bonds that make up the modern American family. And Marley, the dog from hell, (wouldn't you know it) turns out to be nothing shy of a gift from heaven. (12/26/2008) Marc Saylov

*** Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek
Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM
Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway,
Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MILK D: Gus Van Sant; with Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, Diego Luna, James Franco, Alison Pill, Victor Garber, Denis O'Hare. (R, 127 min.)

Van Sant's very fine biopic restricts itself to the last decade of Harvey Milk's life, when the semicloseted insurance man living in New York moved to San Francisco's Castro district and embarked upon a historic campaign (four, in fact) to become the first openly gay man elected to public office. Technically, Milk is a knockout, and the film is terrifically acted, top to bottom. Still, when the focus of the script (by first-timer Dustin Lance Black) turns almost exclusively to the Proposition 6 fight and Milk's last days. the film loses much of its loose-limbedness. Milk is a more conventionally satisfying picture than Van Sant's previous Aughties output, which consisted of aggressively experimental films that didn't always work but got under the skin something fierce. The deeply heartfelt Milk is more of a surface skim: a fairly standard biopic - if a very fine one, indeed but never the transcendent work we hoped for. (12/05/2008) - Kimberley Jones *** Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Westgate



66 Sam Mendes' 'Revolutionary Road' Is A Hands-Down, Bet-The-Farm, Watch-It-Three-Times-In-A-Row Masterpiece. "

San Francisco Chronicle

MICK LASALLE

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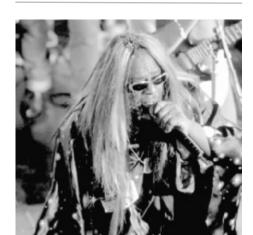
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS

D: Alfredo De Villa; with Alfred Molina, Elizabeth Peña, Freddy Rodríguez, John Leguizamo, Luis Guzmán, Jay Hernandez, Melonie Diaz, Vanessa Ferlito, Debra Messing. (PG-13, 99 min.)

This overly sentimental family Christmas drama, featuring a veritable checklist of prominent Hispanic actors, falls victim to the shortcoming so prevalent in similarly ethnic-themed movies with similar casts - everything and everyone is so damn serious. Here, old wounds reopen and sibling rivalries resurface as the Puerto Rican Rodriguez clan comes together and then apart at the family home in Chicago over the holidays. The steady stream of confrontations, secrets, and other little dramas jam-pack the movie's script (three screenwriters are credited) in a manner that suggests amateurishness rather than insight, with the ultimate message being (of course) that no matter how many times you scream at your relatives, blood will always be thicker than water. Although he captures the film's Chicago setting in a way that feels authentic, director De Villa seems to have little clue of how to capture the subtleties of human emotion. (12/19/2008) Steve Davis ★★ Tinseltown South

QUANTUM OF SOLACE D: Marc Forster; with Daniel Craig, Olga Kurylenko, Mathieu Amalric, Judi Dench, Giancarlo Giannini, Jeffrey Wright, Gemma Arterton. (PG-13, 106 min.)

Craig's onscreen charisma and exquisitely thuggish charm are such that he could likely revitalize any number of flagging film franchises with little but a three-second cameo. Quantum of Solace proves that Casino Royale was no fluke. Director Forster may have seemed an odd choice initially, yet he proves more than up to the task of shepherding James Bond and new Bond girl Kurvlenko through a convoluted but not unmanageable plot as both ricochet around the globe in parabolas of vengeance. Quantum opens mere minutes after Casino Royale ends, and this Bond is bloodier and more enraged than we've ever seen him. Paul Haggis' script (with Neal Purvis and Robert Wade) focuses not on the wages of sin but of vengeance. Quantum is a grim, dark, and relentlessly violent film - James Bond as Terminator rather than Templar – but it delivers the goods in bloody high style. (11/14/2008) *** Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South



All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live!

All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live! (2001) D: Martyn Atkins. (NR, 65 min.) This behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of putting on a megaconcert combines candid moments backstage with musical performances by multi-Grammy-winning rock stars such as Santana, Sting, Sheryl Crow, the Dave Matthews Band, and appearances by Al Green, George Clinton, B.B. King, Moby, Rob Thomas, Mary J. Blige, Kid Rock, Macy Gray, the Roots, Trey Anastasio, and Cheb Mami. IMAX Theatre, Thu. (1/8), 5, 7:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 5, 7:30, 9pm; Sun.-Thu. (1/15), 5, 7:30pm.

No Drinks Allowed in Screening Room

No Drinks Allowed in Screening Room (2009)

D: Ben Coonley and Kevin Bewersdorf. Avant Cinema. New media artists Ben Coonley and Kevin Bewersdorf (LOL, Hannah Takes the Stairs) present this two-man show of deceptively simple yet subversive works, executed with a wide array of digital tools. It promises an evening of PowerPoint lectures, slide-shows, short videos, Internet curiosities, and other sludge from the avantgutter, as well as a special contest. @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, Thursday, Jan. 15, 7pm; \$6, \$4 AFS members, reserve seats online at www.austinfilm.org.

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED

D: Jonathan Demme; with Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Bill Irwin, Mather Zickel, Debra Winger, Tunde Adebimpe, Anna Deavere Smith, Anisa George. (R, 113 min.)

Kym (Hathaway) is a recovering addict let out of rehab long enough to attend the wedding of her older sister, Rachel (DeWitt), to a musician named Sidney (Adebimpe, of TV on the Radio). It's sort of a boho creative's sweet dream of a wedding, filled with light and joy and artistic expression ... into which stomps Kym, the slouching, raccoon-eved, self-described "nightmare." She uses the occasion of Rachel getting married to make amends, but even the seemingly good intention of that is a symptom of her self-absorption. Demme successfully returns to more intimate territory with this film and takes an unhurried, you-are-here approach with the camera. Hathaway is at her absolute best when bouncing off of the terrific Irwin (as her father. Paul) and DeWitt, the other two legs in the deeply damaged family unit. Supporting parts by Winger and Deavere Smith get shortchanged, although Demme has a large enough heart to give everyone at least a moment of spotlight. (10/31/2008) - Kimberley Jones

★★★ Arbor

THE READER D: Stephen Daldry; with Ralph Fiennes, Kate Winslet, David Kross, Bruno Ganz, Lena Olin. (R. 123 min.)

The question at the heart of The Reader is what have we learned (and forgotten) from history's bloody backwash? Luckily for The Reader, the angelic Ganz, as a sage professor of law, is on hand to nudge the question of wartime culpability to the fore. But that's not what's most remarkable about The Reader, it's just what's most intellectually chewy. The real red meat of Daldry's film is the May-December romance between a weary-looking, sexually rapacious streetcar ticket-taker (Winslet, shockingly good throughout) in postwar Berlin and the sickly young schoolboy (an enthusiastic, excellent Kross) on whom she initially takes pity and then seduces, ravenously and to his great delight. One day she's gone, with no explanation, and the boy grows into a promising young law student and, later, into a sorrowful-seeming Ralph Fiennes. Daldry, working from a superior script by David Hare, has crafted a film about guilt, love, and history and how the three skeins create human beings or, alternately, human monsters. (12/26/2008) - Marc Sayloy

*** Arbor, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown South

RELIGULOUS D: Larry Charles. (R, 101 min.)

Though fashioned as popular entertainment with laughs, light moments, and mostly humorous segments, Religulous is as serious as a disapproving Jehovah about its mission to upend our rote allegiance to blind religious faith. Bill Maher hosts this globe-hopping whirlwind of interviews with various representatives of Western religious faiths. As always, Maher carries with him his sharp wit. He and director Charles play it somewhat safe by never going toe-to-toe with sophisticated thinkers or experienced theologians. Neither do they delve too deeply into the more indecipherable sense of spirituality that seems to infuse the majority of people even if they don't consider themselves members of an organized religion or faith. Yet if, as Maher states, 16% of the U.S. population identifies as secular humanists who don't believe in God, then that's a large cross section of the country whose voices are muffled by the status quo. It is to them, more than the believers, Maher speaks, in essence saying, "Let my people go." (10/03/2008) Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Movies 8



ROLE MODELS D: David Wain; with Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobb'e J. Thompson, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Ken Jeong, Ken Marino. (R, 99 min.)

Misanthropy in the movies has a new face: Paul Rudd. His character in Role Models, Danny Donahue, is cranky, cynical, mean to children, endlessly putupon, bad with women, and in the midst of an epic existential crisis. He's like W.C. Fields with chiseled cheekbones and bedroom eyes. When Danny snaps one day, he and his buddy Wheeler (Scott) are forced by court order to take part in a child-mentoring program (run with hawklike vigilance by the indispensable Lynch), where they learn the value of caring about others while struggling to provide guidance to a teenage nerd and an 8-year-old with the mouth of a David Mamet character. Beautifully cantankerous for 45 minutes or so, it's all downhill for Role Models once its two self-involved antiheroes actually start turning into role models, and the transition from feelbad to feel-good comedy is all the more painful for its squelching of Rudd's cosmically dyspeptic disaf- Iosh Rosenblatt fection. (11/07/2008)

★★★ Movies 8

SEVEN POUNDS D: Gabriele Muccino; with Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, Barry Pepper, Elpidia Carrillo, Robinne Lee, Joe Nunez. (PG-13, 120 min.)

Smith plays Ben Thomas, a once-successful engineer who now leads a desperate life of self-loathing and regret. Seeking out the most effective and productive means of self-flagellation, he devises an elaborate scheme of charity/contrition designed to save strangers' lives through the abandonment of his own. Director Muccino (reuniting with his Happyness star) and writer Grant Nieporte have gone through pains to keep viewers in a state of suspended half-confusion, but it is safe to reveal that Ben's work involves helping damaged souls, in particular a beautiful young woman (Dawson) who has a congenital heart defect but enough heart to nudge Ben toward something resembling absolution. Throughout the film, Smith proves himself adept in the art of conflicted melancholy - always speaking at the wrong volume, rarely looking people in the eye, and full of forced smiles and Muccino responds to his star's seriousness with enough darkness and moral ambivalence to keep the story from toppling into heartwarming, pay-it-forward mawkishness. (12/19/2008) Josh Rosenblatt *** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar

Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE D: Danny Boyle, Loveleen Tandan; with Dev Patel, Anil Kapoor,

Freida Pinto, Madhur Mittal, Irrfan Khan, Ankur Vikal. (R, 120 min.)

Slumdog Millionaire is a mad, thrilling, and perversely luminous film. It may be drenched in the saffron and violet palettes of its Mumbai setting, but it plays like a classic Hollywood rags-to-riches love story, albeit one with Bollywood roots and a fully globalized desire to survive, succeed, live, and love within the teeming megalopolis formerly known as Bombay. It's a natural fit for Boyle and director of photography Anthony Dod Mantle. Mumbai is nothing if not giddy chaos incarnate. Patel, in his feature debut, is the "slumdog" of the title, a reed-thin young striver named Jamal Malik. Jamal has managed to

survive the crushing poverty and daily tragedies of his birthplace and has somehow landed himself on the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*. It's a doozy of a story that piles on the traditional Holly- and Bollywood melodrama but never shies away or strays too far from the Ganges and the ghetto. (12/12/2008) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square

THE SPIRIT D: Frank Miller; with Gabriel Macht, Eva Mendes, Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, Paz Vega, Sarah Paulson, Jaime King. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Miller's big-screen adaptation of Will Eisner's comic-book crime fighter has plenty of spirit but no soul at all. And that's a crying shame, since Miller, himself the celebrated creator of the Batman: The Dark Knight Returns and Sin City graphic novels (and the co-director of the film version of the latter, with Robert Rodriguez), would seem to be the ideal choice to bring Eisner's mid-20th century undead tough guy to ever-lovin' life. But the result, which looks and feels like a pastiche of some of the lesser bits of Troublemaker Studios' Sin City that have been Scotch Taped to a dull and painfully chatty plot, is just plain aggravating. Miller wants to thrust the audience into Eisner's grittily humorous, joyously unpolitically correct world of bullets, blondes, and bloodshed, but there is no joy in this particular vision of Central City, and mighty Miller has struck out - big time. Ultimately, it's a long, incoherent mess of a film. (01/02/2009) * Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse

SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK D: Charlie Kaufman; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Samantha Morton, Catherine Keener, Michelle Williams, Emily Watson, Dianne Wiest, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Hope Davis, Tom Noonan. (R. 124 min.)

South, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

Screenwriter Kaufman's first venture as a director is audacious, ambitious, amazing. It's also intricate, self-referencing, and all-encompassing. Kaufman creates an alternate reality, a reality as elaborate and purposeful as any fantasy film yet as grounded, detailed, and recognizable as life as we know it to be. Synecdoche, New York is anchored by the always remarkable Hoffman as theatre director Caden Cotard, whose marriage, relationships, home, and health are all seemingly crumbling. Cotard wants to create a great work of art, something that will outlast him and quell his anxieties about separation, inadequacy, decay, and mortality. Time is both concentrated and elongated in the movie: continuity becomes confused; chronology goes haywire, caught between stasis and anti-stasis. All the while, Cotard is trapped by disappointment and an inability to move beyond this rehearsal of his life. The absurdity grows, and so does the film's humor. It is, ultimately, a modern masterpiece. (11/14/2008) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★★ Dobie

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

D: Sam Fell, Rob Stevenhagen; with the voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman, Emma Watson, Tracey Ullman, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, William H. Macy, Stanley Tucci, Ciarán Hinds, Robbie Coltrane, Tony Hale, Frances Conroy, Frank Langella, Richard Jenkins, Christopher Lloyd, Bronson Pinchot. (G. 93 min.)

The lesson learned from *The Tale of Despereaux* is that an overabundance of vocal talent does not a good cartoon make. Adapted for the screen by *Pleasantville* and *Seabiscuit* director Gary Ross from the 2004 Newberry Medal-winning novel by Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux* adds up to much less than the sum of its parts. The animation looks decent enough, but the narrative is a choppy story that bobs among human characters in the human kingdom of Dor, where soup seems to be its inhabitants' main preoccupation, and the rodent residents of the separate municipalities of Mouseworld and Ratworld. The movie becomes so intent on introducing characters and revealing the dark chambers of the Ratworld dungeon (enough so that the Grating should be called into question) that it loses



many of the book's messages about individuality and valor. Most crippling is the narration by Weaver, which ladles out platitudes by the heaping spoonful. (12/19/2008)

- Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

TWILIGHT D: Catherine Hardwicke; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Elizabeth Reaser, Cam Gigandet, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 120 min.)

I've had mosquito bites that were more passionate than this undead, unrequited, and altogether unfun pseudo-romantic riff on *Romeo and Juliet*. Based on the hideously readable (or so my dark beloved tells me) series of "don't call them young

adult" novels by Stephenie Meyer, Twilight is the first in what promises to be a lengthy cinematic franchise featuring sexy vampire boys who just say, "No, I don't drink ... you." When broody-but-cool teen Bella Swan (Stewart) moves to the permanently overcast town of Forks, Wash., she becomes romantically involved with pallid school hunk Edward Cullen (Pattinson). who is one-sixth of a local vampire "family" which has sworn off the human populace in favor of other sources of the crimson. Bella and Edward's courtship is played out with plenty of dreamy, slo-mo nuance, but Pattinson's cheekbones keep getting in the way of the story, and the third-act arrival of a trio of "bad" vampires appears out of nowhere and goes nowhere, too. (11/28/2008) - Marc Savlov ★ → Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country

Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North

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VALKYRIE D: Bryan Singer; with Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten. (PG-13, 110 min.)

We all know how it ends, and that foreknowledge dooms Singer's hotly anticipated and much troubled account of the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life by his own officers in July 1944. It's always good to see Hitler threatened or Nazis getting what's coming to them just ask Indiana Jones - but Cruise, strident, glaring, and positively burbling over with blood and honor and love of Germany's perverted promise, makes for a problematic closet hero. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, one of a handful of officers who together plan a suitcase-bomb attack to be carried out at the Wolf's Lair retreat, is fitfully dour. There's more honest suspense in waiting for him to crack a smile (he doesn't, or at least not the famous Cruise version) during all the scheming than there is in anything having to do with the actual assassination attempt. Director Singer, however, pays scrupulous attention to period detail and the mechanics of desperation. (12/26/2008) - Marc Savlov ** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North,

Tinseltown South, Westgate

YES MAN D: Peyton Reed; with Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper, John Michael Higgins, Rhys Darby, Danny Masterson, Terence Stamp. (PG-13, 104 min.)

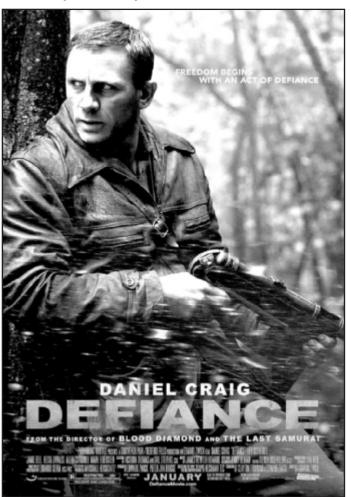
Carl (Carrey) is in a funk. Then he discovers a lifechanging mantra: Say "yes" to every opportunity that presents itself. This plot gimmick veers suspiciously close to the 1997 Carrey vehicle Liar Liar, in which his character compulsively tells the truth, even though supernatural intervention is the cause. In contrast, Yes Man believes in free will, with Carl at first struggling to agree to requests small and large, whether it be friends getting him to pick up the bar tab or a homeless person asking for a ride. But soon he's showered with rewards, including a pretty new girlfriend played by actor/singer Deschanel, who's wide-eyed and goodhearted but without a lot of range - a fair description of the film itself. As the good results roll in and Carl starts uttering "yes" without hesitation, Yes Man becomes less a story and more a collection of setpieces. (12/19/2008) - Theresa Everline

** Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by Sunday, January 11.

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special *screenings*

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: **austinchronicle.com/film**.



THURSDAY 08

The Amazing Mr. No Legs (1981)

D: Ricou Browning; with Richard Jaeckel, Ron Slinker, Lloyd Bochner, Joie Chitwood, John Agar. Cult Thursday. Weird crime drama directed by the Olympic swimmer best known as the man inside the suit of the Creature From the Black Lagoon. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Elvis Presley's Birthday Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 9:30pm.

FRIDAY 09

Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash 2009 (NR) A new volume of the Alamo's annual compilation of mind-boggling insanity and weirdness from Japanese television. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SATURDAY 10

La Rondine (2009) D: Nicolas Joël. (NR, 135 min.) Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD. Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna perform the leads in Puccini's romantic opera. Gheorghiu plays the kept woman who gambles on true love, and

plays the kept woman who gambles on true love, and Alagna is the man who makes her question the cost of her glittering existence. Marco Armiliato is the conductor. @Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, noon.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SUNDAY 11

24 Two-Night Premiere Party. Sunday and Monday nights. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm.

SPACES

The Times of Harvey Milk (1984) D: Robert Epstein and Richard Schmiechen; narrated by Harvey Fierstein. (NR, 87 min.) Amnesty International. This is an excellent documentary from 1984 about San Francisco's first gay supervisor, who was murdered along with Mayor George Moscone by Dan White. @MonkeyWrench Books, 7pm.

MONDAY 12

Gossip Girl TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7:15pm.

James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968 (2004) (NR, 80 min.) Music Monday. This is the

famous James Brown concert that was broadcast on WGBH in Boston, on April 5, less than 24 hours after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As violence was breaking out across America, Boston Mayor Kevin White was considering canceling all public events, including the James Brown concert. But the "hardest working man in show business" kept the date, dedicated the show to King, and electrified the audience. WGBH broadcast the show live at the mayor's urging, to encourage people to stay home and watch TV instead of roam the streets and riot. @Alamo Ritz. 10:30pm: \$2.

The Magic Flute (2006) See p.68.

24 @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Sun., 1/11.)

SPACES

It Happened One Night (1934) D: Frank Capra; with Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert. (NR, 105 min.) Tough Guys and Feisty Femmes. This classic comedy is the first movie ever to sweep the five major Oscar categories. See www.cityofaustin.org/library for more info. (*) @Hampton Library, 6pm; free.

TUESDAY 13

Demons (1985) D: Lamberto Bava; with Karl Zinny, Natasha Hovey, Urbano Barberini. (NR, 88 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Directed by the son of legendary Mario Bava and co-written and produced by Italian horror maestro Dario Argento, Demons is something of a cult favorite: a gore story about people in a movie theatre who are turned into zombies. @Alamo Ritz, 10:35pm.

SPACES

The Constant Gardener (2005) D: Fernando Meirelles; with Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Bill Nighy, Danny Huston, Pete Postlethwaite, Gerard McSorley, Hubert Koundé. (R, 129 min.) Books to Movies. The film is a bracing, heartbreaking conspiracy thriller set in AIDS-ravaged Kenya. See www.cityofaustin.org/library for more info. (*) @ Milwood Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

Murder à la Mod (1968) D: Brian De Palma; with William Finley, Margo Norton, Andra Akers, Jared Martin. (NR, 80 min.) Austin Film Society: First Blood – The Early Films of Brian De Palma. All the hallmarks of De Palma's mature movies can be found in here in his first-released feature. It's a twisty, nonlinear murder mystery that's highly self-aware and conscious of the audience. The program notes call this film "De Palma's original sin." Fore more on the DePalma series, see "The Obsessive," p.42. The 7pm show is sold-out. @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7, 9pm; \$4, AFS members free; reserve tickets online at www.austinfilm.org.

WEDNESDAY 14

Flying Masters of Kung Fu (1979)

D: Artis Chow; with Judy Lee, Angela Mao. (R, 88 min.) Weird Wednesday. Cult martial arts actress Lee stars as a daughter who stops at nothing to avenge her father's murder. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

off**Screen**

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin now doubles as one of Texas' largest public theatres – with a Sony Qualia HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performances featuring projection? This could be the place. Also still available as a soundstage/green screen.

Austin FilmWorks: Feature Lab This is Steve Mims' demanding new filmmaking sequence, in which students make two festival-competitive shorts and a feature-length film in an intense 16-month, four-semester program. Divided into three levels, Feature Lab includes Production 1, 2, and 3: introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses designed to create an individual short, a group short, and a group feature. See website for details. Orientation meeting: *Mon., Jan. 26*, 6:30pm. Studio A-7, 701 Tillery. www.austinfilmworks.com.

Career-Building Classes From Austin School of Film An excellent slate of adult classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film. Also, you can become an Apple Pro Certified Final Cut Pro user. Tech up, cineastes. See website for details. www.austinfilmschool.org/classes.

Cine las Americas International Film Festival: Call for Entries The festival showcases contemporary films from North, Central, and South America; the Caribbean; and Spain. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. The festival grants Jury Awards in the categories of First or Second Dramatic Feature, Documentary Feature, Dramatic Short Film, Documentary Short Film, and Youth Film. Audience Awards are also presented for Best Documentary Feature and Best Dramatic Feature. See website for details. Deadline (\$20 fee): Jan. 30. Deadline (\$40 fee): Feb. 12. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Network Austin Mixer invites film and entertainment-biz people to celebrate the new year by schmoozing, networking, and doing what they do best: entertaining one another in a movie-happy crowd. This week's featured speaker is **Steve Mims** of Austin FilmWorks. *Wed., Jan.* 14, 6:30pm. *Mother Egan's Irish Pub*, 715 W. Sixth. 478-7747. Free. www.networkaustinmixer.com.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

The Screenplay Workshop: Winter Registration All classes are taught by professional screen-writers and meet in Central Austin. Screenwriting Fundamentals Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-Feb. 24. \$250 (\$235, if registered by Jan. 13). Screenwriting Master Class Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm, Jan. 27-March 31. \$450 (\$425, if registered by Jan. 13). Also, private instruction and story consultation packages, 7 hours of instruction, \$390. See website for more options. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the Jan. 23 issue is Monday, Jan. 12. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com

Poetic Justice (1993) D: John Singleton; with Janet Jackson, Tupac Shakur, Regina King, Joe Torry, Maya Angelou. (R, 109 min.) John Singleton Movies. Singleton's sophomore effort tells the meet/fight/fall-in-love story of Justice, a young beautician and poet (Jackson), and Lucky, a postman and aspiring rapper (Shakur), in South Central L.A. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Wednesday-Thursday, 7:30pm; \$8.50.

Stranded: I Have Come From a Plane That Crashed on the Mountains (2007) D: Gonzalo Arijon. (NR, 113 min.) AFS Documentary Tour. The survivors of the 1972 plane crash in the Andes, which later became infamous for the survivors' decision to resort to cannibalism, describe the experience in their own words in this award-winning documentary. The filmmaker will not be in attendance. See "Into Thin Air and Back," p.41, for more on the movie. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008) D: Andrew Adamson; with Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Ben Barnes, Peter Dinklage, Warwick Davis. (PG, 144 min.) Family Movie Night. The Pevensie kids are summoned back to Narnia for yet another mystical adventure. See www.cityofaustin.org/library for more info. (*) @Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

THURSDAY 15

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy Quote-Along (2004)

D: Adam McKay; with Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steven Carell. (PG-13, 91 min.) @Alamo Ritz. 8pm.

Poetic Justice (1993) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm; \$8.50. (See Wed., 1/14.)

Pop Princess Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 10:35pm. (See Thu., 1/8.)

SPACES

No Drinks Allowed in Screening Room (2009) See p.70.

imax

All Access: Front Row. Backstage. Live! (2001) See p.70.

Grand Canyon Adventure 3D: River at Risk (2008) D: Greg MacGillivray; narrated by Robert Redford. (NR, 40 min.) The river at risk is the Colorado. Water-conservation advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. joins ethnobotanist and author Wade Davis and their 18-year-old daughters for a rafting trip down the river to the parched Colorado delta. Thu. (1/8)-Sat., noon, 3pm; Sun., 3pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/15), noon, 3pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (1/8)-Sat., 10am, 1pm; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/15), 10am, 1pm.

Wild Ocean 3D (2008) D: Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas. (NR, 40 min.) Filmed off the coast of South Africa, this film examines the food chain, starting with the sardine runs, which are followed by dolphins, sharks, birds, humans, and other fish that opportunistically follow the migration. Thu. (1/8)-Sat., 11am, 2, 4, 6:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (1/15), 11am, 2, 4, 6:30pm.

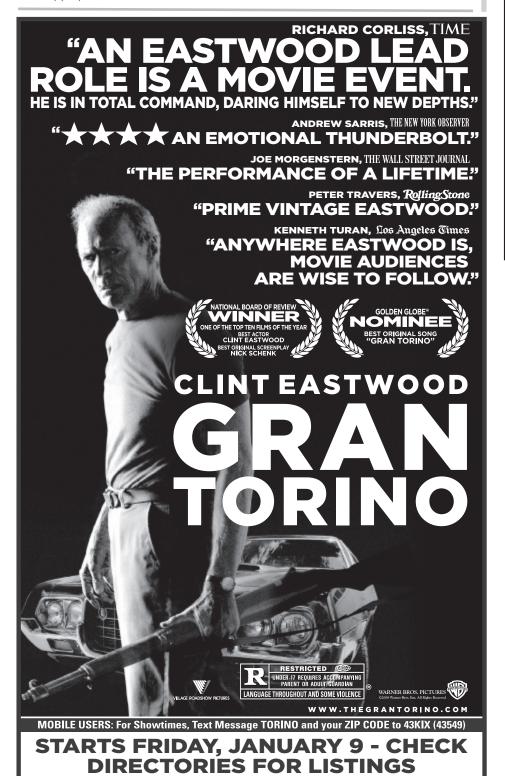






festivals

8 Films to Die For III: After Dark Horrorfest (2009) (R) A rotating program of eight new horror features will screen during this third edition of the weeklong festival, Jan. 9-15. The titles include *Autopsy*, directed by Adam Gierasch and starring Robert Patrick; The Broken, directed by Sean Ellis and starring Lena Headey and Richard Jenkins; Butterfly Effect: Revelation, directed by Seth Grossman and starring Rachel Miner; Dying Breed, directed by Jody Dwyer and made in Australia; From Within, by cinematographer-turneddirector Phedon Papamichael; Perkins' 14, directed by Craig Singer; Slaughter, directed by Stewart Hopewell; and Voices, directed in South Korea by Ki-hwan Oh. All films are rated "R." For details on the films, see www.horrorfestonline.com, and for the local schedule, see www.cinemark.com/theater_showtimes.asp?theater_id=225. Fri.-Thu. (1/15) @Tinseltown South.







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All showtimes are subject to availability. Shows subject to sell out, change, or cancellation without notice.



More Free Week!

Emo's, Mohawk, Club de Ville, and Red 7, Friday 9 & Saturday 10

This train keeps a-rollin', all weekend long. Drink a damn Emergen-C, and get back to Red River, where Attak (In)Formation, Bee vs. Moth, the Strange Boys, Hacienda, Teeners (who release their new 7-inch, "Gold"), and more drill into Emo's Friday,

and Those Peabodys, the Crack Pipes, Shapes Have Fangs, Red Leaves, Wine & Revolution, the **Black**, and a slew of others crack the foundation Saturday. At Mohawk Friday, the Laughing, Mothfight, and Golden Bear kick it outside, while the **Ugly Beats**, Death Is Not a Joyride, Dans la Lune, and Many Birthdays ice the cake inside. Over at de Ville, catch La Snacks, Cry Blood Apache, and Weird Weeds, plus KOOP's Miss Manners spinning hip-hop. Red 7 bludgeons with Vitamins, Daniel Francis

Doyle, Shitty Carwash, Magic Jewels, Lions of Tsavo, and more. Saturday wraps up nicely at Mohawk with Brazos, Frank Smith, the Lovely Sparrows, Transmography, School Police, and Moses & the Burning Bush. Club de Ville hosts the psychedelic sounds of Shapes Have Fangs, Cavedweller, and the Rockin' Rock City Rockingtons, and Red 7 punks out with Complete Control, Lower Class Brats, the Applicators, Crash Gallery, and the **Dead Space**. Your head can explode now. - Audra Schroeder

JERRY JEFF WALKER One World Theatre, Friday 9

The reputation for irascibility of 'Mr. Bojangles" comes well-earned (see "Viva Belize!" Sept. 7, 2007), which for veteran singer-songwriters means a time-honed way with a story. At one of LIW's recent winter visits to the intimately palatial One World Theatre, his tall Texan tales hadn't lost one iota of bite and fight, vigor and vulnerability. Sitting onstage with little more than his storied past, Walker becomes Lone Star mythos incarnate. 7 & 9:30pm. - Raoul Hernandez

JAMES MCMURTRY Cactus Cafe. Friday 9 & Saturday 10

With two highly praised back-toback releases (Childish Things, Just Us Kids) and a song that's become the unofficial anthem for the current economy ("We Can't Make It Here Anymore"), James McMurtry may well be the best working songwriter around. Catch him over two nights in this intimate setting before he heads off to Europe to ply his unvarnished roots rock & roll. - Margaret Moser

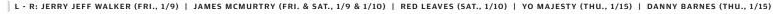
TEEN SENSATIONS Scoot Inn, Saturday 10

Starting in 1999, DJ Sue's monthly Fuzz Club gatherings became Austin's premiere destination for 1960s trash-rock vinyl paired with fellow travelers like the Ugly Beats and Sons of Hercules. Fresh from a stint in L.A., Sue is back to resurrect Fuzz Club every second Saturday at Scoot Inn. January's inaugural installment features high Western jangle from Teen Sensations and guest DJ Scott Gardner from KOOP's Stronger Than Dirt. - Greg Beets

Saturday: Ikillcars, White Rhino, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 7pm









Look into the crystal ball at austinchronicle.com/earache.

CORRIDORS Salvage Vanguard Theater, Sunday 11

God bless Church of the Friendly Ghost for spacing out. Last year, it tried several different setups to eradicate the wall between audience and performer. Tonight it brings Byron Westbrook, who performs under the name Corridors and strategically places amplifiers and video projections for maximum ambience. At 8pm, 7 Inch Stitch and Carlos Villarreal perform back-to-back pieces of psych and drone, and then at 10pm, Spelunker and Hotel Hotel do the same. Call it surround sound. - Audra Schroeder

PAUL BANKS & THE CAROUSELS Club de Ville, Tuesday 13

The perfect swell to ring against de Ville's rock grotto, local songsmith Paul Banks and his Carousels quartet build mesmerizing pop wrought with vocals that split the difference between Rufus Wainwright and Jeff Buckley. Amorphous chamber-rock collective Noise Revival Orchestra opens with the driving force of up to 13 musicians plying horns, strings, and myriad percussion, unloading songs from its recently released sophomore EP. - Doug Freeman

YO MAJESTY Mohawk, Thursday 15

Some like it smooth: some like it rough. Have it both ways as UK soulsters Floetry team with Tampa electro-crunk duo Yo Majesty. The former has mainstream accolades, but the latter flat out tears it up. Down south dykes Shunda K and Jwl. B flaunt "Kryptonite Pussy," and the thigh-slapping beats of new LP Futuristically Speaking ... Never Be Afraid (Domino) suggest heteros should keep their hands to themselves lest they get smacked like that unfortunate fellow at South by Southwest 07. - Thomas Fawcett

DANNY BARNES Cactus Cafe, Thursday 15

It will be an unusual night at the Cactus, one uncommonly on the edge of folk as Danny Barnes brings his Folktronics project to town. Melding acoustic instruments and technology with his sharp-witted songcraft, Barnes carves a place in the folk tradition that shifts between modern and down-home. Adding to the outré nature of the evening, Belgium psychobillies the Sawdust Boogers kick things off, with Barnes sitting in.

- Jim Caligiuri

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER Soundcheck

DOYLE BRAMHALL II

Antone's, Friday 9

The Arc Angel unleashes a Texas flood, with Gary Clark Jr., JJ Johnson, and Larry Fulcher.

CEDRIC BURNSIDE & LIGHTNIN' MALCOLM

Continental Club, Friday 9 See "Phases & Stages," p.50.

FLASH BOYS/ SONS OF HERCULES

Beerland, Friday 9/Saturday 10 Freeeeee shows with Churchwood, Open Casket, and more!

TED RODDY'S TRIBUTE TO THE KING

Continental Club, Saturday 10 Same Elvis time, same Elvis channel.

AURORA PLASTICS CO. Plush, Monday 12

Antone's, Sunday 11

Lonely Choir.

Red River noise revival, with help from Low Red Center and Bobbie & Canada Coda.

BENEFIT FOR ELDRIDGE GOINS

The local drummer gets by with help

from Carolyn Wonderland, Guy Forsyth,

Suzanna Choffel, and Drew Smith's

CHROME GENIE

Salvage Vanguard Theater, Tuesday 13

Chad Corbi utilizes the sounds of extinct technology. Venison Whirled, How I Quit Crack, and Baby Robots dial up, too.

SHOOTIN' PAINS

The Parlor, Thursday 15

Members of the Dicks Pray Like Crazy. Foot Foot gets awesome.

live music venues p.76 roadshows + club listings p.78











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THU 1/8 @ 10PM FREE WEEK: THE ACTION IS w/ West Coast Pinups, The Mocktigers (inside)
FREE WEEK: WITHIN CHAOS w/ Shrapnel, Dead Earth Politics (patio)

EARLY SHOW: LIE AND WAIT w/ Soul Control, Golden Age, DCOI!, Naw Dude - 7pm FREE WEEK: MAGIC JEWELS w/ The Vitamins, Daniel Francis Doyle, Expensive Shit. Shitty Carwash (inside) - 10pm FREE WEEK: LIONS OF TSAVO w/ Rat King, Abmoninable Iron Sloth, Blowupnihilist (patio) - 10pm

SAT 1/10 @ 10PM FREE WEEK: COMPLETE CONTROL w/ Crash Gallery, The Dead Space (inside) FREE WEEK: LOWER CLASS BRATS w/ The Applicators, You People (patio)

THU 1/15 @ 9PM

OUTLAW ORDER (eyehategod) w/ Mammoth Grinder, Rat King, Curse the Heavens (patio)
+ FREE in the lounge: punk/hc djs & graham's

FRI 1/16 @ 9PM

DYNATIME BOY w/ Cruiserweight, Say Hello to Angels (patio) + FREE in the lounge: punk classics w/ DJ Bobby Clean

SAT 1/17 @ 10PM

Free in the lounge: punk/RnR karaoke w/
KARAOKE APOCALYPSE

SUN 1/18 @ 9PM VESPARIAN SORROW w/ Deadknight. Death Rites, 666, Ayasoltec

900 RED RIVER



THU 1/8 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: LOXSLY w/ Haunting Oboe Music,

FRI 1/9 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: LA SNACKS w/ Weird Weeds. Cry Blood Apache, DJ Miss Manners

SAT 1/10 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: SHAPES HAVE FANGS w/ Cavedweller, The Rocking Rock City Rockingtons

TUE 1/13 @ 8PM PAUL BANKS AND THE CAROUSELS w/ Noise Revival Orchestra

WED 1/14 @ 9PM

Coldtowne/PartyEnds.com presents: BABY GOT BACTERIA w/ Terp 2 lt, Imagine the Band, Battle Rap Tournament, Automusik

SAT 1/17 @ 9PM SAND RUBIES (ex-sidewinders), Summer Wardrobe, Sticks and Stones - 9pm

SAT 1/24 @ 9PM **BUILT BY SNOW CD RELEASE w/** Hollywood Gossip, The Bubbles, The Mcke / Harlem (inside) - 10pm 912 RED RIVER

Mohawk

THU 1/8 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: GOLDEN BOYS w/ Ripe, Basic (outside) 9pm FREE WEEK: Air Traffic Controllers w/ Dikes of Holland (inside)

FRI 1/9 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: THE LAUGHING w/ Moth!Fight!, Golden Bear w/ DJ Richard Henry (outside) 9pm FREE WEEK: THE UGLY BEATS W Dans la Lune, Death is Not a Joyride, Many Birthdays (inside) - 10pm

SAT 1/10 @ 9PM FREE WEEK: BRAZOS w/ Frank Smith, The Lovely Sparrows (outside) - 9pm FREE WEEK: TRANSMOGRAPHY w/ School Police, Moses and the Burning Bush (inside) -

MON 1/13 @ 10PM DONKEYS w/ Deleted Scenes, Crooks

THU 1/15 @ 9PM YO MAJESTY & FLOETRY / DJ Jester "the Filipino Fist" (late, inside)

FRI 1/16 Paul Green School of Rock 7pm-9pm RAVEN TREE w/ Chartreuse, The Raggedy Anns @ 10PM

401 WEST 2ND



THU 1/8 Corndog Quartet @ 7PM *LOW CASH THURSDAYS* with DJ Mel

SAT 1/10 Marshall Ford Swing Band @ 7PM MARIO MATTEOLI w/ Cayce Rose and the Mind Games @ 10:30

JAZZ NIGHT with Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, & Red Young @ 7PM

TUE 1/13 GLOVER TANGO @ 7PM

MOONHANGERS @ 7PM

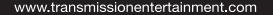
THU 1/15 Jitterbug Vipers @ 7PM *LOW CASH THURSDAYS* with DJ Fuckin' A @ 10:30PM

SUZANNA CHOFFEL w/ Drew Smith's Lonely Choir @ 10:30PM

FICTION w/ My Education, My Empty E @ 10:30PM

upcoming shows

1/17 - Brothers and Sisters (Mohawk), 1/23 - This Will Destroy You (Mohawk), 1/24 - KRS One (Mohawk), Ume (Mohawk), Cattle Decapitation (Red 7), Shearwater (Mohawk), TSOL (Red 7), 2/1 - MV & EE (Mohawk), 2/2 - Goblin Cock (Red 7), 2/5 - Will Johnson (Centro-matic) (Mohawk), 2/6 - Monotonix (Red 7), 2/6 - AU (Mohawk), 2/7 - Appleseed Cast (Mohawk), 2/8 - Don Cahallero (Red 7), 2/13 - DS pooly (Mohawk), 2/13 - Agnostic Front (Red 7), 2/20 - Misprint Beard & Moustache Competition (Mohawk), 2/21 - Pop Unknown Reunion Show (Mohawk), 2/27 - Wednesday 13 (Red 7), 3/3 - Thank You (Mohawk), 3/5 - Kell Keith (R) (Doney In Credency) (Mohawk) Kool Keith (Dr Doom v Dr Octagon) (Mohawk)





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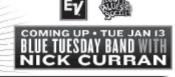
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THURSDAY JANUARY 15

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JOANNA BARBERRA

THUR • JAN 22 • 8PM

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Thur & Fri • Jan 29 & 30



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SAT • JAN 31 • 8:30pm

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ELIZA GILKYSON



1.24	BUTTERCUP	2.3	MOLLY VENTOR
	ATHENS & SPARTA		RAINA ROSE
1.26	WHEATFIELD	2.4	DAVID GARZA
1.27	LIBBY KIRKPATRICK	2.5	JIMMY LAFAVE
	DANNY SCHMIDT	2.6	TOM RUSSELL
		2.7	IUE EIA

23rd & Guadalupe • 475-6515



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.



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FRINAY JANUARY 16



ETT DEN

With Erin McCarley • Friday, January 23



CROSS CANADIAN

Friday, January 30





DEVOTCHKA

With Crooked Fingers • Sunday, February 08



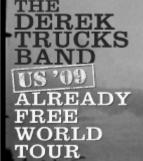


LUCINDA WILLIAMS

With Buick 6 • Friday, February 20







DEREK TRUCKS BAND

Wednesday, March 4 Tickets On Sale Saturday at 10 a.m.





CHRCNIC

GIRLIE ACTION'S TOP 10 GETS A LITTLE **HELP FROM SOME LOCAL LADIES:**

"In a **heartbreak year** when I needed a hard dose of feminine moral support, I got it from these

local (or locally related) CDs." - MARGARET MOSER

austinchronicle.com/chronic

CULD listings

311 CLUB Joe Valentine

AMSTERDAM CAFE Kent Mayhew, Joey Lavallee (9:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Andrea Marie (7:30)

ANTONE'S Underdriven, the Trim, Eric Tessmer (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Airoldi's Gypsy Jazz (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Neal Kassanoff, Philosopher Gun, the Richards, Colin Sweitek (8:00)

BEERLAND Tenlons Fort

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

CAROUSEL LOUNGE David Melber's Elvis Birthday Show

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jason Bednorz, Cameron Joiner, Russell Bisbey

CLUB DE VILLE Peel, Haunting Oboe Music, Loxsly (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss, Kathleen Edwards, Tom Gilliam (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Sophisticates (9:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Shake Shake Bottoms, Westbound Departure, the Lusitania. Cassette

DONN'S DEPOT Kenny & Matt

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Joe Cordi, Suzi

EMO'S Inside: The Blacks, Ume. Harlem, El Paso Hot Button; Outside: Send Help, Ghost Knife, Deskonocidos, Broken Gold, Off With Their Heads

FLAMINGO CANTINA Ryan Young, the Echo Vine, Tribella (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR | i'l Steph & the Chromatics

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robbie & the Rogues, Alvin Crow (9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Sour Mash. We Werewolves, Pretty Boys, Scott Reynolds

HOLE IN THE WALL Suede Uppers. Thunderchiefs, the Bellfuries (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band

LAMBERTS Corndog Quartet (7:00), DJ Mel (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/

Blue Rail (7:00) LOVEJOYS Prison Folk Rock

Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed

chronologically. Schedules are subject to

change, so call clubs to confirm lineups.

listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name. address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians go to austinchronicle. com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Dikes of Holland, Air Traffic Controllers, Homopolice (9:00)

момо's Robin Smith, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, Sideshow Tramps

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN

Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Zapata! (10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL J&L Brothers, the Black

road*shows*

january

THU 8

Kathleen Edwards,

Continental Club The Lusitania, Westbound Departure, Creekside Lounge Off With Their Heads, El

Paso Hot Button, the Blacks, Emo's

Scott Reynolds, Headhunters Homopolice, Mohawk Sideshow Tramps, Momo's

Within Chaos, Red 7 Sons of William, the Heyday,

FRI 9

Doyle Bramhall II, Antone's Open Casket, Tim Napalm, Beerland

Vermefug, Broken Neck Focus Group, Clementine Coffee Bar Cedric Burnside & Lightnin'

Malcolm, Continental Club Hacienda, Che Arthur, Emo's Daily Bread Dub, Flamingo

Stone River Boys, Gruene Hall Sabotage Manual, Crucial,

Zest of Yore, the Lusitania, Hole in the Wall

Garrick Ohlsson, Long Center for the Performing Arts Jerry Jeff Walker, One World

Eric Roberson, the Parish Shit City High, Room 710 Mostly Dead, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

Homer Hiccolm & the Rocketboys, Stubb's The Harlequins, Trophy's

SAT 10

Junior Brown, Antone's Sons of Hercules, Beerland Minotaurs, Emo's

Dope E., Hatch, Flamingo Cantina Garrick Ohlsson, Long Center

for the Performing Arts Odis, Lucky Lounge Dead Space, Red 7

White Rhino, Snake Eyes Vinyl **SUN 11**

Carbellion, Room 710 Corridors, Salvage Vanguard Theater

Dimestore Poet Band, Carley Wolf, Scoot Inn & Bier Garten

MON 12

Whitey Morgan & the 78's, Continental Club

Contrabandits, Headhunters

The Pharmacy, Beerland Toni Price. Continental Club The So So Glos. Emo's

The Donkeys, Deleted Scenes, Mohawk

Polka Dot Dot, the Parlor How I Quit Crack. Salvage Vanguard Theater

Shurman, Saxon Pub

WED 14 Focus Group, Beauty Bar Uptown Bums. Wax Museums, Beerland

Milk Thistle, the Test Dream, Rumi, Creekside Lounge Matt Wilson, Key Bar

THU 15

Bob Cheevers, Austin Java Sievert, Beerland

Danny Barnes, Sawdust Boogers, Cactus Cafe

Roger Creager, Cheatham

Magnolia Sons, Chandeliers, Radio La Chusma, Flamingo

Cantina Yo Majesty, Floetry, Mohawk

See austinchronicle.com



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Austin's premier event space in the heart of the entertainment district is now taking reservations for weddings, receptions, birthday parties, corporate events, holiday parties and more.

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@ CENTRAL PARK **40th and North Lamar** call 512.206.1000 for details

@ WESTGATE 4477 South Lamar call 512.899.4300 for details SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

FLOYD DOMINO hot jazz

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

WENDY COLONNA soulful grooves

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

RIDGETOP SYNCOPTERS

JAN 17 - EL TULE

JAN 18 - SUSANNA SHARP

JAN 24 - ERIK HOKKANEN

JAN 23 - CIENFUEGOS

JAN 25 - SENOR GATO

JAN 30 - PORTERDAVIS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
LOST & NAMELESS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

JUST DESSERTS tango, gypsy jazz

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

ACOUSTIC JUNGLE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
JIMI LEE BAND

ORCHESTRA

irish, appalachian mountain music

upcoming at westgate:

<u>upcoming at central park:</u> JAN 18- MANTECA BEAT

JAN 21 - BOXCAR PREACHERS **JAN 22 - JEAN SYNODINOS**

JAN 25 - AARON'S LACK'S STEEL PAN TRIO

JAN 28 - CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

JAN 29 - SHINYRIBS

café open 7am-9pm sunday-thursday; 7am-10pm friday & saturday at both locations. FREE MUSIC, GREAT FOOD, COVERED PATIO & KIDS PLAYSCAPE

Joel Hofmann Band 6pm

Pure Luck, Chief Fuzzer, Total Faggots 9pm

The Thrillbillies 6pm The Belgraves, Black Water Revival, Crystal Creek Boys 9pm

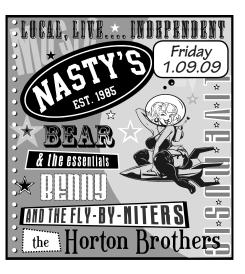
Funkotron, Plump 10pm

Su 11 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Jonathan Terrell 6pm Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Scotty & the Metaphysics 6pm Molly Hayes, Robbie Doyen, Grant Ewing Molly Malinowski, Cody Richardson 9pm

We 14 RC Banks 6pm Ransom Jack 9pm







FREE WEEK THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

INSIDE: EL PASO HOT BUTTON HARLEM • UME • THE BLACKS **OUTSIDE: OFF WITH THEIR HEADS** BROKEN GOLD • DESKONOCIDOS **GHOST KNIFE • SEND HELP**

FREE WEEK FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

INSIDE: ATTAK (IN) FOR MATION
THIS HORN OF AFRICA (EX-ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE)
SERIOUS TRACERS • BEE VS. MOTH • CHE ARTHUR

STRANGE BOYS WHITE WHITE LIGHTS THE TEENERS • MAN STAMPS

FREE WEEK SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

SHAPES HAVE FANGS • RED LEAVES WINE & REVOLUTION • A GIANT DOG

OUTSIDE: SPECIAL GUESTS

PLUS DJ REMY MAC (RAMESH FROM VOXTROT) THE BLACK • INTERNATIONAL WATERS THE MINOTAURS • CORTO MALTESE CRY BLOOD APACHE • BEAR CLAW

FREE WEEK SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

FREE WEEK CLOSER SHOW THE SERVICE INDUSTRY MICA OMEGA & THE NEON KNIGHTS **INDUSTRY NIGHT 50% OFF ALL DRINKS**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

OUT FLOOR: SCORPION CHILD THE SO SO GLOS . OLD COYOTE

TERRY SNOW'S PUNK ROCK BINGO SHOW

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 HOMEGROWN 101X

INSIDE: THE BOXING LESSON **ELECTRIC TOUCH • NEW ROMAN TIMES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

INSIDE: QUIET COMPANY MAGNOLIA SONS • CHANDELIERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

THE MERCERS • PAUL BANKS • BRASS BED

SATURDAY. JANUARY 17

INSIDE: BUSINESS DEAL RECORDS COMPILATION RELEASE SHOW JASON & CARI BAND (OF BELAIRE) ICS • GAYLE GOLD • PRESTON DUKES, ÉT AL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

INSIDE: THE HELL ON HEELS TOUR VON IVA • SEMI PRECIOUS WEAPONS NICO VEGA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

INSIDE: RED X RED M . INSECT SEX ACT THE SNAKE TRAP • MEGAZILLA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

PROGRESSION III BATTLE OF THE BANDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

INSIDE: REVEREND DEADEYE

TINY TINY HEARTS • SILVER PINES SILVER PINES SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE • INDIAN QUEEN MEDLEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

INSIDE: LIONS • PJ AND THE BEAR CD RELEASE PARTY WITH SPECIAL GUESTS OUTSIDE:

AMEBIX • SEVERED HEAD OF STATE SUB OSLO • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

OUTSIDE: 101X PRESENTS BADFISH • SCOTTY DON'T FULL SERVICE • GRIMY STYLES INSIDE: KILLOLA & THE ACTION DESIGN

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

INSIDE: THE YOUNG • XYX (MONTERREY, MEX)
DIAMONDHEAD • GLASSES • CRUDDY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

BENEFIT FOR CUTLER MOORE 2 STAGES, 1 COVER

CKLED PUNKS • SUMMER OF BLOOD **DOOMSIREN • SPITTING BULLETS • EXILE**

INSIDE: THE GOLDEN BOYS • BLOOD ROYALE YOU PEOPLE • ME VS. EVERYBODY • BLANK GENERATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

IGNITOR AND COURSE OF RUIN

GNITOR • COURSE OF RUIN BANGLADESH • STIR THE SILENCE DEAD EARTH POLITICS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

INSIDE: FUCKED UP • ANNIHILATION TIME IRON AGE • A.N.S.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

HE LEGENDARY SHACK SHAKERS EATURING DUANE DENISON OF THE JESUS LIZARD)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

OUTSIDE: HANK III & THOSE POOR BASTARDS

2/3 PASSAFIRE W/ FLEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) • 2/11 STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO, AWS, THE SWELLERS, THE STITCH UP (OUTSIDE) / VALENCIA, HOUSTON CALLS, ARTIST VS, POET (INSIDE, ON 2/3 PASSAFIEW WILE FINGERED CHARLE (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) - 2/13 TEREFLICHTI MANIFESTO, AWS, THE SWELLERS, THE STITCH UP (OUTSID) / VALENCIA, HOUSTON CALLS, ARTIST VS. POET (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) - 2/10 REFLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF SINGIDE, ON SALE NOW) - 2/10 REFLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **emosaustin.com, Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records D**

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS



RED 7 Dead Earth Politics, Shrapnel, Within Chaos, Mock Tigers, West Coast Pinups, the Action Is, Dixie Witch, Amplified Heat

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Emmerson Biggins Band

ROOM 710 Muerte. Vows in Ashes

RUTA MAYA Sugarback, Mister Moot (8:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Uncle Lucius, Kory Montgomery (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, American Graveyard (10:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & **GRILL** Rat Ranch

SPEAKEASY Subrosa Union (9:30)

STUBB'S The Heyday, Sons of William

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band, Total Faggots, Chief Fuzzer, Pure Luck

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN

The Hudsons (7:00) WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE Slackey Family Band

z'TEJAS Slim Richey's Dream

AMSTERDAM CAFE Suede (10:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE GTO

ANTONE'S Larry Fulcher, J.J. Johnson, Gary Clark Jr., Doyle Bramhall (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Nancy Scott (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson

BEERLAND Scrabble Robot, Tim Napalm, Open Casket, Flash

Boys

BOTTICELLI'S Brent Adair (8:00)

BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN NECK Vermefug

BROKEN SPOKE Two Tons of Steel

CACTUS CAFE James McMurtry (8:30)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Chapparal Dixielanders, F for Fake, Cliff Brown Jr. (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Doctor G. & the Mudcats

CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Focus

CLUB DE VILLE Weird Weeds, Cry Blood Apache, La Snacks **CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues

Specialists (6:30), Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township, Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Suede

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Hit by a Car, Velvet Brick, Sabbath Crow, Splithoof

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet

ELEPHANT ROOM Silvie Rider, Elias Hanslanger Quintet

EMO'S Inside: Che Arthur, Bee vs. Moth. Serious Tracers. This Horn of Africa, Attak (In)Formation; Outside: Man Stamps, Teeners, White White Lights, Hacienda, Strange Boys

EVANGELINE CAFE Redd Volkaert (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Daily Bread Dub, Don Chani (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Cleve & Sweet Mary (9:00) GARRISON PARK HARBOR Weldon

Henson GIDDY UPS Scott Wayne (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON James Hand (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Stone River Boys (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Jamie Thomas, Crucial, Sabotage Manual, Johnny Gobbs, the Heroine

HILL'S CAFE Tres Womack

HOLE IN THE WALL Spooly Show, Adonirum Lipton (6:00), the Lusitania, Nasty Clan, Zest of Yore (10:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Billy Dee, the Quebe Sisters Band (5:30)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LONG CENTER FOR THE

PERFORMING ARTS Garrick Ohlsson w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE J.J. Usher. DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)

MANCHACA FIREHALL KITCHEN Sunset Valley Boys (7:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS | eeann Atherton (7:00)

монаwк Inside: Many Birthdays, Dans la Lune, Death Is Not a Joyride, the Ugly Beats; Outside: Golden Bear, Moth!Fight!, the Laughing

MOMO'S What Jocelyn Says, Karol Moore, Dexter Freebish, T-Bird & the Breaks (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer

(6:00)**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Nutty

Karaoke w/ Bruce Newman ONE 2 ONE BAR Alan Haynes (10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Jerry Jeff

Walker (7:00, 9:30) THE PARISH Bavu Blakes, Eric Roberson

THE PARLOR Phoenix Saga, Nematoads

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texana Dames (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie, Sons of the Revolution

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 Lions of Tsavo, Magic Jewels, Shitty Carwash, Daniel Francis Doyle,

RILEY'S TAVERN Jeremy Steding ROADHOUSE RAGS Beautiful Mistakes, Jon Dee Graham,

Jesse Sublett (7:00) ROOM 710 Buzzcrusher, Blower, Shit City High

RUTA MAYA That Damned Band, 999 Eyes Freak Show (9:00)

são paulo's Three Jazz Collective (7:30)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Tameca Jones (9:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Dark Pink, Mostly Dead CD Release (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Mary's Distraction (9:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & **GRILL** Rat Ranch

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS LC Rocks SPEAKEASY Dysfunkshun

Junkshun

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 • 10PM • \$5

REDD VOLKAERT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 • 10PM • \$5



MONDAY, JANUARY 12 • 6:30PM CHARLES THIBODEAUX

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

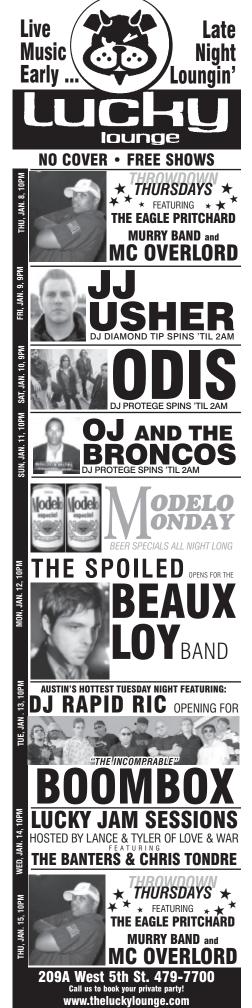
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 • 7PM**

MARK VIATOR









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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS



STUBB'S Wiretree, the Soldier Thread, Homer Hiccolm & the Rocketboys

TAYLOR SPJST HALL Czech Melody Bovs (7:30)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bita Blue

TRIPLE CROWN Thrillbillies, Crystal Creek Boys, Black Water Gospel, Winter Dance

TROPHY'S Distant Seconds CD Release, Dark Water Hymnal, Fresh Millions, the Harlequins

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE **GROVE** Wynn Taylor

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Bob Showdown

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SLAUGHTER LANE The Stonecastle Family

SAT 1 0

AMSTERDAM CAFE

Kent Mayhew, Billy Harvey (9:00)

ANTONE'S Lucky Tomblin, Junior Brown (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET **DOWNTOWN** The Lost Pines (10:00am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Altar Boyz

BEERLAND The Black Squeeze, Churchwood, Sons of Hercules

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH BettySoo, Abi Tapia (7:00)

BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE James McMurtry

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/

CAROUSEL LOUNGE M.L. Frank

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Foscoe Jones

CLUB DE VILLE Rocking Rock City Rockingtons, Cavedweller, Shapes Have Fangs

CONTINENTAL CLUB Ted Roddy, Redd Volkaert (3:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Fatal Attractions

COTTON CLUB Ricky Calmbach

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Bound, Indofin, Streetlight Suzy, Sunglasses & Mushrooms

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes

ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)

EMO'S Inside: A Giant Dog, Wine & Revolution, Red Leaves, Shapes Have Fangs, the Crack Pipes, Those Peabodys; Outside: Bear Claw, Cry Blood Apache, the Corto Maltese, Minotaurs, International Waters, the Black, DJ Remy Mac

EVANGELINE CAFE Alan Haynes (10:00)

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Hatch, Dope E. (9:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Lixbox (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Jerry Smith

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Arty Hall (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Porterdavis (1:00), the Gourds (9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Lowdown Shaky Chill, Trash Rockets

HILL'S CAFE Jeremy Steding

HOLE IN THE WALL Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business, Bridge Farmers, the Van Buren Boys, the Bread (9:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Karl Morgan, Izzy Cox (6:00)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)

LAMBERTS Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00), Mario Matteoli, Cayce Rose & the Mind Games (10:30)

LONG CENTER FOR THE

PERFORMING ARTS Garrick Ohlsson w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Odis, DJ Protege (9:00)

MOHAWK Moses & the Burning Bush, School Police, Transmography, the Lovely Sparrows, Frank Smith, Brazos

момо's Freedy Johnston, Seth Walker, T-Bird & the Breaks (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Tres Womack ONE 2 ONE BAR Eric Tessmer

(10:00)THE PARLOR Higher Than Why, Rhyme Stacks, Band D'anna Nicole Smith, Azatat, Ratarue, Foolasafees (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Therapy Sisters (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Space Heaters, Lee Person

RABBIT'S LOUNGE Moving Blues

RED 7 Dead Space, Crash Gallery, the Applicators, Lower Class Brats, Complete

RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

ROOM 710 Baby Got Bacteria, Big Mess, Foot Patrol

RUTA MAYA Genghis Harp. Jimmy George, Message From Space, 25 Smokin' Figurados (9:30)

SAXON PUB Jarrett Schaub. Jeff Gallagher, Carolyn Wonderland

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN DJ Sue, Scott Gardner, Teen Sensations (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Chris Corsby (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & **GRILL** Rat Ranch

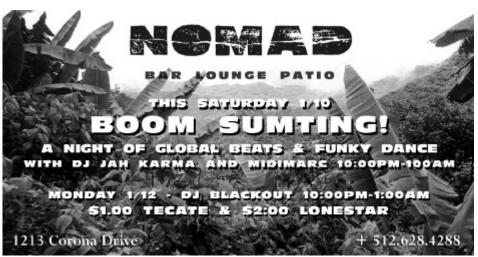
OPEN CALL SXSW 2009 CASHIERS



SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th Hilton Hotel Downtown, Room 602 (5-6pm)

We need paid cashiers to work at venues during the SXSW Music Festival (March 18-21). Please bring a resume and a photo ID with you to the open call. Get paid, hear music and have fun at SXSW this year!

For more information and to apply, visit http://sxsw.com/cashiers or email tami@sxsw.com





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THURSDAY JANUARY 8

& HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10 **SIDESHOW TRAMPS** 1 THE MAGPIES 11:45 ROBIN SMITH 8:30 LATIN AT HEART 7 NO COVER HAPPY HR MOPAIR J MOLIN 5:15 FRIDAY JANUARY 9

– – 10

KAROL MOORE BAND 9 WHAT JOCELYN SAYS 8 SATURDAY JANUARY 10

SHAWN NELSON THE RAMBLERS 8 **MATT POWELL TRIO** 9:30 HE UNREAL 12:30

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

INFINITE PARTIALS 11:45 TINY TIN HEARTS 10:15 JESSE SUBLETT 7 **TUESDAY JANUARY 13 JARROD DICKENSON 12:15 VOLENO** 10:30 GOLDCURE 9:30 **SECOND DAY RED** 8:15 **DERRICK DAVIS** 7 NO COVER HAPPY HR AUSTIN MAYSE 5:15 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

EN 12 **RICE** 8:30

TADROS 7 NO COVER HAPPY HR RYAN McGILLICUDDY 5:15 SHOWS

WILL TAYLOR STRINGS ATTACHED



THURSDAY JANUARY 8TH... THE BELLFURIES THE THUNDERCHIEFS & SUEDE UPPERS 10PM

HAPPY HOUR: M&S PRESENTS (6:30-9:30) OUTSIDE: "NEEDLES AND PINS RECORD PARTY" HOSTED BY ANGEL VON RIPPER 11PM-2AM SALTY GRAVY (8-11)

FRIDAY JANUARY 9TH. . . . FREE SHOW: ZEST OF YORE, THE NASTY CLAN. & THE LUSITANIA 10PM HHAPPY HOUR: THE SPOOLY SHOW FEATURING RAMSAY MIDWOOD, RANDY WEEKS, MIKE NICOLAI, AND SPENCER JARMON (6-9) OUTSIDE: SLOWTRAINS FRIDAY WALTZ WITH ADONIRUM LIPTON (8-11)

. . SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH. . FREE SHOW: THE BREAD, THE VAN BUREN BOYS. BRIDGE FARMERS. & CLYDE AND CLEMS WHISKEY BUSINESS

SUNDAY JANUARY 11TH. . . . CAPITAL ZEN SHOWCASE W/EDDY HIGHWAY, DAVID NATHAN, & MORE 9PM

MONDAY JANUARY 12TH. LEO RONDEAU & THE SHAKE EM UPS 10PM. ELISA FERRARI 9PM OUTSIDE: MALORIE VALENTINE (8-11)

TUESDAY JANUARY 13TH. . . THE BREAD & MORE 10PM. ROGER WALLACE 9PM HAPPY HOUR: THE MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA W/ WILL SEXTON, SPEEDY SPARKS, JOHNNY X REID, MIKE BUCK & MORE GPM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14TH. EMMERSON BIGGINS BAND. CORRINE ROSE BILLY COOKS ONE MAN BAND 9PM OUTSIDE: THE ROB JEWETT TRIO (8-11)

THURSDAY JANUARY 15TH. . LEO RONDEAU. ROGER WALLACE & BRENNEN LEIGH 10PM

Live Music Every Night! 477-4747 **■** 21 + open 3p -2am www.myspace.com/holeinthewallaustin

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

SNAKE EYES VINYL White Rhino. Ikillcars (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Radiostar (9:30)

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH Health Alliance for Austin Musicians Benefit w/ Carrie Elkin, Danny Schmidt (6:30)

stubb's L.T. Habersaat. Valentine Failure, Say Hello to the Angels, New Disaster

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE HOUSE Chris Parreira (8:00)

TINIEST BAR IN TEXAS Danny Fast Fingers (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Funk-o-Tron

TROPHY'S Hao Chaing Chaing, the Blind Pets, Your Kisses Cause Crashes

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE **GROVE** Bobby Kennedy

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Dog at Large

sun 1

ANTONE'S Fldridge Goins Benefit w/ Drew Smith's Lonely Choir, Suzanna Choffel, Guy Forsyth, Carolyn Wonderland (7:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Friends of Traditional Music Records Nite (2:00), Ranch Road 12 (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian **CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE**

Ash Family (4:00) CONTINENTAL CLUB Hevbale!

(10:00)**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly

Playboyz (7:00) EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jeff Hellmer Trio (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Micah Omega & the Neon Knights, the Service Industry

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Patterson Barrett, Jimi Lee

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (4:00)

GREEN MUSE CAFE Austin GoGirls w/ gfire, Vanessa Lively

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Nathan Hamilton (12:30), Seth Walker (5:00) **HEADHUNTERS** Horse Opera, the

Original Mexican Bob HOLE IN THE WALL David Nathan,

Eddy Highway (9:00)

JOVITA'S The Brew (7:00)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00) LUCKY LOUNGE OJ & the Broncos (10:00)

MANUELS David Webb & Tony Campise (11:30am)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon)

MEAN-EYED CAT Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins

момо's Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers, Matt Powell (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open Mic w/ Chris Davis (4:00)

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

THE PARLOR Chartreuse (9:00) THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Open

Mic (4:00) RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen **ROADHOUSE RAGS** Winchester

Twin, La Tampiquena (5:00) ROOM 710 Isaac the Blind,

Carbellion, Sabbath Crow RUTA MAYA Ritmo 3 (7:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER

Carlos Villarreal, 7-Inch Stitch, Spelunker, Hotel Hotel, Corridors (8:00)

SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Carley Wolf, Dimestore Poet Band (9:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Austin Friends of Traditional Music (2:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE **GROVE** Jukebox Heroes

Z'TEJAS Acoustic Jungle

MON 12

ANTONE'S Mike Flanigin, Honeybread, Chicken Strut (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

BEERLAND World-Famous Karaoke

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cheatham Street All-Stars (9:30)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Whitey Morgan & the 78's, Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (9:30)

CORK & CO. Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Ouartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz Collective (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

See <mark>austinchronicle.com</mark> for complete listings.



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DOCTOR G & THE MUDCATS

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ASH FAMILY 4-8PM

MO CHEATHAM STREET ALL-STARS

MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR TU

WE KENT FINLEY'S SONGWRITERS'CIRCLE

1/15 ROGER CREAGE 1/16 WALT WILKINS 1/15 ROGER CREAGER



THR JAN 1/8 10PM The Lusitania Westbound Departure, Shake Shake Bottoms

FRI JAN 1/9

10PM Split Hoof Sabbath Crow, Velvet Brick, Hit by a Car

SAT JAN 1/10

10PM Sunglasses & Mushrooms Street Light Suzi, Indofin, Bound

WED JAN 1/14

10PM Milk Thistle The Test Dream, Rumi, Lindsey Funk

UPCOMING SHOWS

1/15 Canopy, 1/16 Down Syndrome Army 1/17 Masonic

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PFOOT PATROL BIG MESS BABY GOT BACTERIA

SABBATH CROW CARBELLION ISAAC THE BLIND

HEART & SOUL SOUND SYSTEM

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EARTHTONE PLAYERS MARSHALL DYLAN

UPCOMING SHOWS 1.15 Whitey Morgan & the 78s, in & Outlaws, Zero Solls 1.16 Brewtality, Inc. 10 Year Show 1.17 Split Hoof, Blood of the Sun. 1.18 Murchos Bacieffor



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sa 10 FREE SHOW! Sons of Hercules. Black Squeeze, Churchwood

su 11 Church of the Up All Night w/ Max & Gerard...no coverscreening The Boy Who Cried Bitch

> mo 12 Beerland's legendary **Rock n Roll Karaoke**

tu 13 The Pharmacy, Ghost Knife, The Stuffies, Cruddy

> we 14 Golden Boys, Uptown Bums. Wax Museums. Man Stamps

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1/13(T)~CASTROS BEARD, BILL DAYIS SINGER/SONGWRITERS(P)
1/14(W)~MOUNTAIN DEMON, JAMES RYDER & THE 420 TURNAROUND, MATTS OPEN MIC(P)

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Low Technicians 11 PM Dichotomy 10 PM

Friday • Jan 9 LIVEMUSIC

The Dry Season CD RELEASE PARTY The Dry Season 12 AM

Abby Birds 11 PM

The Seas 10 PM

Saturday • Jan 10/HAVEN goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance HAVEN WITH DJS VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Jan 11 REGRESSION

RETRO 80's RETRO 80'S RETRO 80'S REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Tuesday - Jan 13 90'S NIGHT So Last Century... 90's Night WITH DJS BOBA FETT & MINIMUS

Wednesday Jan 14 MID WAVI UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth

WITH DJS PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu. Jan 15 . Live! The Triggermen 12 AM Fri. Jan 16 • Live! DE/VISION, SEABOUND, IRIS - tickets available now at Secret Oktober

Tue, Jan 20 • Live! COMBICHRIST w/ Blacklight Burns & Retard-O-Bot

Fri, Jan 23 • Live! Lucid Dementia 12 AM Kraked Surface 11 PM, The Future Process 10 PM

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified more detailed information available at: www.elysiumonline.net • (512) 478-2979 www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin



CUBAN DANCE NIGHT

Live Salsa 9 PM

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FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM

Fresh Organic Coffee!

Free Yoga with Purchase!

WED



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS



HEADHUNTERS Contrabandits, Nematoads

HOLE IN THE WALL McKay Bros., Brennen Leigh, Dave Insley, Mallory Valentine (6:00), Elisa Ferrari, Shake 'Em Ups, Leo Rondeau (9:00)

HYDE PARK THEATRE Eddy Hobizal (7:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE The Spoiled, Beaux Loy (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

Momo's Jesse Sublett w/ Jon Dee Graham, Freedy Johnston, Tiny Tin Hearts, Infinite Partials (7:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers

MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)

PLUSH Bobbie & Canada Coda, Low Red Center, Aurora Plastics Company

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

RED FEZ Komson (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Tim Bruton, Forest Wayne Allen

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Dub Transisto (7:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)

SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Jeff Plankenhorn

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell

TUE 13

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

BEERLAND Cruddy, the Stuffies, Ghost Knife, the Pharmacy

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White

CAFE MUNDI Chris Parreira (7:00)

carousel Lounge Alex Dupree & the Trapdoor Band (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir

CLUB DE VILLE Noise Revival Orchestra, Paul Banks & the Carousels (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Toni Price, David Garza (6:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Jon Blondell Quintet (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Old Coyote, the So So Glos. Scorpion Child

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallaugher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes Band (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Gregg Duffy

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Owen Temple, Adam Carroll (6:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)

HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis, Castro's Beard

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

HOLE IN THE WALL Roger Wallace, the Bread (9:00)

JOVITA'S Joaquin Tah (8:00)

KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Six Sons of a

MOHAWK The Crooks, Deleted Scenes, the Donkeys (10:00)

Momo's Austin Mayse, Derrick Davis, Second Day Red, Goldcure, Evoleno, Jarrod Dickenson (5:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR In the Round w/ Wayne Sutton (8:00), Karl Morgan (10:30)

THE PARLOR Polka Dot Dot (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Chicken

Dog (6:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL
Troubadillos

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Jack Higginbotham

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER

Venison Whirled, How I Quit

Crack, Baby Robots, Chrome
Genie (8:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Erin & Michael (9:00)

SAXON PUB Robbie & the Rogues (5:00), Dedringers, Bruce Hughes, Shurman (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANTGypzee Heart (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB &
GRILL Five Ways From Sunday

SPEAKEASY Paul Klemperer (9:30)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Paul

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Will Dunlap (7:00)

WED 14

AMSTERDAM CAFE Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic (6:00)

ANTONE'S 80's Hoot Night (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea Hargrove

BEAUTY BAR Focus Group, Frantic Clam (10:00)

BEERLAND The Man Stamps, Wax Museums, Uptown Bums, the Golden Boys

CANNOLI JOE'S Rich Harney & Alex Coke (6:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Soulphonics, Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business (7:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Hot Club of Cowtown (6:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Lindsey Funk, Rumi, the Test Dream, Milk Thistle

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Johnny Austin (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Baker's Dozen (9:30)

EMO'S New Roman Times, Electric Touch, AUX

EVANGELINE CAFE Mark Viator (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Funky Dirty, Carter Arrington Trio, Nobody's Business (9:00)

GIDDY UPS Jane Bond & Will Knaak, Open Blues Jam w/ Nick Kantar (5:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Zack Walther & the Cronkites (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS James Rider & the 4:20 Turnaround, Mountain Demon

HOLE IN THE WALL Rob Jewett Trio, Billy Cook's One-Man Band, Corrine Rose, Emmerson Biggins Band (8:00)

JOVITA'S M.J. Torrance, Sol Surfers (6:00)

KEY BAR Matt Wilson (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LOUIE'S 106 Red Young (6:30) **LUCKY LOUNGE** The Banters,

Chris Tondre (10:00) **LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric

Mayhem (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Deuce Coupe

ice House





THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 6:30-9:30PM THE HUDSONS

FRIDAY, JAN. 9 **BOB SHOWDOWN**

TH & MEDICAL

TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 7PM WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 7PM PTARMIGAN

600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

THE SLACKEY FAMILY BAND

FRIDAY, JAN. 9

THE STONE CASTLE FAMILY BAND

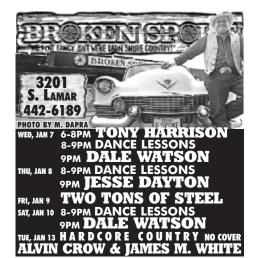
UTHPARK MEADOWS

FRIDAY, JAN. 9, 10PM WYNN TAYLOR

SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 10PM BOBBY KENNEDY

SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 10PM SOUTHPARK MEADOWS SERVICE INDUSTRY SUNDAYS W/ THE JUKEBOX HEROES

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHOWS, GO TO:
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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
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ternate Routes 2/21: Rock the Casbah w/ DJ MEL 2/28: Pnuma Duo

FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES: SHEMAKESITHAPPEN@GMAIL.COM ALSO, SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST & WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO AN UPCOMING SHOW!

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Hanovers

THURSDAY 8pm-12am

KARAOKE NEW CONTEST LEAGUE WILL BEGIN 1/08/09

SUNDAY

Poker League 5:30-8:30pm Cash Prizes for 1ST and 2ND

FRIDAY Live Music (1/9)

SATURDAY Live Music (1/10)
NO
COVER J&L BROTHERS BAND

FRIDAY Live Music (1/16)

UNCHAINED

SATURDAY Live Music (1/17)

NO COVER STONE RAVERS

FRIDAY Live Music (1/23)

SKYROCKET!!

SATURDAY Live Music (1/24)

NO COVER WELDON HANSON

FRIDAY Live Music (1/30)

YOUR

NO COVER CHEAP SUNGLASSES

SATURDAY Live Music (1/31)

NO COVER THIRD STEEL

HAPPY HOUR

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS



momo's Ruan McGillicuddy, Aly Tadros, David Rice, Dan Dyer, Jack Valen (5:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Clay Jefferies (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR 80H Project (10:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Ru Coleman (8:00)

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY Silent Alarm
Activated

RILEY'S TAVERN Robbie Doyen
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 Marshall Dylan, the Earthtone Players, Bound

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00), Tameca Jones (10:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Albanie Faleta's Swing Set (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Radiostar

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (10:30)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

тни 15

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

ANTONE'S Vendetta, Slickfist, Big Balls (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Paula Held (7:30)

AUSTIN JAVA Third Coast w/ Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Brian Kalinec, Tim Henderson, Bob Cheevers (8:00)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735
The Gospel Truth, Cause for Applause, Dickey Brothers (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Alan Haynes

BEERLAND Sievert, Mysterious H, Lo-Tek

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Sawdust Boogers, Danny Barnes (8:30)

CANNOLI JOE'S Rich Harney & Alex Coke (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Roger Creager

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Canopy

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Airoldi's Gypsy Jazz, Thomas Heflin/Ron Westray Project

EMO'S Chandeliers, Magnolia Sons, Quiet Company

EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Radio La Chusma (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Robbie & the Rogues, Alvin Crow (9:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Leo Rondeau, Roger Wallace, Brennen Leigh (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00), DJ Fuckin' A (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Damon Bramblett (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL

MOHAWK Floetry, Yo Majesty; Later: DJ Jester (10:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN
Thomas "Doc" Grauzer

(6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Noble Dog

(10:00)

THE PARLOR Foot Foot, Shootin' Pains (9:00)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike Ethan Messick

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Uncle Lucius, Monte Montgomery (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANTZee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Ember

SPEAKEASY James Kinney (9:30) **STUBB'S** The Conscience, Funk-

o-Tron, Toast, Tuen

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's
Blues (10:00)

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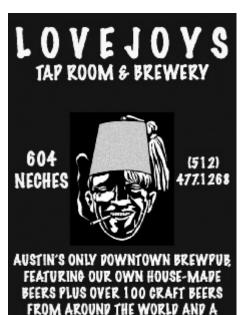
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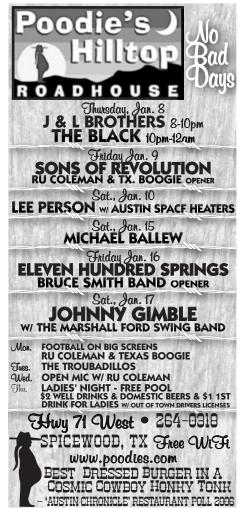
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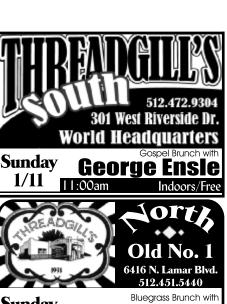
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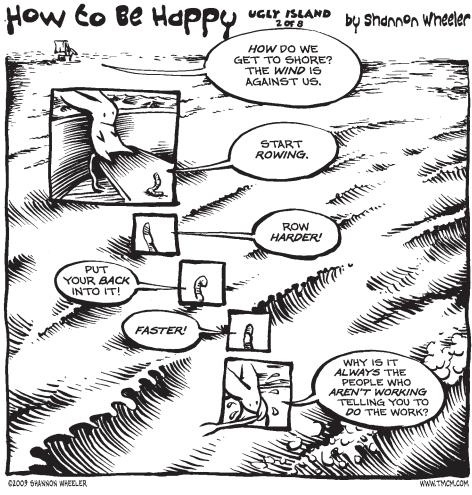


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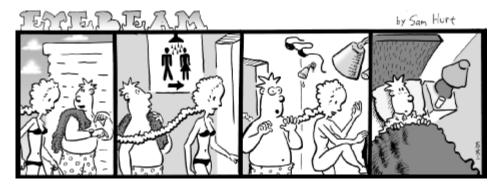
WATER?

A SHARK IN THE

THIS WITH MY

BUREAU CHIEF

WILLYA





One of the main rules of doing improv is to make your scene partner look good.

If you lined up the entire population of China in a line and walked by every one, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

Hall & Oates met in a gunfight.

Mosquitoes are attracted to potassium.

If you add the prefix "anal" in front of most models of sport utility vehicles and Fords, you will get a perverse sexual activity (i.e., "anal Probe," "anal Trailblazer," "anal Expedition," etc.).

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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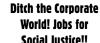
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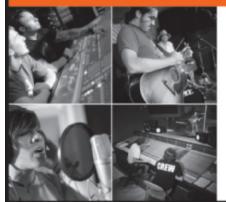
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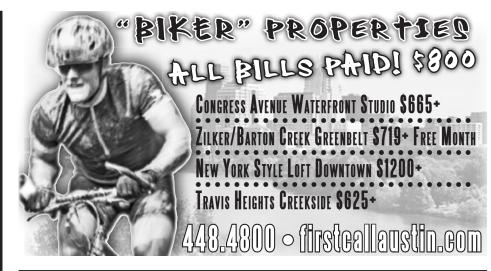
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SCREENWRITERS Veteran Hollywood writer & script con-sultant David Petersen is giving special workshops for screenwriters, starting Jan.28. Details at scriptguy2.com or email wordster1@gmail.com

Someday, I'll Learn SPANISH!!??

No luck with traditional classes and workbooks? Hate Studying? Don't have much time? Think learning can't be fun? Use your whole brain by tapping into the

extraordinary mental capacities we all have, but seldom use, with the most

advanced and enjoyable teaching and learning method available today. 263-9944 * All Levels * Class Schedules, Fees and more at http://

www.RapidSpanish.com

SPANISH Learn to speak Spanish. This ongoing course relies heavily on visual material, word association and games. http:// www.creativelanguagecenter.com 453-8680.

GENERAL

ADOPTION PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency spe cializing in matching Rirthmothers with Familie

nationwide. LIVING EXPENS-ES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

ADOPTION: A devoted Abor How. A devoted childless couple with puppy wish to adopt a newborn. Love, laughter, secure future await. Elyse & Alan. 1-800-257-7553. www.ElyseAndAlan.com.

ADOPTION Considering adoption? Childless couple stay-at-home parent seeks to adopt. Creative professionals w/sense of humor, loving/ stable home, Financial security. Expenses paid. John & Tim. 1-877-481-9774 (AAN CAN)



LOST CAT Lost: black and white tuxedo cat. Yellow eyes, no collar. Went missing near 44th and Shoalwood. If found. please call (310) 766-4033.

LOST DOG Lost Best Friend!!! Beans is a red-nose female pit bull. She is spayed, golden tan with a white chest. Last seen wearing her green collar with tags. \$\$\$\$ REWARD for the kind stranger who returns her to her family. If found, please call Mark at 512-947-0018.

LEGAL NOTICES

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE TEXAS **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION FOR** A MIXED **BEVERAGE PERMIT** BY TONIC LOUNGE **LLC D/B/A TONIC COFFEE BAR & LOUNGE. LOCATED** AT 8701 W. PARMER LANE **SUITE 2128, AUSTIN,** WILLIAMSON **COUNTY, TX** 78729. **MANAGERS/ MEMBERS OF SAID** LIMITED LIABILITY **CORPORATION ARE RENE ADAME AND**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RONALD WILLIAM DOWNING, De ceased, No. 89817 in Pro-bate COurt Number One of Travis County, Texas. KENNETH E DOWNING and MARILYN K DOWNING and all alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and en titled estate, filed on the 23rd day of December, 2008, an Application to Determine

RAFAEL SANTANA.

Application to Determine Heirship and for Issuance of Letters of Independent Ad-ministration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RONALD WILLIAM DOWNING, Deceased, and their respective shares and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court

tation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Tex-

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by fil ing a written answer contest ing such application should they desire to do so.

at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this ci-

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 23rd day of December, 2008. DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas PO Box 149325

Austin, Texas 78714

By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTER-ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF MARY ELLA SALAZAR aka ELLA DRAEGER SALAZAR, Deceased, No. 89739 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. RUBEN MARTIN SALAZAR and all alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 8th day of December, 2008, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said MARY ELLA SALAZAR. Deceased, and their respective shares and interests RUBEN MARTIN SALAZAR

spective shares and interests in such estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Tex

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by fil-ing a written answer contest-ing such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be re-turned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 8th day of December, 2008.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-08001891 To: MARIE NICOLE
GUERRA and to all who it
may concern, Respondent(s);
GREETINGS: YOU HAVE
BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or
your attorney do not file a
written answer with the clerk
who issued this citation by who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear and an-swer before the Honorable District Court, 353RD JUDI-CIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR DIVORCE AND TRAVIS COUNTY STANDING ORDERS filed in said court on DECEMBER 31, 2008, and said suit being number D-1-FM-08-001891 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MAR-RIAGE OF JEREMY LYNN GUERRA and IMARIE NICOLE GUERRA, and In the Interest of MARYJANE BEATRICE GUERRA, CRYSTAL ROSE GUERRA AND FAITH LASSETT GUERRA, CHILDREN". The nature of said suit is a The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judg-ment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent the termination of the parent-child relationship, the deter-mination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, January 02, 2009.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk Travis County Courthouse 1000 Guadalupe,

P.O. Box 679003 (78767) Austin, Texas 78701 By /s/ IRENE SILVA, Deputy REQUESTED BY: HEIDI HEINRICH 1104 NUECES

AUSTIN, TX 78701 PHONE: (512) 478-7463 FAX: (512) 478-1790

CITY OF AUSTIN

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office

CONSOLIDATED PLAN Fiscal Years 2009-14 ACTION PLAN Fiscal Year 2009-10

2009-10

The City of Austin is preparing a five-year Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2009-14. This five-year Plan includes funding recommendations for the fiscal year 2009-10. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through four grant programs in the last five years, allocated \$59 million to the City of Austin. The City of Austin is beginning to plan for the next five years for four grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and additional funding from local programs including General Revenue Funds, local General Obligation Bonds and program income. The Con-solidated Plan will be used solidated Plan will be used as a blueprint for identifying community priorities for funding to address priority housing, community priorities for funding to address priority housing, community development, and public service needs. In order to receive these grants from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Austin must submit a Consolidated Plan every 5 years, in addition to an annual Action Plan that describes community needs, resources, priorities, and proposed activorities, and proposed activities with regard to housing, community development, economic development and public services. The City has begun development of the fiscal years 2009-14 Consol-idated Plan and fiscal year 2009-10 Action Plan, which are due to HUD on August 15, 2009.

As required by Chapter 373 of the Texas Local Govern-ment Code and the City's Citizen Participation Plan, the in-itial steps for public partici-pation in the 5-year Consoli-dated Plan include five pub-lic hearings.

The following outlines the public input process for the FY 2009-14 Consolidated

1.PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City of Austin encourages all citizens to participate in the planning process. The City of Austin will host five public hearings through the following public for process. following public forums: Community Development Commission, the Austin City Council, the Community Ac-tion Network and the HIV Planning Council. The purpose of the public hearings is to gather information from citizens about the community's needs and priorities.

Public Hearings

- January 27, 2009 (Tuesday) at 2:00 p.m.: Community Action Network, at 1000 E. 11th St. - 400A.
- February 5, 2009 (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m.: Community De-velopment Commission, at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West Second Street.
- February 10, 2009 (Tuesday) at 6:00 p.m.: HIV Planning Council, 1520 Ruth-erford Ln., Bldg 1, 1st Floor.
- March 5, 2009 (Thursday) at 6:00 p.m.: Austin City Coun-cil, Austin City Hall, 301 West Second Street.
- •March 9, 2009 (Monday) at 6:30 p.m.: Community De-velopment Commission, at Austin City Hall, Boards and Commissions Room, 301 West Second Street.

Visit the City of Austin's website at www.cityofaustin.org/ housing for addition public meeting opportunities from January to March 2009.

2 SURVEYS

Citizens may also submit public feedback through a survey regarding the needs of the City of Austin community. Surveys will be available

- 1) The public hearings and public meetings.
- 2) Online at vw.cityofaustin.org/housing in English and Spanish.

3) All City of Austin Librarie 3. WRITTEN COMMENTS

The public may submit written comments regarding the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan through March 13, 2009. The City will utilize written comments to help identify community needs and allocommunity needs and allo cate funding accordingly. The Draft FY 2009-14 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2009-10 Action Plan will be published for additional public comment in June 2009.

Please submit your written

Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Of-fice

Attn: Kate Moore, P.O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

(512) 974-3100 Fax: (512) 974-3122; or email comments to: kate.moore@ci.austin.tx.us

Visit the City of Austin's website at: www.cityofaustin.org/

For additional information call the NHCD Office at 974 3100 (voice) or 974-3102 (TDD)

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

For assistance please call 974-2210 OR 974-2445 TDD.

D-1-GV-07-000691

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353RD District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-000691 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, Austin Independent School District-County Edu-School District-County Edu-cation District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Don Rob-erts (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only), Travis County Tax Collector, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Austin Community Col-lege (In Rem Only) and City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista In-dependent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 (In Rem Only) are defendant(s). in favor of are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$16,615.30 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plain-tiffs, in the 353RD District Court of Travis County, Tex-as, on September 26, 2008.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for nours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

A portion of Lots 18 and 19. A portion of Lots 18 and 19, Block 2, S.I. Wilson Subdi-vision (Olt. 13, Div. B), Plat No. 3/178, Travis County, Texas and being more par-ticularly described as Tract 2 in Volume 11858, Page 356 and Volume 11353, Page 238 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$16,615.30 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT. CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR
RANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH AND
LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-ESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUN-

D-1-GV-07-000969 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

SEL OF YOUR CHOICE

REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

QUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 250th District Court of
Travis County, on the 18th
day of December, 2008 in a
certain cause numbered D-1GV-07-000969, wherein Austin Community College, Del
Valle Independent School
District, Travis County Emergency Services District No.
11, Travis County and Travis
County Hospital District nt/Va
Travis County Healthcare
District are plaintiffs, and
Claudio Cornejo, Maria Flores
a/Va Maria R. Flores, Canios, Inc., City of Austin (In rios, Inc., City of Austin (In Rem Only), Travis Paving & Excavation Company, Inc. (In Rem Only), RTI Hot Mix, Ltd. (In Rem Only), Instel Steel Distributors, LP (In Rem Only), J M Electronics Engineering, Inc. (In Rem Only), Texas Concrete Materials, Ltd. (In Rem Only), IESI-Aus-tin (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in fa sum of \$358,187.03 Dollars

together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 9, 2008.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock

P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of Febru-ary, 2009 at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1, Chapas Country Acres, Plat No. 77/163 and a 5.51 acre tract, a 15.039 acre tract and a 1.059 acre tract out of the Guillermo Nunez Survey 502, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described cument number 2004156970 and

2005088271 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$358, 187.03 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY BY/s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUN-SEL OF YOUR CHOICE

D-1-GV-07-001046 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 24th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1-GV-07-001046, wherein Austrin Community College, Del Valle Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and Michael Jaurique, tiffs, and Michael Jaurigue, Alexandra Tieu, and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: Billing # 789969 = \$5,250.27, Billing # 789971 = \$4,334.00 and Billing # 789972 = \$4,927.94 Dollars,

789972 = \$4,927.94 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, 26, 2007.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock PM, have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit: I, on the 30th day of Decem-

BILLING NO.: 789969

Unit 1A, Fairway Street Condominiums, Condo. Decl. 2005136721, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2005230097 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

BILLING NO : 789971 Unit 2A. Fairway Street Decl. 2005136721, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2005230106 of the Deed Records of Travis County,

BILLING NO.: 789972

Unit 2B, Fairway Street Condominiums, Condo. Decl. 2005136721, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 2006043397 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Bill-**

ing # 789969 = \$5,250.27, Billing # 789971 = \$4,334.00 and Billing # 789972 = \$4,927.94 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the sat-isfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT. CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY/s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUN-SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-07-002445 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

QUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 53RD District Court of
Travis County, on the 2nd
day of January, 2009 in a
certain cause numbered D-1GV-07-002445, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis
County and Travis County
Healthcare District are plaintiffs, and John D. Majors, if
alive and if deceased, the
unknown owners, heirs, asunknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of John D. Majors and City of Austin (In Rem Only) City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$8,621.94 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53RD District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 25, 2008. as, oir August 22, 2008.

I, on the 2nd day of January, 2009, at 5:00 o'clock PM., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the

following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit: 1 acre out of the J.C. Tannehill Survey 29, Being a portion as described in Volume 6131, Page 1058

and being more fully de-scribed in the attached parcel map of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$8,621.94 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof. Witness my hand this 5th day

of January, 2009. BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRAN-TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-ITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-RANTIES OF MERCHANT-RANTIES OF MERCHANT-ABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FUR-THER ADVISED THAT PUR-CHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-LIENS OR SECURITY INTER-ESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COLIN NEED TO CONSULT COUN-SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

D-1-GV-08-000149 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200TH District Court of Travis County, on the 7th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered D-1 GV-08-000149, wherein Plain-tiff is Round Rock Independent School District and Intervenor is Travis County, and Jacqueline Maze n/k/a Jacqueline Maze Moreno and Juan Moreno a/k/a Juan Pablo Moreno are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiff and intervenor, for the sum of \$13,079.94 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200TH District Court of Travis County, Texes on April 29,000.90 as, on April 28, 2008 I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of Febru-ary, 2009 at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 8. Block D. Wells Lot 8, Block D, Wells Branch, Phase A, Section 3, Travis County, Texas, ac-cording to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 81, Page 203, Map Records of Travis County, Texas.

or Iravis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be
made by me to satisfy the
above described judgment
for \$13,079.94 Dollars in favor of plaintiff and intervenor,
together with the costs of
said suit, and the proceeds
applied to the satisfaction
thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A
PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDEERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY.
YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER
INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS
IN THE PROPERTY IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU
NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NO. 89706 ESTATE OF HENRY JOSEPH KUBACKI, DECEASED IN PROBATE COURT NUMBER ONE OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HENRY JO-

THE VACEK LAW FIRM, PLLC By: Candace L. Kunz-Freed

Respectfully Submitted,

14800 S. Mary's Lane, Suite 230 Houston, Texas 77079 (281)531-5800 Bar Card No. 24041282

SEPH KUBACKI, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2008, Docket No. 89706, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Tex-

The mailing address of the

RAYMOND JOHN KUBACKI

c/o Candace L. Kunz-Freed

14800 St. Marv's Lane. Suite

All persons having claims against this Estate which is

currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: Tuesday, January 6

THE VACEK LAW FIRM,

Houston, Texas 77079

Independent Executor is

BACKI.

PLLC

230

RAYMOND JOHN KU-

NO. 89757 IN THE

AV0122 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IM-POUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ. TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY. THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE. I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOL-LOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT:

JANUARY 22, 2009 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

085067060 1991 PLYM VN 238PPV TX 2P4GH2531MR177685 085067064 1986 OLDS 4DR Y14YYX TX 1G3HY69326W442362 085067189 1987 CHEV 4DR Y14YYX TX 1G1BH512GH9120180 085067218 1994 CHRY 4DR P78FGF TX 1G1BH512GH9120180 085067261 1990 BUIC 4DR P78FGF TX 1NXAE94A0N2324770 085067265 1987 MERZ 4DR 283DRS TX WDBEA3007HA507327 085067270 2002 MAZD DR 283DRS TX WDBEA3007HA507327 085067712 1994 MAZD DR 09FGK TX 11VGC262325306444 085067712 1994 MAZD DR 09FGX TX 14VGC1217TM03016 085067712 1994 MAZD DR 6PS245 TX 14VGC1217TM03016 085067712 1971 CHEV 2DR PS24BCH TX	085067058	1989	OLDS	4DR	FRG919	ΤX	1G3XC54C3K1343957
085067189 1987 CHEV 4DR 111DCL TX 1G1BN51Z6H9120180 085067217 1992 TOYT 4DR P78VGF TX 1NXAE94A0NZ324770 085067218 1994 CHRY 4DR 415MMF TX 2C3EL56T0RH136525 085067264 1990 BUIC 4DR 413WWX TX 1G4HR54C1LH455432 085067265 1987 MEC 2DR 283DRS TX WDBEA30D7HA507327 085067270 2002 MAZD 4DR 407WHC TX 1YVGF22C325306464 085067712 1994 MAZD PK 695Z45 TX 1YVGF22C3253006464 085067712 1994 MAZD PK 695Z45 TX 4F4CR12U7RTM03016 085067712 1994 MAZD PK 695Z45 TX 4F4CR12U7RTM03016 085067171 1977 PCNT 4DR 619YHC TX 2G2WR554071139752 085068919 1993 CADI 4DR 894ZG TX	085067060	1991	PLYM	٧N	238PPV	TX	2P4GH2531MR177685
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the COMMON LAW

by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney

MY LAWYER WON'T RETURN MY CALL

I hired a lawyer for my divorce and paid him a \$2,500 retainer. I've called him a lot in the last month, and I can't get through to him, and he hasn't returned any of my calls. What can I do?

I recommend that you contact your lawyer in writing. Sending a letter via certified mail to your lawyer that outlines your previous attempts to communicate with him should generate a return phone call. You may want to consider hiring another lawyer if your lawyer's nonresponsiveness persists.

How do I file a grievance or complaint against my attorney? Lawyers in Texas are held accountable to a set of rules called the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. If you believe that an attorney has violated these rules or has otherwise engaged in misconduct, you may report this information to the State Bar of Texas (the organization that governs attorney conduct in Texas) in the form of a grievance. The grievance system against attorneys is designed to protect the public from unethical lawyers. Allegations of attorney misconduct are very serious and reviewed carefully.

The first step in filing a grievance is to complete a grievance form (available at www.texasbar.com, click on the "Client Assistance & Grievance" link), and submit it to the State Bar chief disciplinary counsel's office. You can also call the State Bar of Texas (800-932-1900) for more information on filing a grievance. When submitting your grievance form, you should also send copies (not originals) of any documentation - such as letters, pleadings, receipts - that may be helpful in understanding your grievance. It is very important to know that signing the grievance form waives the attorney-client privilege that might otherwise keep discussions between you and your lawver confidential. Waiver of the attorney-client privilege is necessary for the State Bar to review your grievance in its entirety.

You may also want to consult with an attorney to help von decide if there are remedies other than filing a grievance. Keep in mind that not every disagreement between a client and attorney rises to the level of professional misconduct. For example, just because an attorney loses a case or gives advice you disagree with, it does not mean the attorney has violated a disciplinary rule.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and coments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attornev-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns

car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WHAT'S THE PROPER USE OF 'B' MODE IN HYBRID?

Dear Tom and Ray:

We recently bought a 2008 Prius and just love it, love it, love it. But we're having a bit of a discussion about how to use the "B" on the gearshift. I say it's like a downshift, and you should use it only temporarily, while going down a steep hill or coming to a stop. You use it to save the brakes, then return to "D." My husband thinks it's fine to drive most of the time in the "B" mode, since it regenerates electricity and recharges the battery. Who's correct? And if "B" is the gear to use all the time, why didn't Toyota just call it "D" and forget the separate braking option? Thanks for your help! – Gayle

TOM: Gayle, you're 100% right, and your husband, unfortunately, has his head up his

RAY: When you shift into the "B" mode, you increase the drag created by the regenerative portion of the brakes. And while that extra friction does produce some electricity to help recharge the battery, the "B" mode's primary purpose is to simulate downshifting, or engine braking, when you're going down a long, steep hill.

TOM: The "B" mode's secondary purpose is to give guys something to fiddle with while they're driving. And after that comes creating more electricity to recharge the battery.

RAY: In any car, hybrid or not, when you go down a long, steep hill, you run the risk of overusing your brakes. That makes the brakes overheat, which leads to brake fade (when the brakes become less effective). Even worse, if the brakes overheat badly enough, the brake fluid can boil and cause the brakes to fail completely. So it's always recommended that you downshift in those circumstances, rather than ride the brakes, to keep the car at a safe, reasonable speed.

TOM: But since the Prius has an unusual propulsion system and transmission, it essentially "fakes" a downshift mode for just that purpose.

RAY: So unless you're driving under conditions where you specifically need the equivalent of engine braking, just leave it in "D," Gayle. But try not to rub it in too much. Remember, husbands have extremely fragile egos.

* * *

If you buy a used car, will you just be inheriting the previous owner's problem? Tom and Ray dispel this and other myths about used cars in their pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, Ask Click and Clack: Answers From Car Talk. Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on



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ESTATE OF WILLIAM W. REYNOLDS, JR., DE-CEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT NO. ONE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that
original Letters Testamentar for the Estate of WILLIAM W REYNOLDS, JR., a/k/a William Wright Reynolds, Jr., Deceased, were issued on December 22, 2008, in Docket No. 89757, pending in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to JEWEL INEZ GERBITZ, Independent Executor without bond.

The residence for the Inde-pendent Executor is in Travis pendent Executor is in Travi County, Texas. The mailing address is:

c/o A. Lvnn Tiemann Thompson & Tiemann LLP Attorney at Law

5203 Pony Chase Austin, Texas 78727

All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 30th day of De

Respectfully submitted, THOMPSON & TIEMANN LLP P.O. Box 201988

Austin, Texas 78720-1988 (512) 335-6800 Telephone (512) 335-2088 Facsimile

/s/ A. Lynn Tiemann Attorney and Counselor State Bar No. 20021500 Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE subcontractors for the follow-ing City of Austin Project: Wells Branch Parkway Im-provements CIP # 8071-6207-9061, bidding January 15, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Areas of specialty include: Ensign of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Asphalt / Paving, Concrete, Photography, Fencing & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MO-TOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS. GARAGE-KEEPER: LONGHORN TOW ING, 8106 E. PARMER LN., MANOR, TX 2004 CHRYSLER 1C3EL55R54N114753

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1986 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1VWDB0174GV073549 (CO)

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

In accordance with the pro Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an own er's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage the Uncle Bob's Self Storage locations listed below; And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash Only. Uncle Bob's #285 9717 U.S. HWY 290 E Austin, TX 78724 (512)278-1220 Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 9:00 AM

#518 Demoine Sauls: house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office equip, office machines

#540 Karl Beck: household goods, furniture, boxes #627 Michael Hutchinson

#823 Stacie Flot-Sephus: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, construction equip

#2201 Michael Dubose: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, TV's or stereo equip, office equip, of-fice machines, account

Uncle Bob's #231 8227 North Lamar Austin, TX 78753 (512) 833-0855

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 10:00 AM #504 Tracy Wagher: other,

#717 Felix Mbah: household

#812 Paul Ruiz: household goods, tv or stereo equip, furniture, boxes, appliances

#901 Diana Potter: household

#919 Michael Fouts: house-hold goods, furn., boxes #929 Kim Davis: furn, boxes, tv or stereo equip

#936 Cynthia Perez: house-hold goods #960 Charell Lemuel: house-

hold goods, furn, boxes #1005 Christina R. Villarreal: boxes, household goods furn, tools, appliances, ty or stereo equip, office ma

chines, construction equip #1007 Diana Sheridan: household goods, furn, boxes, ty or stereo equip

#1013 Mark Wilson: house hold goods #1019 Carolyn J. Rolls: household goods, furn, box-es, appliances, tv or stereo equip

#1111 Herbert John Boleyn: household goods, boxes, tools, landscaping equip

#1307 Catherine Hardway: household goods, furn, boxes, tools

#1319 Flizabeth Mauro: hox es, furn

#1411 Tom Holdridge: house hold goods, furn, boxes #1414 Melinda Castillo: household goods, furn, boxes, appliances, tv or stereo equip, account records

#1516 Amber Nepodal: household goods, furn, box-es, musical equip, tuba

Uncle Bob's #276 2830 South A.W. Grimes Blvd

Round Rock, TX 78664 (512)310-0279 Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 11:00 AM

#219 Paula McClure: household goods, furniture, tv's or stereo equip

#304 Maria Spiritelli: house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, tv's or stereo equip

#2105 Evelyn Chavez: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, tv's or stereo equip, office ma-chines, construction equip

#2403 Roman Saucedo: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

#3325 Joe Moreland: house #3325 Joe Moreland: house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appli-ances, TV's or stereo equip, office equip, office machines landscaping equip, account records

#4102 Lavinia Lewis: furni-

#4120 Manuel Velasquez household goods, furniture, boxes, tools

#4126 Tammy S. Cook: furniture, boxes, tv's or stereo

#4404 Keisha Brooks: house hold goods, furniture, tv's or stereo equip, account records

#5113 Paul Calderon: house-hold goods, furniture, boxes, tv's or stereo equip

#5230 Martina Machado: household goods, furniture, boxes, appliances, tv's or stereo equip

#6106 Candace Fowler: fur-

#6219 Eric Earley: household nliances

#8311 Hobert Chad Smith: household goods, furniture #9550 Kativa Roe: household pliances, tv's or stereo equip, account records

Uncle Bob's #197 5547 McNeil Dr. Austin, TX 78729 (512)336-8390 Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 12 noon

#401 Komica Brooks: hshld goods, furn, boxes, tv's or stereo equip

#409 Michael Stapp: hshld goods, furn, boxes, sporting goods, tools, tv's or stereo equip, office equip, const. equip

#804 Sherrie D. Byrd: hshld goods, furn, boxes, acct. records

#1101 Ricardo Rivera: hshld goods, boxes, tv's or stereo equip

#1317 Tito Rangel: hshld

#1748 William Diggs: hshld goods, furn, boxes, sporting goods, tools, appliances, tv's or stereo equip, office equip, office machines, landscaping equip, acct. records, sales samples

#1807 Denise Lamb: hshld goods, furn, boxes, tools, ap-pliances, landscaping equip

Uncle Bob's #287 6509 South First Street Austin, TX 78745 (512)326-9696 Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 1:30 PM

#117 Paulo Casillas: furniture, tools, appliances #219 Roxanne Rios: furniture,

#380 Lawn Doctors Sutton Jason: boxes, tools, office equip, construction equip. landscaping equip

#1140 Jessica Denise Romero: furniture, boxes

#3143 Amy Pate: household goods, furniture, boxes, tools, appliances, tv's or stereo #3213 Kelly Goble: furniture.

#3344 Karla Callaway: household goods, furniture, boxes, tv's or stereo equip

#3354 Deidra Castillo: house hold goods, furniture, boxes, appliances

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation:

PLACE NO PARKING AD-JACENT TO THE DRIVE-WAYS AND INTERSEC-TIONS ON LONG VISTA DRIVE IN PRECINCT TWO

Any resident of Travis Any resident of Iravis
County, Texas, aggrieved by
this proposed action may
make written request for a
mandatory public hearing. Such request must be ad dressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources De-partment, Travis County, Tex-as, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Stor-A-Way located at 309 South Bell, Cedar Park, Texas 78613, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien.

The sale will begin at 10:00 am on February 10, 2009. Property will be sold to the

highest bidder for cash. De-posit for removal and clean-up may be temporarily re-quired. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from the sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in the spaces of the following tenants, with brief description of contents in each space.

P052 Crosby Brown - 1985 P058 Austin Stanphill - 1966

P060 Austin Stanphill - 1966

NOTICE OF SALE Minuteman Ministorage hereby pub-lishes notice, as required by Chapter 59 of the Texas
Property Code, of a public
sale for the property listed
below to satisfy a landlord's
lien. All sales will be conducted by written bid for
cash to the highest bidder
and will be considered final.
Minuteman Ministorage reserves the right to reject any
bids. The sale shall be held
at each respective storage
facility's address as set forth
below on January 24, 2009
betwen the hours of 9 am
and 11 am.
Minuteman Ministorage at Chapter 59 of the Texas

Minuteman Ministorage at 11703 N. Lamar Blvd., Aus-tin, Tx 78753. 512-491-9001 (Anticipated start time: 9:00

#B Jesse Limon- misc. dry-wall/construction equipment #2 For the Love of a Mother's Child-collectibles

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF OZENA FAY RAY, DECEASED **CAUSE NO. 89729**

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Notice is hereby given that on December 30, 2008, Leton December 30, 2008, Left-ters Testamentary were is-sued to: TERESA ANN PEARCE and MICHELLE LEA CANTRELL, a/k/a MICHELLE LEA HANSON by the Honor-able Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, in Cause Number 89729 pend-ing upon the Probate Docket of said Court.

All persons having claims against said estate are on notice of this administration and are hereby requested to present the same within the time prescribed by law to:

D'ANA H MIKESKA MCGINNIS, LOCHRIDGE & KILGORE, L.L.P. 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100. Austin. Texas 78701.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST

HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF BILLY
JOHN KAISER, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that in
Cause No. 89711, styled Estate of Billy John Kaiser, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the County Court of
Travis County, Texas, original
letters testamentary were issued on December 16, 2008,
to Richard Dulaney Kaiser,
Mark Kaiser and DAvid Grant
Kaiser. Kaiser.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the inde-pendent executor of the Es-tate in care of Patricia A. Campbell at the following ad-

c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

a Professional Corporation Attn: Patricia A Campbell Post Office Box 98 Austin, Texas 78767

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this the 29th day of December, 2008. Respectfully submitted, GRAVES DOUGHERTY HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell State Bar No. 03714100 (512)480-5625

(512)480-5825 (fax) ATTORNEYS FOR INDE-PENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independ-ent Administration for the Es-tate of D.L. Fancher Jr., Detate of D.L. Fancher Jr., De-ceased, were issued on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, in Cause No. 89631, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Derek Fancher

All persons having claims currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Derek Fancher, representa-tive, Estate of D.L. Fancher,

c/o Law Offices of Brooke Hardie

816 W 10th St. Austin, Texas 78701

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Chester J. sued on Friday, December 19, 2008, in Cause No. 08-0603-CP4, pending in the County Court No. 4 of Wil-liamson County, Texas, to Paula K. Ward.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Paula K. Ward.
All persons having claims
against this Estate which is
currently being administered
are required to present them
within the time and in the
manner prescribed by law.
Claims may be presented in
care of the attorney for the
estate, addressed as follows:
Paula K. Ward, representative, Estate of Chester J.
Block, Deceased
(A. Law Offices of Brooke

c/o Law Offices of Brooke 816 W 10th St

Austin, Texas 78701

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of James Ivy Stansell, Deceased, were issued to Janis P. Stansell on November 20, 2008, in Cause No. 85926 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

The address of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, as follows: Janis P. Stansell, Independent Executor of the Estate of James Ivy Stansell, Deceased

c/o Nicolai von Kreisler von Kreisler & Swanson, P.C.

610 West Lynn

Austin, Texas 78703 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated January 9, 2009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Russell Davis, Deceased, were issued to Ethel Elizabeth Davis on November 20, 2008, in Cause No. 89561 in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

The address of the Inde pendent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, as follows: Ethel E. Davis, Independent

Executor of the Estate of John Russell Davis, Dec/o Nicolai von Kreisler

von Kreisler & Swanson, P.C. 610 West Lynn

Austin, Texas 78703

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated January 9, 2009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration with Will An-nexed for the Estate of Virginia Shields Kirk, De-ceased, were issued on De-cember 9, 2008, in Cause No. 89,141, pending in Pro-bate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Wells Far-go Bank Texas, N.A.

The notice to the Dependent Administrator may be deliv-ered at the following address:

c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC Attorneys at Law

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

/s/ Barbara J. Lipscomb

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

for the Estate of Robert L.

Laura C. Ayers.

Attorney at Law The Fowler Law Firm, P.C.

919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1150

DATED the 31st day of December, 2008 /s/ Jack W. Cunningham

State Bar No.: 00790547 919 Congress Ave.,

Telephone: (512)441-1411 Facsimile: (512)441-1410

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Anabel Schmidt aka Anne Schmidt, Deceased, were issued to Ar-

thur W. Schmidt, as Inde pendent Executor of said Estate, on December 22, 2008, in Cause No. 89736, pending

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to Arthur W. Schmidt, Inde-

816 West 10th Street Austin, TX 78701

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joseph Jay

The notice to the Independent Executor may be deliv-ered at the following address:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

2901 Bee Caves Road, Box D

Austin, Texas 78746

Dated the 30th day of December, 2008.

Attorney for Dependent Administrator

original Letters Testan

Ayers, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2008, in Cause No. 89712, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to:

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Jack W. Cunningham

Austin, Texas 78701

Attorney for Laura C. Ayers

Suite 1150 Austin, TX 78701

in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas.

to Arthur W. Schmidt, Inde-pendent Executor of said Es-tate, in care of his attorney Carolyn Collins Ostrom within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Carolyn Collins Ostrom Collins Ostrom Attorneys and Counselors

DATED the 9th day of Janu-

c/o Barnes Lipscomb &

Attorneys at Law 2901 Bee Caves Road, Box D

Austin, Texas 78746 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 6th day of January,

/s/ Patricia T. Barnes Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Virginia H.** Emery, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2008, in Docket No. 89707, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Parmita Gail Emery Derden.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administers are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Claims shall be addressed to:"Representative, Estate of Virginia H. Emery

c/o John W. Brodnax John W. Brodnax, P.C.

1202 Lakeway Drive, Suite 1 Lakeway, Texas 78734" (512) 261-0101

DATED the 29th day of December, 2008 /s/ John W. Brodnax

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPEND-ENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary the Estate of NAN-WISE GAYLE, a/k/a NAN-CY W. GAYLE, Deceased were issued on December 29, 2008, in Cause No. 89,721, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: MARY GAYLE HANKS.

The residence of the Execu-tor is in Travis County, Texas; the post office address is:

c/o Kirt H. Kiester Kiester, Lockwood & Babb, L.L.P.

611 West 14th St., Suite 100 Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 30th day of December, 2008. KIESTER, LOCKWOOD & BABB, L.L.P.

By /s/ Kirt H. Kiester State Bar No. 11393000 ATTORNEYS FOR THE ES-

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be ac-cepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Electronic Agenda/Minutes and Audio/Video Streaming, P090043-SW

Opens: January 20, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PRO-POSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE JANURY 8, 2009 @ 2:00

Proposals should be submit-ted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or riewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchas-ing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or ers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appro-priate. Payment may be made by check. The suc-cessful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount award-ed, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO ENGINEERS

TRAVIS COUNTY TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that qualification statements will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1.Design of Travis County Bridges Project, Precinct 1 and 2, Q090072-LP

Opens: January 22, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-PRO-POSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2009 @ 10:00 AM

Qualifications statements should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained

County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchas-ing/solicitation.asp.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS otice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accept by Travis County for the fol-

1.Portable Toilets, B090088

Opens: January 26, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

2.Ammunition, B090070-NB Opens: January 26, 2009 @ 12:00 p.m.

3.Dishwashing and Laundry Chemicals, B090077-NB Opens: January 26, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

4. Custom Welding Trailer, B090150-NB

Opens: January 26, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box

1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of nance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable,

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS THE COUNTY OF TRAVIS TO THOSE INDEBTED TO OR HOLDING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF KATHERINE BROWN aka ANNIE KATH-ERINE BROWN aka KATIE

BROWN, Deceased: The undersigned Independent Executor of the Estate of Katherine Brown, Deceased

Katherine Brown, Deceased, of Travis County, Texas, having been granted Letters Testamentary by the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, in Probate Cause #89620 on December 11, 2008, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said Estate to make payment, and those having legal claims against said Estate to present them within the time prescribed by law at the address below. Dated December 28, 2008, Anory M. Petru, Independent Nancy M. Petru, Indepen Executor of the Estate of Executor of the Estate of Katherine Brown, Deceased, c/o MARILYN G. MILLER, At-torney at Law, PO. Box 917, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

X96-04978 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X96-04978, wherein Travis

County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Imogene A. Thomason, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, assigns, successors and heirs of the Estate of Imogene A. Tho-mason, John E. Thomason and NRC, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$3.600.97 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plain tiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Tex-as, on December 7, 1998.

as, on December 7, 1998.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock
PM., have levied upon, and
will, on the 3rd day of February, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock,
A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in
the City of Austin, within legal
hours, proceed to sell for
cash to the highest bidder,
all the rights, title and interest
of defendants in and to the
following described property. following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

or derendants, to-wit: Lot 14162, Bar-K Ranches Plat 14, Plat No. 68/20 as described in Volume 7611, Page 415 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$3,600.97 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satproceeds applied isfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY/s/Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRAN-TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIM-ITED TO, THE IMPLIED WAR-RANTIES OF MERCHANT-ABILITY AND FITNESS FOR YOU BUY THE PROPERTY

"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASHING P YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUN-SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-05282 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY DELIN-QUENT TAXES

QUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE of a certain Order
Of Sale issued by the clerk of
the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day
of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X9605282, wherein Travis
County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of
Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs,
and Antonio Triana and Gloria Triana are defendant(s), in ria Triana are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$3,084.88 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 14, 1998.

14, 1995. I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock PM., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of Febru-ary, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder. all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 4097, Bar-K Ranches Plat 4, Plat No. 56/89 as de-scribed in Volume 7445, Page 136 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$3,084.88 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2008.

BRUCE ELFANT, CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COLINTY TEXAS BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY

BY/s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD,
THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED,
INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR
A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
YOU BUY THE PROPERTY
"AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY
AT THIS EXECUTION SALE
MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY
LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. ESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-YOU ARE SIMPLY PUR-CHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUN-SEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-11326 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a day of December, 2008 In a certain cause numbered X96-11326, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Inde-pendent School District, Travis County Emergency Ser-vices District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Paul E. Jensen, Shirley Jensen, Dykstra Family Trust III and General Electric Credit Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$3,785.10 Dollars, together

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WORK DISCOUNTS... CALL FOR DETAILS.

6-1

with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 18, 2002. I, on the 30th day of December, 2008, at 5:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of Febru-ary, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 15133, Bar-K Ranches, Section 15-A, Plat No. 79/ 142 as described in Volume 13378, Page 223 of the deed records of Travis County,

THE ABOVE SALE to be above described judgment for \$3,785.10 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 5th day of January, 2009. BRUCE ELFANT.

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U MAN ENOUGH

I've played rebound, Cougar, I've been on my own. I am happy and content with myself and my life. Open to a LtR if the right guy comes along. **Ms-Spontaneous**, 37, 101, #128825

MAYRE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type, but I have big tits and a firm ass. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. litlred, 31, 72, 101, #128782

SLOWBURN

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VERY PLEASING

I'd love to find a couple to explore my body together. I want pampering and to be dominated. I'm petite and love to be thrown into various po tions. lovely, 26, 🏗, 🔼, #128592

ADVENTUROUS HIPSTER BISEXUAL

I'm a laid-back bisexual female who prefers to be with a guy. I'm looking for a bisexual male who prefers women. Let's hang out. Dreamin-Pisces, 21, #127920

FUN LOVING

looking to have a good time...FUN!! jccc, 34, #127045

INTELLECTUAL SUBMISSIVE

If you have a decent vocabulary, a dry sense of humor, and an I.Q. in the triple digits, in addition to a dominating flair in the bedroom then write me. Bella34, 35, 101, #126130

JUST PEAKING

Wow didn't know this was out there.I am single and would love to meet my"match". Tend to be attracted to that tall mr. all american type but with a devil inside, bettyboo, 36, #124984

MALE BODY LOVER

Looking for a "friend" not just a hook-up. Someone who is outgoing, an outdoor lover, intelligent and maybe a bit of a nerd. rockett2222, 35. 101. #124473

WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS

Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. pleime 43, **#122521**

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. austinpartygurl1985, 23, 101, #119045

DISCRETE FUN

SBF seeking a discrete, mutually beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman Funtimes01, 30, #117862

COUPLE SEEKS WOMEN

I would like to find a women that would join us in our bedroom. I would love to find someone that could be a fwb thing, if not that's ok. **Bunnyt1604**, 23, **101**, **#128851**

HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guvs, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings a lowed, thanx. anya, 33, 101, #128804

OUR FIRST THREESOME

We've never had a threesome before but dying to have one, any girls wanna show us the ropes? NO GUYS. EndZoneDance304, 23, 101, #128614

HOT CPLALADY

Depending on the chemistry we are open to anything from friends with benefits to serious relationship. In special instances would we be open to one-time casual encounters jezebella83, 25, 101, #128442

CLASSY COUPLE FOREPLAY

Attractive couple in 30s looking for Woman/Couple. Attracted to you & you to us.For fun drama free erotic pleasure. Should be Open-minded, straight. TexasSugar, 34, 101, #128373

BROADENING HORIZONS

We are a couple looking to spice up our love life. We have decided to try a threesome with another woman to see if it is something we're inter ested in. gandf, 27, 101, #128323

CUTE COUPLE DATEING

Hi! poly couple seeking third. cute and curvy /lean and muscular seeking fun energetic girl to date. CultLeader, 21, 101, #128309

FUN NIGHT

Black couple seeking interested female for a night of fun!M y first time so seeking a female who is interested in making this experience will not forget! muffinberries, 24. **101. #128156**

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL

We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, unihibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. srcn4fun, 32, 75, 101, #128004

NAUGHTY FUN WANTED!

Hello, we're a fun, professional, laid-back Austin couple. We're looking for single bi or bi-curious females, and couples, to join us in our naughty adventures. Bring on the fun!!! ATX-Couple4you, 32, 101, #127995

DISCREET COUPLE SEEKING...

Couple of 7 yrs seeking female for the hubby. pandp, 33, 72, 101, #127831

BI-CURIOUS FEMALE

I am a very sexy, very fit female looking to explore my bi-sexual fantasies with another woman/women in front of my boyfriend. He is fit, hung, & fun. looking4fun, 30, 10, #127762

SEXY ADVENTUROUS COUPLE

We're a couple in love but looking for erotic experiences with beautiful women. We're relatively new to this, but are up for a delicious sexual experience if you are interested... foxyloxyngrizzlybear, 22, 72, 101, #127025

NEW TO AUSTIN

Couple interesting in having a female companion to help spice things up in the bedroom. We are pretty easygoing people and willing to try anything! Usagistar182, 24, 101, #126862

AWESOME COUPLE LOOKING

We are a happy couple that have been together 8 years. We are looking for female playmates. You won't be disap pointed. delvallefun, 38, 101, #126459

SEXY COUPLE LOOKING

Sexy young couple, looking for a hot lady to get frisky with. A little girl on girl action to start. We would love to be as discret as possible. **luckyone**, 24, **o**, #126216

COUPLE SEEK BI-GAL

oh, where do we start this ad? we want a real guy, bi-sexual. a guy that is looking for a couple. 35-55 years old we are 40's. we are cute. saustincouple, 45, 101, #125567

FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or fe males only. 080764, 44, 101, #124403

SEEKING SWITCH PARTNER

You-looking for fun above all with no pre-conceived expectations. US:Average people looking for an above average fun ;) Prefer bi-sf, couples ok. Inexperienced welcomed. Honesty refreshing. **Bifemaustincpl**, 32, 37, 31, 4121712

FUN KINKY DISCREET

I need to be spoiled I'm into all kinds of play. No lovemaking and can be difficult to keep interested. So if you think you can, let the games begin. sugar_baby_69_lover, 23, #128304

WILD CHILD

I am an eighteen-year-old health conscious bisexual female. I am looking for a emotionally-balanced professioanl couple who would welcome another female into their sexual life.

sweeteighteen, 19, 73, #128243 SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER

My master will control and teach me He should be sucessful caring and

giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean-**42DDD 37 75 101 #127400

WETLIPS

im a wild sex kittin with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for se e-mails, ill talk dirty! highheels23, 22, ☎, 📵, #126858

HELP!!!!!!

We would like to add another women to our love making, someone who is experienced would be great! Women on women would be ok as long as he can watch....interested? GiGi69, 41. 75. #125791

SHAVED STILETTO STUD

W/M, shaved in stockings and stilet-tos seeks 3 similar males for 4-some who crave studs in erotic feminine attire while empowering true inner feminity and enjoying our exotic & erotic experiences. SexyStillettoStud, 51, 101, #128746

EXPERIMENTAL OLDER MAN

I am a 61 year old 6' 200 lb man work out regularly. Like to meet a man or woman for discrete sexual encou ters/email. I think I am bi-sexual. Old, 61, **61**, **#128430**

AN INTELLIGENT STONER???

It's been a long while since my last relationship, so I'm just looking for a chill older (20-30ish) guy to chill and have fun with. Open for almost anything. Word. interstate420, 19,

#127967

UP FOR ANYTHING

48,gwm,6',180#,blk/brn,moderately hairy,partnered but play. looking for men hairy or smooth, uncut preferably, for occaisional playtime. seeking all types of experiences. oscar, 48, **101**, **#127611**

IN ABILENE, TEXAS:

SWM, 46, 6'2", 190, 34w, br/gr, handsome, masculine and honest. Seeking a tall, white, handsome, masculine, honest man 35-50 to hang out and see where it goes iamluckyru, 47, 🕿, 🔼, #125068

LOOKING FOR GUY?

Are you an older bi or gay guy, 45+, looking for a discreet guy? Attractive professional, WM, 54, wants to meet one funloving guy. Safe sex, nonsmoking. 115704, 54, 72, 101, #115704

BUDDY WITH BENEFITS

Looking for a good-looking, masculine, white guy, around 25-45, average to stocky. You'll host. Send face pics. Stats in online ad. **speedy246**, 30, **3**, **6**, **4115688**

DANA4U

I'm sexy, small, slutty, sweet, need a man to appreciate me. wont kiss and tell, always discreet, bring lingere and a kiss on the cheek, I'm your new girlfriend, whenever you please dana4u, 45, 101, #128527

HOT AND HORNY

Toned hard body cross dresser and exhibitionist. Do you have somewhere I can perform for you? xoxo, Call Me Jackie. jackie69, 44, , #101254

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THE LUV DOC

Eldridge Goins Benefit Concert • Sun., Jan. 11, 7pm Antone's • 213 W. Fifth • www.antones.net

Damn, maybe you shouldn't have voted for Obama. Think of all the great benefit concerts that won't ever happen if he somehow manages to pull a universal health-care rabbit out of his hat. You really screwed the pooch on that vote, didn't you? Imagine if the next time an Austin musician gets leukemia, hep C, or hit by a car, all he or she has to do is just go to the doctor. Weird. Besides, the current system is clearly working: The ailing musician hopes that their friend or manager calls a benevolent club owner, a publicist, and some really kickass musicians and begs them all to donate time and services to put on a free concert to defray medical expenses. Hey! Health care in Austin rocks! Imagine if we blew the \$200 million a day we're spending to foment Iraqi hatred on keeping Americans healthy? Yeah, it does seem a little shortsighted and simplistic, doesn't it? Don't worry, getting Congress to vote against their insurance lobby constituency would be a Jesus-sized miracle, to say the least. You can't fly to the French Riviera on the gratitude of voters. Really, the best we can possibly hope for is some sort of taxpayer funded überinsurance, very likely underwritten by a subsidiary of a shadow corporation owned by Dick Cheney. Lest you recoil in horror, remember that, regardless of how recent indiscretions in the financial sector have torpedoed the economy, America still runs on money. If we can't make enough of it here, we just borrow it from China or Japan or Germany or some other chump B-list country that doesn't have the guns to collect. You can't expect the U.S. government to run on the power of love either. This isn't Cuba or France or even Canada. It's nearly impossible to get a doctor to roll out of bed for less than a hundred large a year. If it's a surgeon ... fahgeddaboutit. Surgeons drop about half that per annum just paying malpractice insurance, and if you think you can get an insurance executive (other than Warren Buffett, aka the Mother Theresa of insurance and investment) to roll out of bed for less than a million a year, you need to get back on your meds. Seriously. With the recent shakedown of the investment and insurance industries, the best way to keep the economy strong is to keep taking drugs. We can't have Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and Abbott Labs taking a nosedive. Think of how that would affect Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew. What to do? What to do? For now, you can continue to prop up the status quo and support musicians by going to benefit concerts until Obama ruins it all with his progressive agenda. You can get started this Sunday by attending the benefit for Eldridge Goins at Antone's. Eldridge is a truly phenomenal drummer who just underwent expensive surgery to remove a tumor in his chest. Fortunately he's got an all-star cast to help him out. This Sunday's performers include Carolyn Wonderland, Guy Forsyth, Drew Smith's Lonely Choir, and Suzanna Choffel as well as other surprise guests. Cover is only \$10 and won't cancel out your vote for Obama, but it sure will do Éldridge and Austin music a solid.

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LET'S HAVE COFFEE

I'm easy-going and can have fun or sit back and enjoy the moment. Looking for a man who is self-confident, silly and charming (above all isn't afraid to be himself). Austin2009, 43, 101, #128890

OUT-GOING, MOTIVATED, FUN

Active, energetic, funny, silly and smart law student looking for someone active with a good sense of humor who is intellectually compatible and encourages me to expand my horizons, JLaw, 24, 101, #128886

CUTE, BOOKISH, EARTHY.

Smart, cute, easygoing gardening geek. For fun I like a greenbelt hike, swimming, good conversation. Clean, good driving record, never arrested, good manners, good Spanish. JaneMarie, 45, 101, #128885

PECAN WAFFLES

looking for someone with an interest in anything artistic and who can laugh when its most inappropriate. tanknee, 24, , #128845

CHEAPBEER ANDA LAWNCHAIR

i like my steak rare and my baked potato loaded, honesty and making me laugh are musts. a differing opinion on that movie we saw might be a deal breaker. steorbord, 25, 10, #128839

RU A REALBOY?

Looking for a real boy: an entertaining and easy going guy to explore Austin with me. Spontaneity, wit, and the ability to imitate Foghorn Leghorn are big pluses! **Nicki**, 42, 101, #128833

Shy, kinda quiet, sometimes moody & a little bit mean (or so I'm told) woman seeks nice, cheerful, outgoing, attractive man. **Nettie**. 42. 101. #128830

GENUINE CONNECTIONS

I believe in the power of genuine connections that help us become better people and live more peaceful and fulfilling lives. I'm looking for a man to share my journey. orangepatchouli08, 37, 101, #128822

DARE-TO-BE GREAT SITUATION

Intelligent, sarcastic, passionate, single mom, liberal activist. No one can possi bly do themselves justice in 30 words, so find me online if you want to know more. sundoll, 27, 6, #128815

DIVERSE, EASY-GOING, KIND

Looking for man who makes me laugh and won't give me the business cuz I don't spend my weekends scaling rocks. Outside is fun but I'm ready to just. hang. Spike, 43, 101, #123920

HEY STOP STARING!

I'm happy and honest, have my own life and am busy enough. Very independent and hardworking. Not looking for someone recently single. Looking for someone close to my age/younger. fionnabadd, 38. 101, #115972

THAT GIRL

I am for sure atypical in a variety of ways, fun interesting and curious! lovelieatxgirl, 33, 101, #128362

TECHIE SEEKS BABE

I'm easy to please kool dude.I'm sincere, flexible, friendly, like great konversation, people person, enjoy watchin kool flicks, photography, enjoy traveling, woman who'll share her input & knowledge with me,and bring owt the BEST in me. koolrebel, 38, #128922

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SEXY.SASSY.COOL

woman of my word will always say what i mean and mean what i say I will support you mentally, emotionally and physically. Im not afraid of being in love. mchllgreen, 44, 10, #128717

CREATIVE, ECCENTRIC,

Although apprehensive, I hope to find someone to spend mutually beneficial time with. I am loyal and do not discriminate or judge. I promise to always be honest and true. readyfreddy, 23, 101, #128714

GUCCIGIRL

am quick witted, sincere & thoughtful. I like to play sports, read, eat key lime pie & visit art galleries. Am looking for someone that shares these interests. Gucciairl. 42. 101. #128675

CHECKING THIS OUT

I am just seeing what is out there... I am the down-to-earth, girl next door type who is looking for an honest, ard working man who can make me laugh, TexasKas, 31, 101, #128652

SINCERE, ATTORNEY, CONTENT

Just hoping to find emotionally stable company of a good guy with similarities and common goals, low maintenance kind of girl with an eve towards staving fit and happy. legalangel, 54, 101, #125192

BAWDY BOOKREADING BABE

Seeking simple, single, soulful, sinful, scintillating, spiritual, serene specimen for active simbiosis. Grab a dictionary and apply if you dare... Bahira, 44, 72, 101, #128583

EXQUISIT, SENSITIVE, BOLD.

I am an interesting, hardworking, Devilishly handsome man, whos wit is only rivaled by his tenacious sense of humor. I'm hoping to meet some-one similar to myself; sincere and fun! **DrSenoj**, 33, 101, #128918

TRY ME

Just looking to meet women without going out every night and dealing with conceited psuedomodels. Whether it be platonic or something serious. Im just looking to have some fun. eh2, 22, 101, #128902

CREATIVE OPEN MINDED

Recently single dad of 2 who enjoys live music and all things artistic currently addicted to my guitar and working out, would love to meet new people in Austin, billvaustin39, 42, #128808

JUST PLAIN FUN

Me: In Austin for a handful of months, fun loving, friendly and adventurous. You: Looking for something light and fun, enjoy independent or campy low budget films nd great food. playisthething, 24, #128895

CALLING COMPANIONABLE CREATRIX

New friend sought for conversation, tea, art, music, biking, picnics, scavenging, noodles, slices, shows plays, movies, affection, support, inspiration, dreams, tacos, coffee, and whatever you like (I'd like to know). boisdarctree, 33, 101, #117781

WHO IN THE?

I am a honest good guy. Who just wants a good chick to spend his time with. Some one who will go on pointless advertures with me. donnie, 20,

I am attracted to women who are intelligent, attractive, fit, healthy and that know where they are in life and could also be my wife, lover and best friend. midlifeguy, 46, 10, #127531

PASSIONATE TO ABSTRACTION

Looking for someone who likes to dance or at least be willing to try. Someone who can debate the latest goings on or a movie that makes you think. **Hangingin04**, 54, 10, #128888

HEALTHY, HAPPY, WINNER

You are healthy, happy, attractive, intelligent, affectionate, emotionally stable, and open to new ideas. I read, write, think, converse, create, and look for truth, beauty, humor

FUTURE IS PAST

spent your whole like looking for a guy who can guote Sartre. BlueSwan, 35, 101, #128869

LOOKING FOR FUN

Tired of looking in La Grange, Seems everyone is taken. Or they aren't worth anything. I'm looking for bet-

LOOKING FOR LOVE i am single and independent,I am an affectionate and romantic man Lam an optimist, and I am quite a steady person.l am calm, kind but the

6 #128868

Tigerish man seeking wierd woman, left handed redheads especially riskav. 29. 101. #128854

NICHE PRODUCT

travel. guitar. live music. beers. food. cities. deserts (in the winter). mountains. eugenides. sedaris. vonnegut. foer. eggers. non-book media flypelicanfly, 25, 101, #128848

1111 ANYONE?

Free-spirited, 46, 6'/180, writer, musician/composer, grad degree. still have a lot to learn/experience On a spiritual-awakening-learning curve. Seeks like-minded woman into: Dancing, travel, nature, deep conversations, laughter, synchronic ity. Freespirit11, 46, 101, #128836

LONELY ADVENTURER

Hello, 30 words huh? Seeking fellow adventurers for fun. I don't live here yet but am here alot and could use some Upontheroof, 29, 101, #128794

Hi ladies, not sure why I'm doing this I like to have fun and looking for some ideas. Thanks for your time texrican, 46, 101, #128814

SHY AT FIRST

and fun. otterego, 61, 61, #128880

I can quote Sartre, I know you have

er. I deserve it. LaGrangeGuy, 46, #128870

person of principal. ultraguy12, 31,

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DELICIOUS JAMS OHYEAH

love tattoos, reggae, live music, boardshorts outdoorsyness lips mr. chen, adventure, laughing, reading, writing, biology, random trivia, and rockband. I want your body. Natisfaction, 22, 101, #128909

SARCASM GALORE

I'm new to the Austin area, and looking to meet some cool new people to show me around this lovely place.I love traveling, cooking, dancing, electronic music, & watching movies. erinlagrif, 26, 61, #128758

BROWN BUTCH SEEKS

Hello, my name is Chris, I'm 30 years old. I would like to find some cool people with whom I can break bread. exchange music and ideas, thoughts .saliva eventually. chrisg2369, 30, **6**, #128732

SMARTASSCHICK

Laid-back, 33 year-old professional, soft-butch (whatever the hell that means??!!). I would like to meet an attractive, chill woman who has a brain and can have a stimulating convo, good kisser. cooshrockets, 33. **101**. **#128395**

SWEET, LAIDBACK, FUN

Traditional good girl looking for friends and/or lovers. Love the outdoors and country life although I can party with the best. Very open minded and non-judgemental. No gossip or drama. katieb, 35, 101, #128206

"SECRETS IN SAUCE"

When I look at her I cant remember anyone before her and cant imagine not being with her for the rest of my life. She feels the same shewolfann, 49, 101, #128103

NEWGIRL: INTOWN **2LOVENBELOVED**

I date girls of all races! I'm outgoing; little shy at first. Love live music and dancing. I just want a girl to make me laugh and give me butterflies. SapphQt, 26, 101, #128071

'I'M SO RADASSI'

I'm a laid back goof with couch potato tendencies tho I love going out. Mexican food, coffee and music have me grabbing my keys faster than you can say "mexican martini." shygirl, 26, ol., #127823

LAID BACK GUY

Been single too long. Laid back guy here who loves meeting new people. Looking for that one special person to hang out with, get to know, and see what happens. AustinRomance. 31. IOI. #128768

NOT HIBERNATING YET

People accuse me of having a huge heart, 50s bearish male seeks younger bud that is honest, trustworthy and employed. Love all the safe stuff kissing and making out. **ronintex**, 57, #115402

HONEST AND LOVING

i am honest and loving looking for the same i will take care of you and will be ready for you as i am a bottom looking for top clean ddf. chcito, 63. **63. #128299**

AUSTIN BORN

I'm emotional & moody at times, passive, vers/btm and feminine mannered. I'm looking for white or hispanic men vers/tops. No Closet Cases!! Be Proud of who you are, I am. jmnzptrck, 41, 101, #127798

HOPE DIES LAST

haha, i am many things, but ordinary is not one of them! Lets be random together !! And find new ways to be crazy ! Blue, 23, 101, #101322

LOOK HERE, PLEASE!

Looking for friendship, dating Interests include camping, biking, theater, movies, reading, canoeing, traveling. Politically progressive, romantic, passionate, humorous, and do community work Am 5'9, 163#, 62yo, trim gray beard, masculine AusAbogado, 62, 61, #124933

GUY IN BUDA

seeking nice and outgoing men for fun in and out of the bedroom, men who stay active or just quiet time at home, lets get busy or just relax. rudyinbuda, 42, 101, #126941

YOUR SENSUAL SPARTAN

I'm a man with a passion for good looking women, high quality dining, and watching animals. I enjoy watching the 300, Rambo, and Conan. Could you be my Salma/Heidi Klum? inuvasha86, 22, 77, 101, #125037

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THIS SHOULD BE FUN!

I like a guy who can carry on an intelligent conversation, but doesn't take himself so seriously.... I have a wide range of tastes in types of guys, just as long as they're classy. No dude-brahs please..haha.

read the rest of **KATANNI's** profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/loverslane more online for FREE.

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FUN. FRISKY, AMUSING

I Recently moved to Austin & I'm really enjoying all that the city has to offer. I'm a musician & like the outdoors, drop me a line to know more. willaustin, 28, 101, #128921

CRAVING MORE TATTOOS!!

tattoos, odd, spooky, strange, taboo, dark, things fascinate me Openminded & down to earth but don't like when things taken to the extreme. a workaholic, not very emotional, introverted, not shy but quiet, positively realistic, witty, playfully feisty, candid, &much more. olivia825, 27, 101, #128795

LOVE TO LIVE

Ive been in Austin for two yrs&half. working&studying.couldnt have chance to meet people find friends.now Im taking break from studying trying to find someone who can take me out show me austin. nana, 31, 101, #128817

THE APPLE EATER

just see me in action at work and you will see my true nature. i am a giver and a nurturer. i am realistic, proud, joyous, adventurous, outgoing.

brookerhymeswith, 24, 101, #128765

READY 2 CHILL!!!

My name is Liz and I'm looking for a person to hang out with and chill and nobody that is NOT looking for love just PURE FUN. No BS! lizabe85, 23,

SOUTHAUSTINGUITARSLINGER

I am new to this kind of thing. I have one kid who I share custody with. If kids turn you off don't bother. Always do the next right thing! austinguitarman, 30, 🗗, 🚺, #128682

ROCK SHOWS ROLFBALL

I'm looking for friends to play rolfball with me, which is the best game ever, i'll teach you how, or someone to go to punk/rock shows with orfree alamo movies. teejinator, 25, #128642

KICKING AROUND

Looking for friends who have healthy and active lifestyles. Interests: biking, swimming, frisbee, TownLake, movies, dining out, cooking great vegetarian meals. Love laughing and am almost always in a great mood. bec22, 55, 73, 101, #122698

WHY GOD WHY

Just got a feeling that life might not matter without friends, anyone feeling wretched like me? Well lets be pals and play games or do sports or cause trouble together. sludgebrain, 29, **6**, **#128493**

ANALYTICAL, CURIOUS, **OPPORTUNISTIC**

I'd rather not have this posted in the print edition, honestly. giantitp, 24, #128433

messages

SHOES WON'T DROP cuz my feet are buried in the sand of your beach. did ya bring your suit? - stingray

a Shot in the Dark

ANDIE, ITS NEIL

You used my phone at Mesa Hills Cafe to break up with your boyfriend, then kissed me out of the blue. I'm back in town, are you still around? When: Friday, October 6, 2006. Where: Mesa Hills Cafe/ greystone Apts.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903731

TBAG 1/3

You look like the mechanic from Lost Highway. I could be your Alice Wakefield. You were watching a fight, I was playing pool with a friend. Take me out sometime? When: Saturday, January 3. Where: TBAG. You: Man. Me: Woman. 7 #903729

GREEN NEW YEAR'S

Spiderhouse New Year's. Your striking green eves melted me. I had green eyes, too, but maybe not as striking. You smiled at me when you left, and my heart sank. When: Thursday, January 1. Where: SpiderHouse Cafe. You: Man. Me: Man. 🏗 #903728

LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS

Teased you about being too tall at the show and blocking our view. You seem like a nice and fun guy. Let's hang out if you're up for it. When: Saturday, January 3. Where: Continental Club. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903727

TECH FAN. DOMAIN

You: eating lunch at restaurant in the Domain. Me: clumsy server. You made me nerves. You were wearing a red Texas Tech shirt. I'd love to see you smile again. When: Friday, January 2. Where: Domain. You: Woman. Me: Woman. #903726

OLTORF HEB

You were checking out the movies by the register, I was checking out a cart full of party supplies. Vanilla and chocolate make a sweet dessert, don't you think? When: Saturday, December 20, 2008. Where: Oltorf HEB. You: Woman, Me: Man, #903725

KOBE (1/2/09)

You - beautiful smile, with family, penetrating eyes. Me - catching glances at you from the next table. Saw you noticing me. Interested in... When: Friday, January 2. Where: Kobe (1/2/09). You: Woman. Me: Man. #903724

HEY BEBE!!!

You: alluring brunette sales girl at bebe, said you wanted to be the female Donald Trump, I suggested female Donald duck, make my new year a happy one? When: Monday, December 28. Where: The Belmont. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903723

HOUSE WINE HOTTIE

you: tall,slender,short dark tousled locks, striking smile by the stairs me: dark blonde.black jacket.scarf and jeans by the front fence Meet for the bottle of Malbec we should have split? When: Wednesday, December 31, 2008. Where: House Wine. You: Woman, Me: Woman, #903722

MOHAWK BALCONEY NYE

You: cutie in red talking to your friends Me: idiot who ran up to you thinking I knew you. I wanted to talk more. Call me if you remember. When: Wednesday, December 31, 2008. Where: Mohawk Balconey. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903720

HANCOCK 24 HOUR

You were on an exercise bike, we made eye contact as I left. You are beautiful! I was wearing a black sleeveless shirt, pajama pants, with brown hair and stubble. When: Thursday, January 1. Where: Han-

cock Center 24 Hour Fitness. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903719

BEETS, BEARS, BATTLESTARGALACTICA

You: Meatballs, ranch, pickles and a fruit punch. Gorgeous everlasting smile. Me: Pulling cupids arrow from my backside. Dorky, tall white boy eating outside. Can I see that smile again? When: Saturday, December 20, 2008. Where: Which Wich. You: Woman, Me: Man, #903730

NEW YEARS DAY

You were dressed all in black. Stylish pants shrouded your open toed shoes perfectly when you stood up to put on your sunglasses. You know you looked at me. Tell me. **When: Thursday**, January 1. Where: Shady Grove. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903717

NEW YEARS REDSCOOT

I liked your hat. We danced on stage I told you I would write you this little diddy, so here it is. Lets go out. How bout it hatsy? When: Wednesday, December 31, 2008. Where: scoot inn. You: Woman. Me: Man. 🏗 #903716

BEARDED MOTORCYCLE

We were at a stoplight. Your beard was flowing out of your helmet. I waved and you waved back. I was born to be ridden, were you born to ride? When: Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Where: Shops at Arbor Walk-Mopac & Braker. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903715

I saw you after your questionable experience at Taverna a couple weeks ago and again at Barton Creek Mall but you were occupied...Where are we going next? Say hi! When: Sunday. December 21, 2008. Where: Taverna. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903714

LITTLE RED RADIO

Asia is not a country. It's a very cute girl, that talked to me about records and radio's, whom I would like to take out on a date. When: Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Where: central austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903713

GYROS PLUS

While getting lunch I saw you smile when we looked at each other. I was wearing a bow tie. You drove off in an Audi. Please contact me. When: Monday, December 29, 2008. Where: Gyros Plus on Burnet Rd. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903712

HEB ENTRANCE (BRAKER)

You - Dark hair, black shirt, jeans, pink purse, beautiful eyes. Me - Saab driving through. Hat. We shared a few . interested in a ride sometime? When: Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Where: HEB entrance (Braker). You: Woman. Me: Man. #903711

BOYLYN MAD?

Chloe...it's the chem-trails from Stubb's STS9 VIP 10-31-08. Saw your ad too late, but I still want pictures. Do you? When: Friday, October 31, 2008. Where: Stubb's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903710

TONY S. LOVES HOTWINGS!

Halloween night, saw you chowing on hotwings. I was the vampire in the corset and top hat. I've been hoping to see you again. Lets get hotwings and beer sometime! When: Friday, October 31, 2008. Where: Casino El Camino. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903708

HOLLOW LEG?

You: 6 pitchers and multiple shots. Me: Impressed onlooker. Where did you put all that alcohol, in your hollow leg? Drink me under the table sometime? When: Wednesday, December 24, 2008. Where: Jackalope. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903707

BAGGAGE CLAIM5

You stood next to me waiting for your luggage and we shared a smile. I liked vour Nikes but didn't have the nerve to tell you. Grab a beer sometime When: Sunday, December 28, 2008. Where: Airport Baggage Claim 5. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903706

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES/ ABIA SUNDAY

Our eyes made contact while deplan-ing in Austin, Flight from Dallas Love to Austin (2:25PM). You: NYT crossword. Me: black and white pullover. I thought you were very cute. When: Sunday, December 28, 2008. Where: ABIA/Southwest Flight. You: Man. Me: Man. #903705

PEONY'S ON XMAS

You: beautiful blonde manly man picking up takeout order. Me: dark haired hispanic man with redhead friend coming in Christmas evening We exchanged smiles twice. Wanna get takeout together sometime? When: Thursday, December 25, 2008. Where: Peony's Restaurant. You: Man. Me: Man. #903704

12/24 UNITED AIRLINES

So, I have to make this short. United Airlines Sf to Austin 12/24. You have long dark hair and earrings. We exchanged a smile. When: Wednesday, December 24, 2008, Where: United Airlines SF to Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903703

VICTORIA'S SECRET, SOUTH

You: brunette at counter. Me: red shirt, asked you for the Pink perfume. Protested look you gave me by walking off without a word. Should've smiled and said "Merry Christmas" When: Wednesday, December 24, 2008. Where: Barton Creek Mall You: Woman. Me: Man. #903702

WESTGATE AND 290

Christmas Eve at the gas pump. Me: bald in work clothes. You: pleasantly shaggy in jeans and a T-shirt. We talked about gas prices. I'd like to discuss much more. When: Wednes day, December 24, 2008. Where: Shell Station (290 @Westgate) You: Man. Me: Man. 77 #903701

SUNBUSTERS T-SHIRT GUY

i remember you, me short dark hair you said my smile made you melt. we saw each other at rudys, i was in uniform. lets have that coffee! When: Friday, November 28, 2008. Where: rudvs 183 and duvall. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903694

ALSO ONLINE: **MORE Shot in the Dark!**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for Jan. 9-15

• CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Please don't wear a T-shirt that says what I saw on the canary-yellow T-shirt of the Japanese tourist at JFK airport: "Sorry, I'm a loser." I also beg you not to read Ethan Trex's book Faking It: How to Seem Like a Better Person Without Actually Improving Yourself. It's very important, in my astrological opinion, that you not demean or underestimate yourself in the coming days. In fact, I'll go so far as to say that you have a sacred duty to exalt your beauty and exult in your talents. Now go read Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself," and periodically murmur the first line all week long: "I celebrate myself, and sing myself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): While loitering on a sidewalk outside a nightclub in San Francisco on a September night back in 1994, I found the cover of a booklet lying in the gutter. Written by Marilena Silbey and Paul Ramana Das, it was called "How to Survive Passionate Intimacy With a Dreamy Partner While Making a Fortune on the Path to Enlightenment." Unfortunately, the rest of the text was missing. Over the years, I've tried to hunt down a copy of the whole thing, hungry for its wisdom, but have never had any success, I'm hoping that maybe you will consider writing your own version of the subject in the coming year, Aquarius. With the luck I expect you to have, you might actually be up to the task.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Now and then you may be able to whip up a wonderful breakthrough in the blink of an eye. But more often it's the case that beauty and truth and love and justice emerge in their full glory only over the course of a painstaking, step-by-step, trialand-error process. "All that I made before the age of 65 is not worth counting," wrote renowned Japanese painter Hokusai. "At 73 I began to understand the true construction of animals, plants, trees, birds, fishes, and insects. At 90 I will enter into the secret of things. At 110 everything every dot, every dash - will live." At this juncture in your personal evolution, Pisces, it's a perfect time to recommit yourself to your lifelong work.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): During his time in the Senate, former U.S. presidential candidate John McCain has been a strong advocate for American Indians. As chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, he sponsored or co-sponsored seven bills in support of Indian rights. And yet American Indians voted overwhelmingly for McCain's opponent, Barack Obama, who has no such track record. When asked why, American Indian author Sherman Alexie said that unlike most other groups, Indians don't vote merely for their own narrow self-interest, but rather for the benefit of all. They felt Obama would be the best president for America. That's the standard I urge you to use in the coming weeks, Aries. Stretch yourself as you work hard for the greater good, not just your own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hope "is not the conviction that something will turn out well," wrote Czech writer and politician Vaclav Havel, "but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." That's the kind of hope I suggest you invoke during your current adventures, Taurus. Be hungrier for meaning than for any specific outcome. If you do that, ironically, the outcome is more likely to be one you feel pretty good about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Describing my writing, one critic said that I was "like a mutant love child of Anais Nin and Jack Kerouac." That also happens to be an apt description of the spirit you should bring to life in the coming weeks. So be like memoirist Nin: a collector of secrets, a connoisseur of intimacy, a fiercely sensitive alchemist who knows her own inner terrain better than anyone else knows their inner terrain. And also be like novelist Kerouac: a freewheeling, fast-talking, wide-open traveler in quest of the spirit as it makes its wild plunge into matter

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In giving the Nobel Prize for literature to French writer Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, the award committee praised him as an "explorer of a humanity beyond and below the reigning civilization." I suggest you consider doing some of that kind of exploring yourself in 2009, Cancerian. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will generate rich benefits for yourself by learning from people and influences that are beneath the notice of the mainstream, whether they're outside the box, off the grid, under the radar, or immune to the taint of the collective delusion

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Obstacles are a natural part of life, just as boulders are a natural part of the course of a river," notes the ancient Chinese book I Ching. "The river does not complain or get depressed because there are boulders in its path." I'd go so far to say - this is not in the original text, but is my 21st century addition - that the river gets a sensual thrill as it glides its smooth current over the irregular shapes and hard skin of the rocks. It looks forward to the friction, exults in the intimate touch, and loves the drama of the interaction. Sound like a pleasu you'd like to cultivate, Leo? It's an excellent time to try it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Until last August, Nigerian religious leader Muhammadu Bello Abubakar had 86 wives. Then an Islamic council ordered him to divorce all but four of them. He was reluctant at first - many of his 170 children were born of wives he'd have to separate from - but since the alternative was punishment by death, he ultimately agreed. From the standpoint of your own evolution, Virgo, 2009 will be an excellent time to draw inspiration from Abubakar. I encourage you, in other words, to cull the excess and chaos from your love life. If you're single, narrow your focus down to a couple of fantasies rather than a wide variety. If you're in a committed relationship that's worth working on, swear off any possibility of cheating or escaping. In either case, perform an exorcism of all the ghosts that might threaten to distort your long-term romantic future

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "It takes a lot of time to be a genius," said author Gertrude Stein. "You have to sit around so much doing nothing, really doing nothing." I agree with her statement, which is why I have high hopes that you're going to tap into more of your dormant genius in the coming days. The cosmic rhythms are nudging you to enjoy a time of profound slack, and I think there's a good chance you'll agree to that,

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you're an artist and you want to get steadily better at your craft. you need to continually refine your approach to telling the truth. The novelist Willa Cather said that. Now I'm here to invite you to adopt that strategy in 2009, whether you're an artist or simply a person who wants to live your life artfully. The coming months will be one of the best times ever for you to penetrate to the heart of the truths you aspire to live by and become highly skilled at expressing them in every little thing you do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When gasoline prices soared last year, a Christian group called Pray at the Pump organized vigils at gas stations, where they prayed for God's intervention No one knows if their efforts were the cause, but the cost of gas did begin to plummet soon afterward. Inspired by their work, I have asked my team of nondenominational prayer warriors to gather in your behalf. Every evening for the next 10 days, they will be calling on their connections with the Divine Wow to help you Sagittarians come up with smart and practical long-term plans for your financial well-being. On your end, you can supercharge their efforts by doing the appropriate research and meditation

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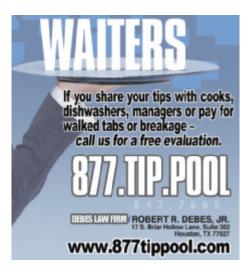
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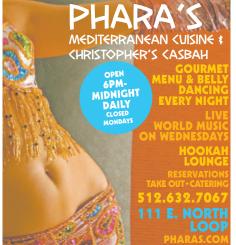
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