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VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Benné Rockett
MR. SMARTY PANTS R.U. Steinberg
LITERA Ric Williams
FASHION Stephen MacMillan Moser
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The Austin Chronicle (ISSN: 1074-0740) is published by The Austin Chronicle Corporation weekly 52 times per year at 4000 N. I-35, Austin, TX 78751. 512/454-5766

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Subscriptions: One year: \$60 2nd class. Half-year: \$35 2nd class. Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Austin Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.

Unsolicited submissions (including but not limited to articles, artwork, photographs, and résumés) are not returned.

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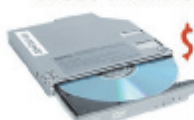
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Hope Jr.

Only the foolish expect a rebirth of wonder from Obama, but a restored sense of decency is a good start

BY LOUIS BLACK

"It's either the best or it's the worst
And since I don't have to choose, I guess I
won't
And I know this ain't no way to treat a guest
...

"You know, some people got no choice
And they can never find a voice
To talk with that they can even call their own
So the first thing that they see
That allows them the right to be
Why they follow it,
You know, it's called bad luck"

Lou Reed, "Street Hassle"

The inauguration is only a few days away. The metaphoric pounding of the drums, the torchlight parades, and the blowing of horns has already started – coming from both those excited by the new president and those gleefully looking forward to his failures. Some of the latter really just don't like any elected official, and some don't like his politics (or at least what they perceive his politics to be). Others think he was put in by the secret powers that be; this includes the crowd that will argue forever that there are no real differences between the two parties, despite all evidence to the contrary. A cross section of all of those who are angry and/or pessimistic about his presidency feel he is unknown and untested, so any optimism is either naive or stupid.

Almost all of those who are lined up in opposition share a total contempt for those who support/supported him. They label them starry-eyed idealists who think that Obama will walk on water, pay off their mortgages, and find jobs for everyone. Undoubtedly there are those who have unreasonable expectations

of this new administration, but most people are far more cautious than that, possessing expectations much lower than those assigned them by the forces of opposition, negativity, and hopelessness.

In general, people of all political stripes prefer articulating the details of ideologies they are opposed to rather than listening to the people who hold those beliefs explain them. In this way, they can mold those beliefs to be so basic and simplistic that they are dumb beyond reason and intentionally evil. There is a lot of energy required in describing the beliefs of people with opposing views, because all intelligence, principle, nuance, and subtlety is bleached out.

Too many people declare this country great but can find nothing great about it now. This is because they revere a pretend, ahistorical past when everything was better and the Constitution burned bright across the land. They imagine a rich variety of worst-case current scenarios that mostly involve the results of an intentional and malevolent assault on the Constitution by other Americans.

Since they love and cherish the Constitution, they want to return this country to a place where that document is at the center of law and government.

The problem is that most of them want the Constitution, in this case, to be their version of it – a version that usually doesn't have much to do with the very document. How can anyone argue for original intent when the framers were in such violent disagreement

with one another over so many points? A document created by compromise, one that is designed to facilitate compromise, can't be defined by "original intent."

Many of those who are most critical and despairing over the current government can't wrap their heads around the realities of history. Instead, they insist that in the past, this country was pure and sparkling – like the Land of Oz, only so much better. Despite abundant historical evidence to the contrary, this view holds that back then people were smarter, more involved in government, and better patriots; back then everyone's rights were guaranteed, and the democratic electoral system functioned almost without flaw.

One can spend all day refuting this delusional history, but it does no good. They neither care nor listen. They are beyond certain that things now are dramatically worse than they've ever been in this nation's past. Our constitutional, guaranteed rights have been and continue to be eroded by corrupt politicians and a crooked government. In what ways the government is crooked and the specifics of how it is anti-constitutional most often depend on the individual politics of the person expressing the opinion. What amazes me is that, without any evidence, all too many people speak as though they firmly believe that their opinions are extremely popular ones, held by most of the country's population.

The whole idea of the Constitution is to structure a government that can function in an atmosphere of vicious debates and violent

disagreements. The framers were well aware that there were then, and were likely to be well into the future, groups of citizens who had radically different ideas than other groups of citizens. Then and now, these groups do not just simply distrust but often aggressively despise all the other groups. This is not a disease destroying the Constitution. This is a symptom of its health, demonstrating just how visionary the document is.

Almost every proof of the Constitution's failure is based on personal ideas and beliefs some individuals are convinced are being subversively and deliberately neglected and ignored. When the Constitution is working effectively, most citizens should be at least unhappy with the existing government, if not downright ready to revolt against it.

(An aside: Obviously, the Bush administration is an anomaly in its outrageous, two-term assault on constitutional principles, but the Constitution, like a gyroscope, has allowed for a scenario in which things now out of whack will be righted. This is not to predict the realization of a utopian vision. It is to acknowledge that even when our government is functioning at its best, it is functioning awkwardly, imperfectly, and in a way that a sizable percentage of the population at least dislikes and more often than not violently opposes. But rather than being pushed to one extreme or another, post-Bush it will again center itself. End of aside.)

The election of Barack Obama and his inauguration as president is not a beatification. Only the foolish expect a rebirth of wonder from Obama. Then again, only the foolish feel that tearing down this government so that a new one that is constitutionally pure can be

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two



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Oops!

In a News story that appeared in the Jan. 9 issue ("Charter School Approval Sparks More Debate"), we should have noted that Williamson County parent Karalei Nunn was concerned about the quality, not the number of seats, in Georgetown ISD's Gifted & Talented program.

built in its place would in any way improve the situation.

Mostly what I am hoping for from this new administration is some sense of common decency. I am cynically well aware that government is never sleek, with its gears meshing flawlessly, or aimed at a problem like an arrow at a target. Having a president who speaks in full sentences and who utilizes dialects other than those of deceit and disingenuous optimism will be an improvement. Certainly, those modest desires are not the only or even most important goals one most hopes for from the government. But they should prove to be at least a tiny baby step in a better direction. ■

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BUBBLE PUPPY SHOULD BE IN HALL OF FAME

Fellows,

I have to say it flat-out escapes me how one can promote a so-called Texas Music Hall of Fame without Bubble Puppy in it [Music Poll 2008-2009]. Not only are we not in it, we have not been on the ballot after 27 years. In reviewing the list of inductees, of the 140-some-odd names there, a large number of them are not recognizable to me. Many of the recognizable names are not Austinites. Bubble Puppy essentially formed here, created our sound here, lived here until signing with International Artists, and returned here to live after splitting from the label. We had the largest following and the highest charting record of any group out of Austin till Christopher Cross (not from Austin) or Stevie Ray Vaughan (also not from Austin) came along, but yet, the hall has chosen to forget about us year after year. We built this city. I count myself among the founding fathers of the Austin music scene. When I started playing guitar, we were buying our guitar strings at the drug store. It is indeed a cryin' shame that no love comes. We will ride into the sunset without having been nominated and give the poll and the hall "no nod" as we pass. The music will always speak for itself.

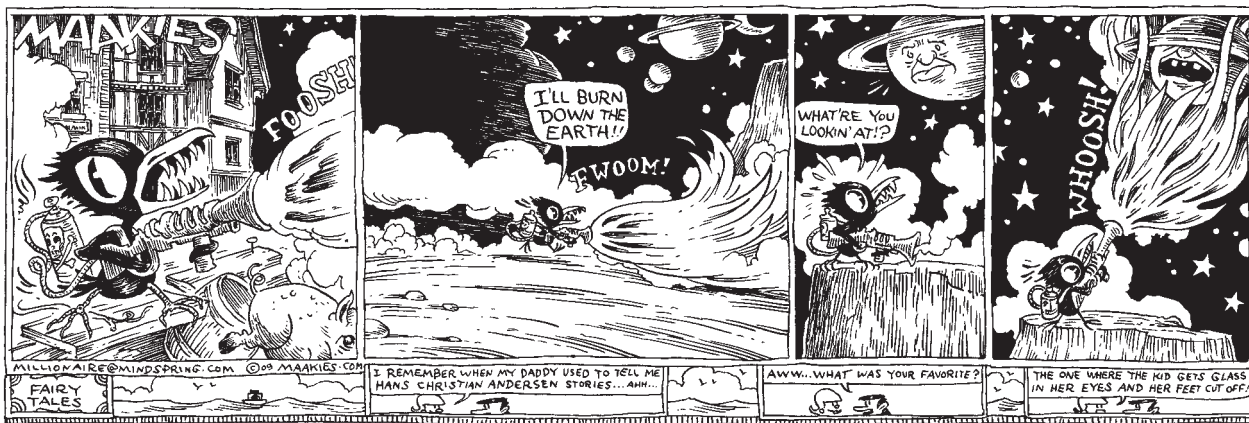
Todd Potter
 Guitarist, Bubble Puppy

RESPONSE TO SOLDIER'S COMMENTS

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Richard Whittaker's article about soldiers from Austin who oppose the war ["Stop the Loss," News, Dec. 19, 2008]. I am an officer in Casey Porter's unit in Iraq. I've met Porter a few times, and he seems nice. Porter's experiences have left him jaded; mine have left me surprisingly fulfilled. Unfortunately, Porter's attitude has led him to misrepresent some of the facts for your paper. I can agree to disagree with just about anyone, but I will not sit idly by while my soldiers and my peers are slandered.

There are several opinions in the article with which I do not personally agree. I am not writing to counter everything Porter said. However, I would like to address one point Porter conveyed that I find personally offensive: "There's no reconstruction going on at the level they show you." Firstly, I have to ask who "they" are. Second, I would really like to know how Porter knows so much about the amount of reconstruction being done. I find it incredible that a low-level mechanic can speak so intelligently to the level of reconstruction being accomplished in our unit. He goes on to indict the media for misrepresenting their reporting of the war, much to the advantage of the military. That's quite a bold statement, and I would be thrilled to hear Porter cite specific cases of this.



Much of our work here has been devoted to reconstruction. It is a long, slow, tedious process into which my peers have poured their hearts and souls. The majority of the soldiers here are still dedicated to their units and their fellow soldiers. What sets them apart the most from Porter is that they express themselves in positive ways and try to improve their organization. It's not always easy, and it is much harder than making movies that highlight everything negative around you.

Personally, I think it is hilarious that Porter has made so many videos that clearly are intended to portray him as a victim of some bureaucratic conspiracy. But I think it is sad how many civilians believe him. His movies are fiction, and he is the leading man. I would love to meet with you and Porter together when we come home so he and I can debate some of the stories he told you and put in his movies. I predict Porter would not be able to put together quite as coherent an argument without the benefit of postproduction editing.

Yes, Porter, that is a challenge. Will you show the *Chronicle* how brave you really are?

Capt. Patrick R. Rice

'CHRONICLE' FAILED TO BRING PEACE

Dear Editor,

I'd like to thank *The Austin Chronicle* for its "coverage" of the Middle East crisis. Not only have you failed to bring peace to the Middle East, but you've raised the discordance in Austin.

Way to think globally while acting locally.

Keep it classy, Louis,
 Asher Garber

ALL SIDES MUST WORK TOGETHER

Dear Editor,

Michael King's chiding of Gov. Perry's position on the Hamas/Israeli conflict provides the argument that an oppressed people have justification for terrorism, while self-defense is considered massive state terrorism ["Point Austin," News, Jan. 9]. Mr. King goes on to admit that he does not know "what will bring an end to this endless cycle of violence." Innocent people dying from bombs from airplanes is just as horrible as innocent children being killed in their schools by suicide bombers. This is not only a conflict about land but really about a people's right to merely exist. Jews and Arabs lived peacefully side by side in this region of the world for thousands of years. Jerusalem was the homeland of the Jews until being decimated by Roman Emperor Pompey in 63BC. The Philistines were the majority population until the 19th century, but the landscape changed with the British Balfour Declaration and the post-World War II U.N. resolution establishing a Jewish state. Yes, battles ensued, oppression occurred, thousands lost their lives. But these tragedies can be sourced well before the establishment of the current Jewish homeland to the beginning of the "extreme" faction of Islam (the sixth and seventh centuries), which to this date clearly believes that Jews do not have a right to exist anywhere! There will never be peace until Hamas and all other extreme Islamic factions recognize that Jewish people have a right to live on this planet.

Ron Landry

Reader COMMENTS of the Week

austinchronicle.com/comments

On the mayoral race:

"Great article Wells. City races are just so much more difficult to follow and keep tabs on. Brewster et al. are playing a dangerous game. Kim Brimer did the same thing to Wendy Davis in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He tried to replace voters with the court system and lost twice. As you aptly point out, this could easily backfire ... especially in Austin. I say, let voters vote. If this triggers a special election (which I doubt it will since it didn't in Houston), then make it a campaign issue." — Matt Glazer

"City Hall Hustle," News, Jan. 9

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Reader COMMENTS of the Week

austinchronicle.com/comments

On Iraq:

"I was in Iraq for 15 months and while I appreciate the hard work of our soldiers, I do not think that any building you and your unit can do will ever make up for what we've done to Iraq. For starters, my unit dropped approximately 500,000 pounds of explosives on Baghdad. This war is a crime. We used fabricated intelligence to invade a sovereign nation and start pre-emptive war that made billions for those in power and their cronies. This war weakens the military, the economy, our security, and our moral standing in the world. This war wastes money that we should use to educate our youth. What do you call a situation like we have in our country where you have to go to war to go to school? I call it a poverty draft. George Bush, that man who is about to leave office, to retire on the blood of your soldiers, that man is a war criminal. You'd think a person with a college degree would be able to see that ... tisk, tisk, the Army is just handing out rank these days, eh Capt. Rice?" – Bryan Hannah

"Response to Soldier's Comments," Postmarks, p.6

POETRY IN 'CHRONICLE' IS VULGAR

Dear Editor,
I am writing in response to one of your issues and its use of poetry and selections from area poets. Your choices invariably depend on profanity, lewdness, and vulgarities (and that is the printed version of all the selections, not the spoken). Who decides on the subjects covered and the responses? Why do your poets speak one way and the poetry used in other publications (and church hymnals) shaped differently? Are you unusually poised for profanity because of some unknown reason, or are you about average?

I do not know how many different poetry styles are known in the Austin/Travis County area, but do they all depend on negative uses in order to gain publication? How many of the profanity-laced poems get a public airing for Christmas, Thanksgiving, or someone's birthday? (I am excluding rhetoric like rap utterings in this field.)

What about poetry forms from international sources? Do you discourage these poets/wordsmiths from providing profanity-laced samples for publication in the average issue? What is your purpose for including poetry in your usual issue?

Kevin Carstarphen

WHAT'S WRONG WITH JOSH, I LOVED 'THE READER'

Dear Editor,
I used to choose for my worst film ever *Amadeus*, which told the story of musical prod-

igy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Most people I relayed this opinion to could not digest my superficial reasons and spat them back at me. Over the next decade, I developed a taste for books about the seven deadly sins. Many of them mentioned the movie *Amadeus* in their chapter about the deadly sin of envy. I had an epiphany that I was just like the composer Antonio Salieri, whose envy of Mozart's talent drove him mad. My hatred of the movie *Amadeus* said more about what I hated in myself. I was envious of self-indulgent brilliant artists and ungrateful for my own modest talents.

Josh Rosenblatt of *The Austin Chronicle* chose *The Reader* as the worst film of 2008 ["Screens Top 10s," Jan. 2]. Most people think they know what makes them sick. I am developing a real intolerance for the new genre of movies called "torture porn," and I hope to nurture my nausea even more for joy at human suffering. *Amadeus* really did not make me sick; however, it made me aware of my sickness called envy. For this diagnosis it earned my venomous contempt that I saved for doctors telling me to quit smoking cigarettes.

I loved *The Reader*, and I think it deserves the Best Picture Oscar. The thing I'm curious about is why Josh Rosenblatt hated the movie. I suspect he is sick. I know my own kind. It is easier to be a restaurant critic than a good chef. If the message of *The Reader* or any life lesson is too easily digestible, more sickening and graphic portrayals of the Holocaust can be ordered, and I do agree that the movie was artfully photographed.

Richard A. White

PARENTS ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE

Dear Editor,
I'm tired of the T. Don Hutto rhetoric, "Poor jailed children" ["T. Don Hutto: Lipstick on Doberman," News, Jan. 9]! Whine, whine, whine all you do-gooders. The people responsible for this mess are the *parents* of these children – not the center! The parents knowingly and purposefully committed a crime – coming here illegally! They are using their children as "hooks" into our system, knowing they will not be sent back to Mexico. The state of Texas is being held hostage. Get it?

Jenny Mika

FASCISM WILL COME DRAPED IN A FLAG

Dear Editor,
Fascism is defined as the tenets of a centralized, totalitarian, and nationalistic government that strictly controls finance, industry, and commerce; practices rigid censorship and racism; and eliminates opposition through secret police. The Republican Party screamed about "unrevealed small donors" who paid Barack Obama nearly \$1 billion during the election. I am a donor, retired military, and currently a cop in Central Texas. Someone once stated that when fascism comes to America, it is coming draped in a flag carrying a cross. In all of history, most people never realize that they are at a historical turning point. Any semi-informed person knows that President Bush has broken the laws with torture, wiretapping, obstruction of justice, and on and on. This is the stuff a complacent media very reluctantly made

CONTINUED ON P.10

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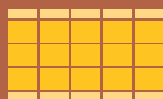
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a passing comment on. We have been in an economic recession for 11 months, and John McCain adviser Phil Gramm had the temerity to call us a nation of whiners. For the last eight years we have had a new national low point, seemingly weekly, and can you imagine what is going to be discovered when Bush and Cheney no longer hold the levers of power and what newly undiscovered national shame awaits us? I sent Obama my \$500 because I wanted to see if we are a nation of laws or a nation of men. Some questions are, of course, too terrible to be asked, so people live out their lives trying to pretend that the obvious question is oblivious to see. But here on Jan. 20, 2009, at the steps of the Capitol, at around noon, we will have this question answered as our nation, if not the world, wonders if the tarnished shining city on the hill still exists or if it has been destroyed forever.

Ron Ruiz

WHITE HOUSE WASTES MONEY

Dear Editor,
Let me say first, I don't care who paid for it or how the money was raised. Half a million dollars for another set of china for the White House is simply infuriating. As a country, we do not have the money to waste on such frivolous things. It's not like they were eating off the floor before this purchase. White House Social Secretary Amy Zantlinger said they only had two other 134-person place settings of china. These were the Clinton's and Reagan's (both were undoubtedly overpriced and a waste of money, as well). In mockery, I can understand the need for multiple patterns of dinnerware. Can you imagine the

embarrassment of having friends eat on the same dinnerware two times in a row? As it would happen, I have a solution. Costco sells huge packs of plastic dinnerware for a reasonable price. They probably have a couple of different patterns, as well. So, the White House could just use the plates for their state dinners and then throw them away. You know where I'm coming from ... saves on cleanup time and dish washing.

I realize that the china has already arrived (it was ordered some time ago). To the Bushes or the Obamas, send it back! Put it on eBay. Whatever. Take that \$500,000, and give it to people that have lost their jobs. I'll even find a few for you.

One hundred fifty workers at Koch in Wichita, Kan.; 130 workers at Genworth in Lynchburg, Va.; 48 at Syracuse University, N.Y.; 750 workers with the North Carolina Department of Transportation; 111 workers at Trane factory in Clarksville, Tenn.; 600 at Cytec Industries in West Patterson, N.J.

These are the reports of layoffs in the last 30 minutes on Yahoo! News. Yeah, I think those workers may need the money for food to put on the plates that they use every day.

Steven McCloud

220 YEARS BACKWARD; LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOW GOING FORWARD

Dear Editor,
It's taken 220 years of political inbreeding for us to devolve from presidents Washington and Jefferson all the way down to Quasi W. Modo. Let us pray that starting next week, it doesn't take us another two centuries to get back to where we started.

Stanley Gilbert

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

POSTMARKS ONLINE UPDATED DAILY austinchronicle.com/postmarks

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- Ted Siff

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- Ramey Ko

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- Joe Pinnelli

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news

Headlines

- › The 81st legislative session opened Tuesday, and as expected, San Antonio Rep. **Joe Straus** was elected the new speaker of the House. See opening day images on this page and p.16.
- › Bipartisanship was not in the air everywhere. On the Senate side, Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** convened the session and began a wrangle to enable the GOP to pass voter-ID legislation.
- › The Return of One Tough Grandma: **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** – former mayor, former Texas railroad commissioner, former comptroller, and permanent candidate – announced she’s running for mayor of Austin. See “City Hall Hustle,” p.14.
- › **Bradley Crowder**, one of the two Austin activists charged in St. Paul, Minn., in connection with alleged plans to disrupt the **Republican National Convention** in September, pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of unregistered firearms (i.e., Molotov cocktails). See p.22.
- › The **Austin Police Department’s** heavily publicized **blood-draw program**, begun last Halloween, hit a drawback as local hospitals and the Travis County Jail administration balked at taking further part in the program, for legal and other reasons. APD Chief Art Acevedo said the department would look for alternatives.
- › Eight years of the **Bush** presidency end Tuesday, Jan. 20, with the inauguration of **Barack Obama** as the 44th president of the U.S., one day after **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**. For Austin MLK events, see Community Listings, p.60.

Naked City

- › **WATER-PUMPING POWER TRIP** Hays County commissioners this week were again faced with the inadequacies of their county powers as 25 or so people appeared at Tuesday’s meeting to voice opposition to yet another development they say would negatively impact the region’s water quality and supply. Commissioners said they were legally bound to approve a measure that essentially replatted 146 lots on 93 acres of the Ridge at Wimberley Springs. A letter from water supplier **Aqua Texas** stated it had enough capacity left in its water-pumping permit to supply the additional units. Jack Hollon of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District board took issue with that claim, saying the national water giant was “right up against” its permitted limit. And others provided documents stating Aqua Texas was only delivering 52% of the water it was pumping, wasting 80 million gallons of water during a severe drought. Angry commissioners verbally chastised the company but were ultimately left without any regulatory authority as the company is regulated by the Hays conservation district and the state. Commissioners are revising subdivision rules that would increase minimum lot size and are lobbying the Lege for expanded county authority. – *Jacob Cottingham*
- › **TRAVIS CO. SEEKS HOUSING GRANT** On Tuesday, Travis Co. Commissioners Court approved joining a federal initiative to combat **middle-class blight**. Commissioners authorized the Travis County Housing Finance Corp. to fast-track a plan, already in the works, to apply for a \$750,000 grant from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program, as part of a \$3.9 billion allocation authorized under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. NSP funds, to be awarded in April, would provide “emergency assistance to acquire and redevelop foreclosed

CONTINUED ON P.14



JOHN ANDERSON

With his wife, Julie Brink Straus, by his side, two-term state Rep. Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, was sworn in Tuesday by Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson as the new speaker of the Texas House. In his opening remarks to members, Straus, who won by acclamation, promised to “create an atmosphere where everyone’s voice can and will be heard.” (See “A New Day,” p.16, for more photos.) – *Richard Whittaker*

MUD Rising

Canyon Creek voting-rights lawsuit goes to the Supremes

BY MICHAEL KING

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review one Austin-based voting-rights case and rejected another, in a revealing coincidence of the current court’s priorities. The justices elected not to hear an appeal by the Texas Democratic Party challenging the use of the eSlate voting machines (by Travis County) because they may not consistently register straight-party votes. However, they did accept the appeal by Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1, challenging the “pre-clearance” provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, nominally because the MUD’s board considers complying with the VRA both burdensome and insulting, and therefore unconstitutional.

It’s arguable that the eSlate problem has been exaggerated – making certain you’ve marked the right candidates is just not that difficult – but it certainly affects plenty of voters (e.g., 100 counties just in Texas) and could be entirely allayed by just requiring the printing of confirming ballots. By contrast, the “NAMUDNO” lawsuit is the personal hobbyhorse of a handful of board members of a tiny Northwest Austin subdivision (better known as Canyon Creek) whose more ordinary attentions are to water and

wastewater rates and keeping the parks mowed. The MUD’s lawyers – conservative ideologues working “pro bono” with the helpful underwriting of right-wing foundations – have had their hats handed to them thus far, but just the fact that the John Roberts court has accepted the appeal suggests they’ll get a friendlier hearing on high. Roberts himself has worked against the VRA since his days as a junior attorney in the Reagan administration, and he presides over a court reluctant to remedy racial discrimination unless somebody has been personally assaulted with a buggy whip.

I’ve written about the respectable folks of Canyon Creek before (“Point Austin,” Nov. 9, 2007) and was met with histrionic outrage at the suggestion that their 80% white community (most of the rest high tech Asian-Americans) is anything less than “colorblind.” Many of the residents were indeed embarrassed at the lawsuit, lobbied the board to withdraw this neighborhood “black eye,” and promised a petition campaign against it. I guess that hasn’t quite worked out.

But I don’t particularly care to beat up again on Canyon Creek, a highly artificial, other-people’s-money

CONTINUED ON P.15

QUOTE of the WEEK



“I’m pleased to say that there were more smiles in the House chamber for this opening day swearing-in than I’ve seen in recent years. It’s a true, palpable sign that Joe Straus ... will work in a collaborative manner with the members, which is something we haven’t experienced since 2003.”

– Austin Rep. Elliott Naishtat on the new House speaker

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properties that might otherwise become sources of blight," according to the corporation. Specifically, the county would be able to buy, rehabilitate, demolish, redevelop, or broker vacant residential property, but funds may not be used to prevent foreclosure. Though the vote was unanimous, Commissioner **Ron Davis** questioned whether the income "ceiling" of targeted families was too high – at least 25% of the funds must go to residents at 50% below the Austin median income, and the rest must go to those at or below 120% of the AMI. "Some are not too cool with the way we are addressing the needs of the poor," Davis said. The city of Austin is estimated to receive about \$1.25 million of the total allocation. – *Patricia J. Ruland*

► **PAC-ING IT IN?** A new political action committee has formed to vet candidates for the May council races. **Change Austin PAC** promotes itself as a "cross-partisan" spin-off of the anti-Domain-subsidies **Proposition 2 campaign** and says it will work for "full representation for the majority of Austin voters and local businesses who have been over-taxed and under-served by a local government too much under the influence of special interests." More info at **ChangeAustin.org**. – *Michael King*

► **SO HELP ME ABBOTT** Rest easy. Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** is leading a crusade to protect prayer – and, specifically, to protect President-elect Barack Obama's right to say "so help me God" during his swearing-in on Jan. 20. Abbott penned an amicus brief on behalf of the attorneys general of all 50 states in an attempt to defeat a legal challenge to the "prayer" brought by lawyer, doctor, and atheist activist **Michael Newdow**, who started the **First Amendment Church of True Science** in 1997. Newdow has sued to have "under God" taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance when recited in public schools and advocates removing the phrase "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency. But, wrote Texas Solicitor General James Ho on behalf of Abbott and his fellow attorneys general, prayers and "oaths invoking God have been a staple of official inaugural events throughout history, across the country, and at every level of our government." And Newdow has cited no "legal authority" that would allow the D.C. federal district court to tamper with such tradition. "From daily prayers during legislative sessions to monuments on public property displaying the Ten Commandments," Ho said, "the Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the constitutionality of official acknowledgments of faith." – *Jordan Smith*

► **CITY EMPLOYEES CUT OWN COSTS** City Manager **Marc Ott** plans to launch on Friday a new **Dollar\$ and Sense** initiative, a program offering city employees a voice in recommending ideas for potential cost savings, through Feb. 13. Ott's chief of staff, Anthony Snipes, said the city manager regards the project as a priority in order to avoid major reductions in city services or job losses – even as the city must significantly cut its 2009-2010 budget, due to decreased sales-tax revenues. The Dollar\$ and Sense program invites all employees to bring ideas to the table for relatively painless ways to cut the city's overhead. The savings realized could directly help to protect their jobs and those of their co-workers. A review panel led by Assistant City Manager **Michael McDonald** will distill suggestions (submitted through an internal website and on paper) that can be put into action, and the employees forwarding ideas will be recognized and thanked by the city. – *Katherine Gregor*

THE RETURN OF JASON CAROLE

Grandma the budget slasher

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Really, what's the appropriate metaphor when discussing **Carole Keeton Strayhorn**? The first phantasmic image to spring to mind is an unstoppable, Freddy- or Jason-style screen slasher, one who's electorally dismembered in the film's last act – only for her razored hand or hockey mask to emerge from the grave in the final frame. "Finishing third for governor has got to be the end of Strayhorn," murmurs a nubile young political observer – right before Grandma rears up behind her, smothering her with a plate of her homemade pecan fudge.

On Monday, waiting for Strayhorn's official announcement to get under way in the crowded meeting room of banking software company BancVue, another metaphor emerged: the junkie, gasping for one last hit. Not exclusively of political office, mind you, but also the trappings of recognition running concurrently with it, the television camera rigs banked before the podium offering a fix more addictive than any controlled substance.

When Strayhorn appeared, there was even a rock-star vibe as she glad-handed the crowd, heading to the podium. Following BancVue CEO **Gabriel Krajicek's** introduction of several Carole for Austin co-chairs, Strayhorn took the mic, clutching a copy of her speech as she read it. "This race is about the future. And we cannot chart our future without knowing our past" – a subtle, if somewhat paradoxical, allusion to her previous time in the mayor's office. Strayhorn ultimately segued into an ever so slightly more substantive discussion of policies and priorities, more conservative than the norm in mayoral politics – promises of "fixing, not studying our transportation problems," focusing on "basic and vital police and protection services," and "government fighting for our existing small businesses ... instead of putting entrepreneurs through the meat grinder of endless inspections and costly, mind-boggling bureaucratic red tape." Then, as if angling for an early **Austin Police Association** endorsement, she flogged the *Statesman's* mustiest, most atrophied dead horse: "No wonder our fine police officers, firefighters, and first responders cannot afford to live in the city next to the neighbors they protect." (So does she propose paying them more?)

However, these planks came secondary to what was supposed to be the big get of Strayhorn's speech: fiscal hawkishness, or "passing a real budget, using real numbers, and not approving a budget that is \$137 million more than what everyone knew would be coming in this year." If that figure sounds entirely new to you, it should.

According to budget docs furnished by Strayhorn's campaign, that difference comes from subtracting net total available funding (\$2.63 billion) from the net total requirements of the 2009 city budget (\$2.77 billion). However, it doesn't account for the \$3.32 billion in "all funds" total available funding, \$685 million of which is siphoned to various departments, creating the difference. The money isn't missing; it's moved and ultimately within the confines of a balanced budget. If a candidate wants to make the argument that the city budget should be more transparent and less opaque regarding transfers, then she should. But for anyone – much less the former state comptroller – to stoke fears about a \$137 million shortfall in the midst of dire financial times is ignorant at best and irresponsible at worst. (Watch Strayhorn's campaign kickoff at austinchronicle.com/hustle.)

Following Strayhorn's speech, the press rushed the candidate in a crowded gaggle. Reveling in the attention yet sticking staunchly to her talking points ("leadership," "accountability," "energizing government"), it was apparent Strayhorn most readily resembles an enigma – metaphorically speaking. And while a CKS win is exceedingly unlikely, with her name recognition, network of fundraisers, and indefatigable personal energy, she could be the wild card in the May election, possibly tipping it in unforeseen ways.

Back to the Dais

The Lege isn't the only gang back in town to watch out for. Following its holiday break, City Council returns today with an ambitious agenda, including the **Barton Springs Pool Master Plan** (Item 28), which would make several improvements, remodel changing facilities, and more; the **Save Our Springs Alliance** is urging council to "accept" the plan only as a "starting point" and not pass it as final. Also up for review is the city's **Zero Waste Plan**, striving to divert 90% of the city's trash by 2040 (Item 50). Live-music-wise, two items of interest: Item 55 would impose "a temporary 'time out'" on issuing outdoor music permits until the end of February while the city studies the issue, declaring the situation an "emergency." Item 56 asks the city for a recommendation by Feb. 12 on the feasibility of a live music department. And if those aren't controversial enough, Item 59 directs the **Animal Advisory Commission** to look at lessening our stray kill rates.

No time-out for the Hustle (except for D.C. next week!).
E-mail wells@austinchronicle.com.



res publica FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.60.

THURSDAY 15

ARIELE GENTILES & BOB CARLTON offer up *Barack Obama: An American Story*, a book for teens that aims to address issues for both his supporters and his detractors. 7pm. [BookPeople](http://BookPeople.com), 603 N. Lamar.

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. 6pm. *Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver*, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free. www.cityofaustin.org.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION RIDESHARE Want to carpool to Obama's inauguration? See www.obamainaugurationrideshare.com.

INAUGURATE YOURSELF! Writer **Chic Migeot** and **Sander Hicks** of Vox Pop, "New York City's only union-shop, Fair-Trade coffee-house/bookstore" stop in Austin as part of a national preinauguration tour. 7pm. *Brave New Books*, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503. www.bravenewbookstore.com.



ZERO WASTE PLAN The plan to divert 90% of Austin's waste from landfills is on today's City Council agenda; if you'd like to say something about it, head down to City Hall, where they'll be voting on this ambitious initiative. See the agenda at www.cityofaustin.org. *Austin City Hall*, 301 W. Second.

SATURDAY 17

AUSTIN IN SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA Join the Rev. **Jim Rigby** and the **Austin Gaza Coalition** in a show of support for an end to the violence. 2pm. *Texas State Capitol*, 1100 Congress. www.solidaritywithgaza.com.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GATHERING with the folks from the Coalition of Austin Community Gardens. 2-4pm. *Windsor Park Library*, 5833 Westminster Dr. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

HANDS-ON BIODIESEL WORKSHOP Learn how to make your very own biodiesel. Register at www.hubbertspeak.org/January17.html. 10am-4pm. 4704 E. Cesar Chavez. \$80.

HISPANIC FUTURES CONFERENCE A morning of speakers, exhibits, and more centered on

the theme Empower Yourself, Get Involved, Fulfill Your Dreams. Students and parents welcome. 9:30am. *LBJ High*, 7309 Lazy Creek, 414-0884.

GREEN GIRLS MEET-UP Join your favorite green ladies for breakfast followed by a cleanup of North Lamar, from Shoal Creek to 24th Street. 9am-noon. *Austin Java Cafe*, 1206 Parkway. RSVP at www.greengirls.net.

MATERNAL IS POLITICAL: INAUGURATION CELEBRATION Shari MacDonald Strong, editor of *The Maternal Is Political*, hosts this evening in celebration of Obama's inauguration and Bush's departure, along with writers Marrit Ingman, Kristine Kovach, Liz Belie, and Sonya Feher. 7-9pm. *BookWoman*, 5501 N. Lamar, 472-2785. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.

MLK COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROJECT This annual volunteer extravaganza features four different outdoor locations hosting projects to benefit Austin communities. Sign up online to do

your civic duty in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. 9am-3pm. 452-4800. Free. www.collegeforward.org.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL GALA RSVP online, and brush off your semiformal attire for Austin's celebration of change in the White House. 8pm. *The Driskill Hotel*, 604 Brazos, 465-2162. \$100. www.actblue.com/page/gala.

SUNDAY 18

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Attorney **Mary Ellen Felps** discusses her firsthand experience with the death penalty process. 11:30am. *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

MONDAY 19

KING MARCH & RALLY begins at the UT campus (21st & Speedway) and proceeds to the Capitol, where a short program begins at 10am. From there, the march continues to the Huston-Tillotson campus, where the festivities continue until 3pm. 9am. *Huston-Tillotson University*, 900 Chicon, 505-3139. www.mlkcelebration.com.

suburban development being used as a pawn by GOP-partisan foundations, notably the American Enterprise Institute and its Project on Fair Representation run by Austinite Edward Blum. Blum has made a political cottage industry – more precisely, vacation-home industry – of opposing any and all forms of affirmative action, on the sublimely naive argument that racial discrimination in the U.S. is largely a thing of the past, and the best way to get beyond it – like drunken behavior at a cocktail party – is to pretend it's no longer happening.

Mud and Straw

The preclearance provisions of the VRA cover primarily Southern and Southwestern U.S. jurisdictions where voting discrimination has been historically persistent, and they simply require that proposed local changes in voting procedures must first be reviewed by the Department of Justice. The review is most often a cursory administrative process, but it has worked well to discourage discriminatory tactics in advance and protects minority voters against everything from intentionally inconvenient polling stations to grandiose racial gerrymandering. The law only partly corrected the worst injustices of the recent Texas congressional re-districting – essentially because the Roberts court ruled as narrowly as it could and thereby kept most of the GOP gerrymander in place.

In 2006, Congress extended the VRA for another 25 years (“I got my butt kicked on Capitol Hill,” said Blum). The GOP legal machine promptly swung into action, and former Texas Solicitor General Gregory Coleman (and former clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas) generously put himself and his Austin firm of Yetter, Warden & Coleman at the service of the Northwest MUD – although the political relationship is more accurately the reverse. (In their press release announcing the court's acceptance, Blum and Coleman couldn't quite locate the MUD, putting it “near” instead of in Austin.) If the Canyon Creek MUD board (led then by obtusely “colorblind” Don Zimmerman) hadn't been willing, Blum, Coleman, et al.

would have found another straw plaintiff. Should they fail in this round of litigation, they'll go looking for another small group of historical innocents (or eager ideologues) to carry the ball backward into the past.

No More Racism

Amusingly, since November, a new form of casuistry has entered the conservative toolbox. Coleman argues explicitly that “the America that has elected Barack Obama as its first African-American president is far different than when [the VRA] was first enacted in 1965,” a weaseling notion already amplified by conservative media. In *The Washington Times*, constitutional fundamentalist Bruce Fein challenged the Obama administration to uphold “colorblind” standards and abandon preclearance, pointing to Obama's election as self-evident justification. The people who most vehemently worked against Obama, very often in racially coded ways, are suddenly welcoming the new dawn of a post-racial era – meaning we no longer need those annoying and intrusive laws promoting political integration and defending minority rights.

They somehow fail to note that in the states still subject to preclearance (such as Texas), voting remains racially polarized; for example, 73% of white Texans voted for John McCain. That's not nearly as embarrassing, I suppose, as those 23% of our neighbors still convinced that Obama is a Muslim. Nothing racially minded there, I'm sure.

If Coleman, Blum, and the American Enterprise Institute succeed in overturning VRA preclearance, devious politicians in East Texas, South Texas, the Panhandle, and elsewhere – hell, the whole damn state and on through the South – will be on formal notice that it's once again bureaucratic open season on minority voters. Crank up the polling booth shuffle – and if the feds don't like it, they can sue. And the respectable folks in Canyon Creek, if they ever have occasion to consider such matters, will be able to pat themselves on the back for their small but crucial role in obstructing the path to justice. ■

MLK DAY CLOSINGS In observance of the holiday, city of Austin administrative offices will be closed, as well as city libraries and museums, recreation centers, and the Town Lake Animal Shelter.

TROOP HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come to this info session about the Austin GI Rights Hotline. Help soldiers with discharges, conscientious objection, AWOL problems, sexual harassment, medical issues, and more. Training starts in February. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 452-6245.

TUESDAY 20

INAUGURATION WATCH PARTY Travis County Democrats host this morning soiree in celebration of Obama's swearing-in. 10am. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto.

NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN-UP & CLEANUP WORKSHOP

Keep Austin Beautiful welcomes residents of the Heritage and Windsor Hills areas to learn how to green up their neighborhoods. 6:30-8:45pm. Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.

OBAMA INAUGURATION LUAU PARTY

6-10pm. Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 440-7171. \$30 (\$25, advance).

PARTY LIKE A BARACK STAR

with the folks from MoveOn.org. A free drink goes to anyone dressed as a “historical American.” 6pm. Cuatro's, 1004 24th St., 243-6361. www.cuatrosAustin.com.

ROAD TO HOPE Join the folks at DiverseArts for a special inauguration bash and opening reception for new exhibit “The Road to Hope: A Photographic Glimpse of African American Life 1850-1960.” 7-10pm. New East Arts Gallery, 1601 E Fifth. www.cuatrosAustin.com

THURSDAY 22

SOLAR AUSTIN HAPPY HOUR Pam Groce of the Texas State Energy Conservation Office leads the discussion of all things sun-powered. 6:30-8:30pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. www.opaldivines.com.



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A New Day

81st Lege opens with unity in the House, mutiny in the Senate

Remember last session, when it was the House that looked like a bar fight and the Senate was the big kids' table? Not any more. While the Senate was still caught up this morning in behind-closed-doors discussion (read: screaming match) about the efforts to overturn the two-thirds rule on voter-ID laws, the House had a quicker and smoother opening session under new Speaker Joe Straus. Catching up with Straus Tuesday just after he was sworn in, he seemed happy but still a little surprised that he's actually really speaker. How did he feel the process had gone? "It went great," he said. "I've had outstanding help, so I had nothing to worry about."

— Richard Whittaker

(See austinchronicle.com/legeland for the complete story and daily Lege coverage.)



SANDY CARSON

Crowded House: Most of the ceremonial aspect of opening day takes place in the House, which quickly fills with family members, friends, and other state office holders.



Back to the floor: Former speaker Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, was given the courtesy by Speaker Straus of offering the resolution to adjourn the session for the day. Here he stands behind Austin Rep. Dawnna Dukes, a former "Craddick D."



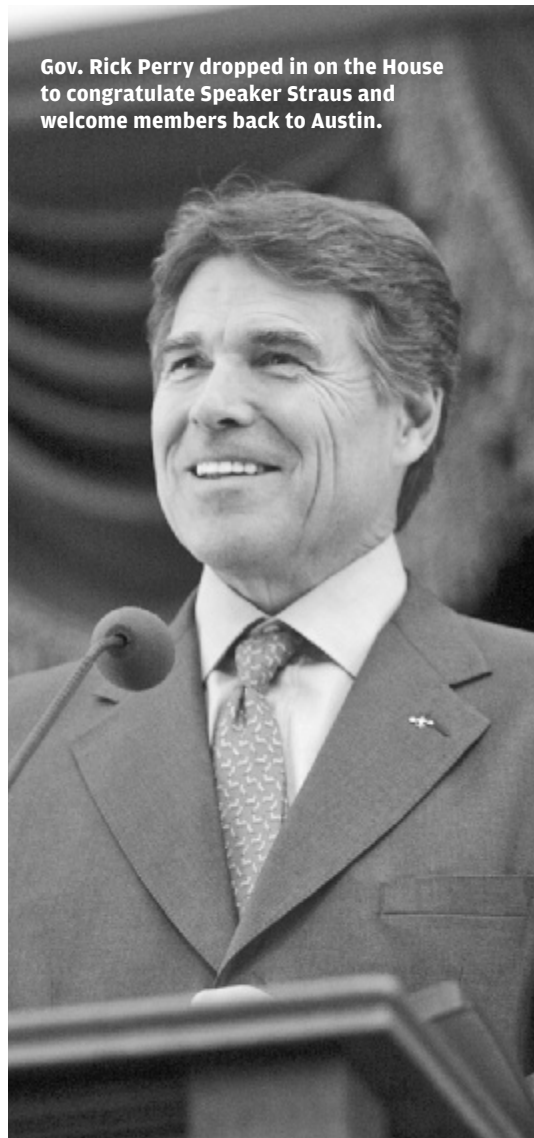
JOHN ANDERSON

SANDY CARSON



JANA BIRCHUM

Austin Rep. Donna Howard, with daughter Blake Howard, can't contain her excitement over starting her sophomore session.



Gov. Rick Perry dropped in on the House to congratulate Speaker Straus and welcome members back to Austin.

JANA BIRCHUM

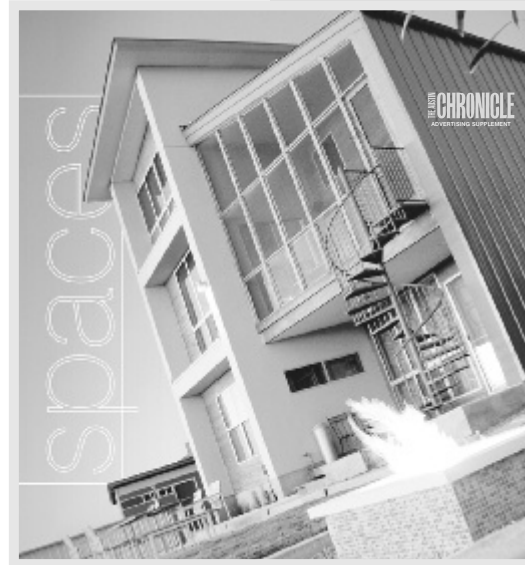


Ana Sisnett Will Be Missed

Ana Sisnett, beloved Austin author, artist, "Best of Austin" cover gal, and former executive director of the digital-divide bridging Austin Free-Net, passed away peacefully Tuesday at her home in East Austin after a protracted battle with ovarian cancer. Known for her love of mangoes, big heart, and local work with Free-Net, as well as with Katrina relief at the Convention Center in 2005 and ALLGO, the statewide group for queer people of color, Sisnett's passions touched many people's lives. Her gentle way of wielding that fierce heart of hers shall be sorely missed by the many communities that her dedication affected. Friends and family are planning memorial services; see austinchronicle.com/chronic for updates.

— Kate X Messer

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The Chronicle's Raoul Hernandez joins Joe & Katherine every Monday on Good Day Austin

Bill Would Rotate UIL Events Out of Austin

Every year, the battle cry for high school athletes across the state is “Austin or bust!” That’s because in every sport except football – as well as in many academic, theatrical, and music events – the **University Interscholastic League** annually holds its championship competitions in the Austin area, often on the University of Texas campus.

That cry may have to change if the Lucio family has its way. Companion bills – House Bill 68 filed by Rep. **Eddie Lucio III** and Senate Bill 101 filed by his father, Sen. **Eddie Lucio Jr.**, both of Brownsville – would bar the UIL (the governing body for public school competitions in Texas) from hosting “regional or statewide” competitions in the same location in consecutive years.

That could have a huge economic impact on Austin. The events bring thousands of athletes, coaches, parents, and others to the capital city, meaning hotel bookings, restaurant sales, and shopping dollars. According to the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau, the total economic impact of the UIL basketball tournaments each March is \$19.2 million. The boys teams draw 108,000 visitors and \$11 million; the girls bring 38,000 visitors and \$8.2 million. The state track meet brings an estimated 40,000 people and \$8 million to town.

“The Rio Grande Valley for many, many years has been bypassed, simply because we did not, for a very long time, have the facilities,” said Lucio III. “But with the economic growth, the economic development, we have so much to offer the state now. [Holding the events annually in Austin] also has an undue burden as far as costs for our school districts, for busing and hotels every year for our students, and then parents, also, having to take off from work and travel to Austin every year.”

Asked what the UIL thinks of the proposal, spokeswoman **Kim Rogers** said that as state employees, she and other UIL staffers are prohibited from expressing an opinion on the legislation. However, listening to Rogers describe the logistics of hosting the events, it’s probably a safe bet that the UIL would not enjoy the headaches of moving them from city to city. “Essentially, it would mean that we would have to move every activity every year,” Rogers said. “I guess [there would be] a financial impact in just going to a new site, traveling for our staff and participants to different locations, making sure we have the same kind of accommodations. It could lead to the fact that maybe there will not be another facility in the state that could accommodate.”

The Lucios leave a loophole for that last point: The bill stipulates that an event may only be held at a site if “the infrastructure and capacity of the location’s facilities are sufficient to serve the needs of the competition” and that a location may be used in consecutive years “if an alternative location is not available.”

The other areas of the state aren’t necessarily being bypassed due to lack of facilities. Rather, Rogers says, state events have long been held here because “we are part of the University of Texas. We host a number of activities on campus at UT facilities because we are a department of UT, and we are centrally located in the state, so it makes it easier for participants traveling to state competitions. There are a number of reasons why we have our events in the places that we do. It’s not arbitrary. There is some thought behind them.” — *Lee Nichols*



DON BENDER

Annually, tens of thousands of students, coaches, and parents come to the Austin area for athletic, academic, and musical state competitions, including the Track & Field Championships at UT’s Myers Stadium.

UIL STATE COMPETITION SITES

Tennis: Penick-Allison Tennis Center (UT) and Lakeway World of Tennis

Cross Country: Old Settlers Park (Round Rock)

Volleyball: Strahan Coliseum (Texas State University)

Swimming & Diving: Jamail Texas Swimming Center (UT)

Wrestling: AISD Delco Center

Basketball: Erwin Center (UT)

Soccer: Round Rock Independent School District Athletic Stadium

Golf: Austin, various courses

Track & Field: Mike A. Myers Track and Soccer Stadium (UT)

Softball: McCombs Field (UT)

Baseball: Disch-Falk Field (UT) and Dell Diamond (Round Rock)

State Marching Band: Alamodome (San Antonio)

Some other music competitions: Austin area, including UT



DANIEL MOTTOLA

Emerald City Press Success

Emerald City Press, the stylish little coffee shop that opened last year near the corner of Ninth and Lamar, has finally won its prolonged struggle with the city for permission to add a guest seating area overlooking Shoal Creek. Since last July, the coffeehouse has sought a variance to excuse it from city parking requirements, which in its case called for 33 spots when it only had seven. Prior to opening, Emerald City was advised by the city to set up shop as a walk-up/drive-through business and later seek the **variance and off-site parking** required for the outdoor seating – but things got complicated when area parking availability proved scarce and some nearby landowners opposed the variance (see “Emerald City Blues,” Oct. 10, 2008). Emerald City owner **Emily Fleming-Nash** said she agreed to a number of conditions to win over her opponents. She shrank her seating area to 480 square feet (half what she originally sought) and agreed to no indoor seating, no on-site beer or wine consumption, no commercial kitchen, and no business hours past 9pm. — *Daniel Mottola*

AISD REPORT CARDS GO ONLINE

The era of the “dog ate my report card” excuse comes to an end this week as **Austin Independent School District** introduces **Parent Connection**, a new online service that gives parents real-time access to their children’s school records.

Previously, the district’s electronic records have only been open to staff, but Parent Connection opens that information up to families. All students’ attendance records and grade reports are available online, while assignments will be posted for third- through 12th-graders.

The new system goes live on Jan. 16 and is funded by last May’s school bond, making it a free service for parents. Six campuses piloted the program last November, and parents and staff greeted it positively. AISD spokesman **Andy Welch**

explained, “It’s one thing to talk the talk of greater parental involvement ... but this is what we’ve talked about in practice.”

Parents and guardians will receive a PIN code in the mail from AISD with which to access their children’s records. The district started sending them out on Jan. 9, and any parents who don’t receive their code should contact the Parent Connection service facilitator at their child’s school. Since the PIN gives access to confidential files, said Welch, “Treat it like you would the PIN to a bank account.”

While not everyone has a computer, Welch said, “we’re exploring some things we may be able to do at schools after hours when there are still staff around.” In the meantime, parents with limited computer access are encouraged to use public libraries.

Education Austin President **Louis Malfaro** said that, as a parent himself, he was “thrilled” by how much this allows his and other families to become more readily involved with their children’s education. Speaking as a union chief, he called it “a good thing, because our members want parents to be paying attention.”

Since Parent Connection uses the existing electronic grade-book system, Welch said, the only responsibility for teachers is making sure that they set enough gradable work. Malfaro praised AISD for an effective rollout that had kept his members involved at every stage. “They didn’t leave us in the 19th century with our ledgers and then say, ‘You’ve got a week’s training to use this system.’”

— *Richard Whittaker*



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YOGURT SHOP DEFENSE RAMPS UP CALL FOR DEFENDANTS' RELEASE

The two remaining **yogurt shop murder** defendants may soon get the chance to argue that they should be released from custody on bond while the state works toward retrying them for the 1991 quadruple slaying near Northcross Mall. In court proceedings Jan. 7, District Judge **Mike Lynch** said he'll consider at another hearing in early March whether he'll entertain defense motions seeking the release of **Robert Springsteen** and **Michael Scott** on bond. Lynch's decision may come sooner, however, depending on when defense attorneys receive and pass on to the state final reports from their DNA experts who have found unknown male DNA in sisters Jennifer and Sarah Harbison, two of the four young victims who were murdered inside a North Austin yogurt shop. Lynch's attitude about the defense efforts seems to have shifted since last spring, when he declined to consider a similar action filed by Springsteen attorney **Joe James Sawyer**. The amount of DNA now available that does not match the defendants, or anyone else tested by the state, demonstrates that Springsteen and Scott are innocent, Springsteen attorney Alexandra Gauthier told reporters last week. That means "the killers are still out there," she said – and it's time for the state to start looking for them. (For more on the case, see "Yogurt Shop Saga: New Unknown DNA Evidence," Jan. 9, and the Newsdesk blog at austinchronicle.com/newsdesk.)

Prosecutors still seem to believe they can explain away the latest DNA findings, citing possible contamination in the lab or at the crime scene or that the DNA belongs to known but as-yet-identified contributors not involved in the crime. But that story appears to be wearing thin – at least as far as it concerns Lynch's apparent willingness to consider setting bonds for Springsteen and Scott. Prosecutors also said last week that if they receive an unknown DNA profile that is technically compatible with state and national DNA databases, they will upload it for comparison. So far, none of the profiles meets the technical requirements. Still, the agreement to do so seems to signal a shift in the state's stance on the evidence.

The two men – teenagers at the time of the Dec. 6, 1991, grisly murder of four teen girls who were shot, bound, gagged, and then set ablaze in a fire prosecutors say was set to cover up the crime – have now spent nearly a decade behind bars. Springsteen and Scott were tried separately and convicted in 2001 and 2002, respectively. The case against each man was circumstantial, however, with prosecutors relying heavily on two separate "confessions" each man provided to police after lengthy, and arguably coercive, interviews, during which the two incriminated not only themselves but



JOHN ANDERSON

Michael Scott at his 2004 trial

also each other. Each man's conviction was eventually overturned by appeals courts that found the state had erred in allowing portions of each man's confession into evidence in the trial against the other, denying each his Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses who testified against him. (Both men recanted the substance of their confessions and steadfastly maintain their innocence.)

Scott's wife, Jeannine, agrees that the new DNA evidence exonerates her husband and that the state should now be putting its resources toward looking for the donors of the unknown DNA. "This case needs to be put away properly," she said. But right now, the state is "looking in the wrong direction."

Also in court Jan. 7, Lynch said he was "inclined to grant" a defense request to allow two new attorneys to join the legal team. Scott lawyer **Dexter Gilford** has asked that New York lawyers **Robert Romano** and **Martha Stolley** (a former assistant district attorney in Manhattan who handled sex crimes and gang cases) join the defense, pro bono, to offer their expertise in at least one forensic area – but the defense has declined to reveal specifics about their particular expertise. "The state, unlike us, has experts in every one of the forensic fields," Gilford told Lynch. The addition of the out-of-state counsel would level the playing field, he argued. Assistant District Attorney **Efrain De La Fuente** said the state wouldn't object to the defense gaining two more lawyers, as long as it didn't cause a delay in bringing the case to trial (Lynch had already said he would not allow a delay). Ultimately, Lynch said he felt compelled to grant Gilford's request: "I believe the state has incredible resources at its beck and call," he said. "This is [a] reasonable way to equalize that."

– Jordan Smith

Green Party Leader Holloway Dies

The Austin environmental community this week was shocked and saddened by the announcement that **Bill Holloway**, co-chair of the **Travis County Green Party**, had died at the age of 44. In a press statement, the **Green Party of Texas** called Holloway "a dedicated leader. ... He will be missed as a mentor and a friend."

Born in 1964, Holloway was the grandson of Oklahoma Gov. **William Judson Holloway Sr.** and the son of U.S. 10th Circuit Judge William Judson Holloway Jr. and Helen Hoehn Holloway. After earning a master's in nonlinear physics at the University of Texas, Holloway worked for National Instruments before setting up his own Internet consulting firm. However, he is best remembered for his tireless volunteerism in many fields. Aside from holding his office with the Travis County Greens and working on committees for the state and national parties, he also worked as a rape crisis phone-line counselor, and, as Texas director of the **Northern Flyer Alliance**, he advocated for increased passenger rail. Holloway died on Jan. 8 in his

home in Austin. At press time, the cause of his death was still unknown.

ACLU of Texas co-President **Debbie Russell** praised Holloway as "passionate and steadfast." She recalled that whenever she was advocating an issue, "If there was another person who could take time off to support me, 90 percent of the time it was Bill. He was right there behind me on every issue and so dedicated to putting things in context." She added that he was "someone who was so solid and together when so often the issues can be so divisive. ... He was never doing this for the ego."

Holloway's funeral was scheduled to take place Wednesday, Jan. 14, in his birthplace of Oklahoma City, Okla. A celebration of his life will be held in Austin Friday, Jan. 16, 7pm at 5003 Wasson Rd. In keeping with Holloway's traditions, the event will be an outdoor potluck, where friends and those who were touched by his work can exchange stories of his life. In lieu of flowers, his family asks that well-wishers make a charitable donation, with SafePlace and the Sierra Club as suggested recipients.

– Richard Whittaker

Humane Society Criticizes Petland

On Saturday, the ongoing but increasingly hang-dog local protest against **Petland Inc.** received some encouragement. The faithful few, gathering as usual at the 9900 S. I-35 Petland store, were joined by dozens more upon news that the **Humane Society of the United States** had, after an eight-month investigation, validated activists' worst fears. "[B]ehind the friendly facade of the local pet shop ... there often lies a puppy mill" that houses dogs in "shockingly poor conditions," reads the Humane Society website, fingering Petland specifically. Amid honked catcalls from the freeway, energized Austin protesters distributed handouts explaining that "many [pets] will die before they make the long journey to your local pet store." Austin organizer Sharon Yancey urged that people "adopt, don't shop." Inside, Petland manager Daxa Bhakta distributed company literature, too, countering that Petland "internally" compiles an "evolving 'do-not-buy' list of breeders." Regardless, the chain is presumably a profit mill, with its least expensive dog going for \$288 and an English bulldog delivered by C-section (its most expensive "designer dog," as Bhakta referred to purebreds) selling for \$4,000. See more at www.stoppuppymills.org/inside_a_puppy_mill.html and www.petland.com/truth.

– Patricia J. Ruland



COURTESY OF JENNIFER HAYES

Is Texas Bad for Kids?

Children in Texas are more likely to be born underweight, grow up in poverty, and face underfunded health and mental services than the national average. Those are just some of the worrying statistics in the 2009 "Children's Campaign Report" issued by advocacy group **Texans Care for Children** – just in time for the start of the 81st Legislature. The body's executive director, **Eileen Garcia-Matthews**, said she hopes legislators will look at these statistics and reform the state's provisions for children with "a comprehensive plan, rather than the piecemeal approach we have now."

Collated from state and federal sources, the report compares year-to-year changes against Texas' own record and the national average. It shows that many baseline problems in child development remain untackled, while improvements in some areas have not stopped the state from trailing in national rankings. Garcia-Matthews called the report's contents "markers for where the system is letting people down."

The failures are serious: Texas was worst in the nation in several categories, including teen

pregnancies, high school completion, children without health insurance, and adults in the criminal justice system – a significant issue because 56% of inmates incarcerated in state or federal prisons have children under the age of 18. Most worrying for Garcia-Matthews are trends in infant mortality: While still below the current national average of 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, the rate in Texas has risen from 5.7 in 2000 to 6.6 in 2006. "When you look at indicators that say something about a society, for us to move from ninth to 21st, that says there's something wrong," she said.

It's not all bad news. Child-support collections soared from 28.7% in 2000 to 67.8% in 2005, well ahead of the national average of 54.5%. Much of the credit for this issue has been given to Attorney General **Greg Abbott**, who has made the issue a cornerstone of his office. Garcia-Matthews said she hopes that the Legislature will follow his example. She noted, "When leaders said, 'We care about these things,' they invested, and we saw improvements." See the full report at www.texanscareforchildren.org. – R.W.

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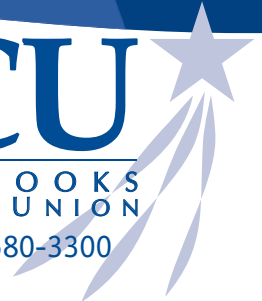
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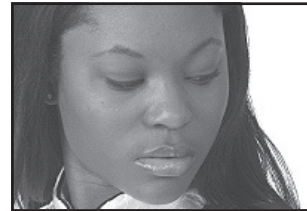


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RNC AFTERMATH AUSTIN PROTESTER PLEADS GUILTY IN MINNESOTA

Bradley Crowder, a 23-year-old Texan who has been held without bail in Minnesota since his arrest for disorderly conduct in St. Paul on Sept. 1, pleaded guilty last Thursday to one count of aiding and abetting possession of an unregistered firearm, as part of a plea bargain that could bring his sentence down from 10 years to 30 months in federal prison.

Crowder, along with his friend **David McKay**, 22, was arrested on charges that he was the leader of a group of activists who drove up from Austin with plans to disrupt the **Republican National Convention**. After a series of events that included the St. Paul Police, without a warrant, seizing homemade riot gear from a trailer belonging to the group, Crowder was accused of an alleged plot to throw Molotov cocktails at empty police cars parked in a parking lot.

Through a series of yes or no answers, Crowder admitted that he was involved in the plot to make Molotov cocktails (which the federal government classifies as unregistered firearms), but his friends and family do not believe he came to that decision on his own. Local activists believe that a since-revealed government informant, **Brandon Darby**, was more than instrumental in Crowder's actions and arrest.

"I think that he made some bad choices, but I think that he was manipulated to do so," says Bradley's mother, **Twila Crowder** of Midland, Texas. Crowder says she's proud of her son, whom she credits as always rooting for the underdog and always willing to take a stand for his beliefs. "Bradley was born with foot problems, and so he had to wear corrective shoes as a child," Crowder recalls.

"When he got a little older, the doctor said that we could let him wear really good tennis shoes, so we always had him in Nikes. When

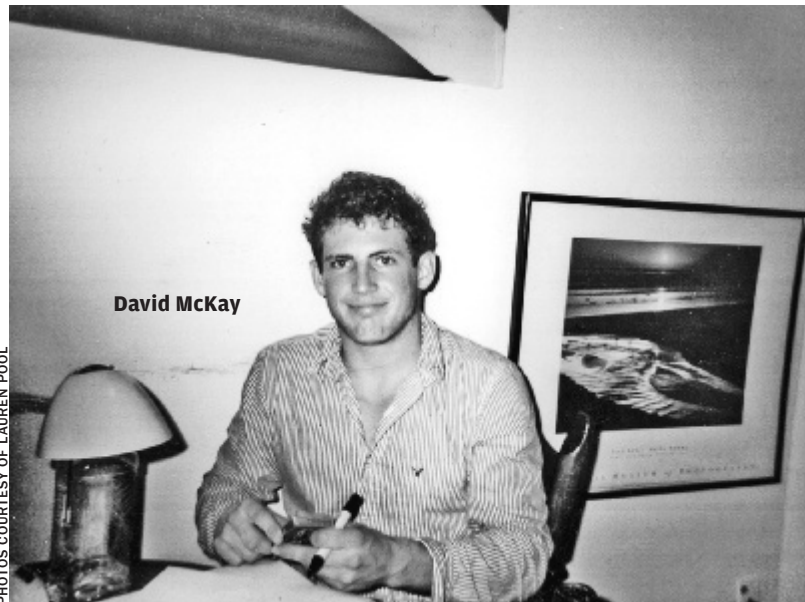
he was in fourth grade, all that stuff came out about Nike using child labor in sweatshops and, well, he refused to wear Nikes ever since."

A registered Republican, Twila Crowder says she's had long conversations with her son about his political beliefs, which she says have matured dramatically over the years. "It used to be anarchy this and anarchy that," she recalls. "Now he just wants to make sure that the big guys don't take advantage of the little guys. He believes that everybody should have enough food, a place to live, and an equal chance for education." Crowder says her son has spent his time in jail tutoring fellow inmates in preparation for their GEDs. "He took some tests to take classes, but he tested out of everything. He's a really intelligent guy. Now he wants me to send him some Spanish books so he can work on his Spanish, because a lot of the people he's tutoring are Spanish speakers."

Austinite **Paul Minjares**, 24, knows both McKay and Crowder from back in Midland. "They're both just really good people," he says. "No one that I know would have anything bad to say about Brad. I lived with him in Midland; we've worked together; I've gotten him jobs. We're everyday kind of friends, and it's been really weird not having him around." Minjares says that there's nothing in his five-year history with Crowder that would lead him to believe he would ever intentional-



Bradley Crowder



David McKay

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN POOL

ly harm anyone. "Our group never fights. We're all laid back."

"He's just not the kind of kid who would ever hurt anybody on purpose," his mother agrees. "He used to get bullied as a kid, and when I would tell him that he had to hit back, he'd refuse."

Cari Kujawa, 24, met Crowder through David McKay, whom she has known since he was a high school freshman (and whose case is still pending). She says that though Crowder was outspoken about his political beliefs, he was open to hearing other people's opinions. "We'd always joke around because I really like Bush. I just always thought Bush was really funny, and you can just tell that he's a real sweet guy. It made Brad crazy, because he thinks Bush did a lot of bad things, but we'd laugh about it." The only thing that Kujawa remembers about McKay and Crowder's preparations for heading up to Minnesota is how they talked about building their shields. "I don't know what I pictured; like Medieval Times [theme restaurant] or something."

"It was Brandon Darby who gave them the idea for those shields, and he helped them

build them," says **Lauren Pool**, 22, who has known both McKay and Crowder since they were all high school seniors back in Midland. Pool believes that Darby, the 32-year-old Austin activist turned FBI informant, used his influence as a mentor to set up McKay and Crowder. "I mean, he was training them in martial arts," Pool insists. "These guys are both inexperienced political activists who, in all the years I've known them, never even talked about building Molotov cocktails. Why would they start now?"

"Those allegations are untrue," Darby says. And though he will not talk about any specifics of the case, he's confident that, in a couple of weeks' time, when McKay goes to trial, people will be able to see the whole picture more clearly. "Provocateur," "political prisoner," "innocent" — no one has any facts to say any of that," Darby insists. "There's not a night that I go to bed that I don't think about those two people. But Crowder is taking responsibility for his own mistakes. All I can say is that I have behaved honorably, and people will feel so when this is over."

— Diana Welch



Hackers Attack the Netroots

The strength of the online progressive political community known as the netroots was tested last week when the firm that provides software and servers for many leading blogs was hacked and nearly destroyed.

On Jan. 6, unknown hackers attacked the servers of **SoapBlox**, the service provider and data management tool of choice for more than 100 high-profile blogs, including the Austin-based **Burnt Orange Report**. Around a quarter of the sites were wiped out, and administrators for the rest were in limbo

while they tried to work out how much data was lost. BOR Editor-in-Chief **Matt Glazer** said, "We found out on Wednesday morning [Jan. 7], and all of a sudden we got all these frantic e-mails that sites like **Michigan Liberal** were just not operating."

SoapBlox's role in the last general election is one that political consultants are still analyzing. Some clients, such as **SwingStateProject.com**, became key information resources in the Democrats' 50-state initiative. In Texas, its customers include Democrat activists **Turn Texas Blue** and **Texans for Obama**.

While the sites are often run on a shoestring budget, Democrats have praised their organizational skills, and Republicans are looking to emulate their successes. The Central Texas blogs managed to attract cash and media attention to Austin last July when they lured the **Netroots Nation** convention to town (see "Building the Netroots Nation," July 11, 2008).

Getting the system back online and secure will cost \$17,400, but within five days of the attack, the seasoned fundraisers of the Netroots Nation were already within \$500 of that target after taking donations through another online progressive resource, **ActBlue**. Now SoapBlox users and President **Paul Preston** are discussing how to reorganize the system to make it less vulnerable to future attacks and how to share the responsibility for its management and development. "We're lucky that we're not in an election season," said Glazer, "and we can fix it before it becomes a huge problem." — Richard Whittaker

Downtown Planning: Your Two Cents

The city and ROMA Austin have set up an online **community survey** seeking input on how different areas of Downtown should be planned in order to retain and evolve their own distinct characters. The 11 areas addressed include the Waterfront, Waller Creek, Wooldridge Square, Northwest, and Capitol Complex districts. The survey is part of the public input process for the **Downtown Austin Plan**; a major recommendation in ROMA's Phase One report was the definition of districts, each with its own goals and priorities, desired land uses, density bonus provisions, and design standards. Take the survey once for each district to express preferences and specific ideas for walkability, parks improvements, maintaining character, community facilities, and so on. The survey is at www.cityofaustin.org/downtown through Jan. 22.

— Katherine Gregor

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE DEATH OF JOURNALISM

A Detroit newspaper executive has announced a startling breakthrough: "We think it's time to take a geometric leap forward in what we've known as newspapers," he informed the masses.

And, with that, he leapt right off the media cliff. His "breakthrough" is to cancel daily home deliveries of the Detroit papers, leaving customers to stumble out each day to find a news rack that will swallow a bunch of their quarters and (maybe) cough up a pared-down version of the real thing. Or, he says, people can read a virtual edition of the paper on the Web – even though many Detroiters don't use the Internet.

The printed media is shrinking itself in so many ways these days. Take the Cox Newspapers chain, which owns *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and 15 other dailies. It is abandoning its Washington bureau. Even with a new administration taking power and making big policy moves that will affect every reader of the Cox papers, the chain is taking its journalists off the national beat – and eliminating their investigative jobs. Other papers are making similar cutbacks, claiming that there's no need for multiple news organizations chasing the same stories when they can all get feeds from a couple of wire bureaus.

Yeah, that's the old dig-it-out American journalistic spirit, isn't it? Let someone feed us the news. Holy Mark Twain!

Some news executives want to move even further from the actual source of news. For example, the honcho of MediaNews Group, which controls 56 U.S. daily newspapers, says, "One thing we're exploring is having one news desk for all of our newspapers, maybe even offshore." So whether covering Congress or your city council, the breaking news will come to you from someone without a clue watching a webcast from a cubicle in India. These bean counters in charge of our newspapers are saving money – but they're killing journalism.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, *The Hightower Lowdown* – visit www.jimhightower.com. You can hear his radio commentaries on KOOP Radio, 91.7FM, weekdays at 10:58am and 12:58pm.

WHO PAYS FOR CEO MISMANAGEMENT?

Should you be well-paid for doing shoddy work? If you answered "yes," you might have a future as a Wall Street banker.

The Associated Press recently analyzed the 2007 compensation paid to top executives of 116 banks that have since received billions of dollars in taxpayer bailouts. The shoddy work done by these executives led the massive losses for the banks and a disastrous crash of our country's economy – yet, each of them walked away with multi-million-dollar rewards.

Take the golden example of Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs. He hauled in a \$54 million paycheck for his work in 2007, plus another \$233,000 for his limo and chauffeur. The investment bank asserts that such a swell sum was necessary in order to attract and motivate executives "whose efforts and judgments are vital to our continued success." Only ... Blankfein's efforts and judgments produced Goldman's first quarterly loss in a decade, required the firm to completely restructure its business, and cost taxpayers \$10 billion in bailout money.

The AP report revealed another compensation detail that would be terribly amusing if it didn't make you want to scream in fury. It shows that one of the chief perks doled out to the bankers was extra pay to cover "personal financial advice" for them. These wizards were running shaky investment schemes that wrought financial ruin across our land, yet they were having their own hands held by financial counselors at company expense. Top executives at Wells Fargo, for example, drew up to \$20,000 each in 2007 to get personal money guidance, even though their guidance of the bank led to a \$25 billion bailout from us taxpayers.

Shouldn't Congress be requiring at least partial paybacks from these hotshots as a price of the public having to cover their banking mismanagement?

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Trouble at Station 15

Firefighter sues city after officials stonewall unequal treatment

BY CAITLIN MEREDITH



When Nona Allen joined the Austin Fire Department in 2007, sitting alone on the cement floor of a glorified janitorial closet wasn't what she had in mind. Yet for seven months, between fighting fires alongside her fellow firefighters, that's exactly what she found herself doing. She did what she could to change her circumstances, despite internal opposition and the indifference or obstruction of AFD administrators. After fighting back through department channels without success, in the fall of last year Allen finally decided to sue the city. Her lawsuit is pending in Travis County District Court.

Allen, 28, grew up wanting to be a firefighter. Her inspiration and role model was her father, Kenneth Allen, a career firefighter and eventually the fire chief of Atlanta. "He was a great father, and he loved his job," Allen said.

She started her own firefighting career in Marietta, Ga., but in 2006 moved to Austin. She liked Austin's reputation for diversity and live music and was encouraged by the AFD's stated mission of fair treatment for all. As an African-American woman, she said this mission statement – which includes the explicit goal of attracting and retaining "a qualified and diverse workforce" – was especially important to her.

"And then I got here," Allen said, "and it was a totally different story."

Separate and Unequal

In February 2007, after graduating from the Austin Fire Department Academy, Allen was assigned to the B shift at Station 15 on Airport Boulevard in East Austin. (There are three

shifts at each fire station: A, B, and C. Firefighters are on duty 24 hours then off 48 hours; shifts change at noon.) Immediately, she noticed the stark differences in the provisions for male and female firefighters. The men's locker room was furnished with cushioned chairs, benches, tables, TVs, vending machines, and the station library of books and games. Other than lockers, the women's room was bare.

It's a pattern repeated throughout AFD, although the department has been working on updating stations to include facilities for women since 1999. Currently, of 44 fire stations, 22 are without separate facilities for women. According to Michelle DeCrane, AFD's public information and marketing manager, separate locker rooms will be completed in four of those stations this spring. Women's facilities in the remaining 18 will be funded by one of AFD's capital improvement projects.

Since Allen was the only woman on a permanent shift at Station 15, at first the distinctions seemed an oversight. She was soon convinced otherwise. As a probationary firefighter, or "probie," she would need to spend the next six months studying for exams to qualify for a permanent position. One of her male classmates was also at Station 15 and was provided a private study room in the men's locker room. Accordingly, Allen asked the B-shift lieutenant (and then acting captain) Ken Hagen for a desk and a chair, and he helped her move station furniture into the locker room.

When she returned to work the next day, the desk and chair had been returned to the men's locker room. She asked a male co-worker for help retrieving them and put them back in her locker room. The next day – and for many days after that – it was the same story with minor variations. She would move furniture into her locker room; someone would remove it. On some shifts, Allen would find her desk in the men's locker room, piled with 300-400 pounds of weights; male colleagues would help her remove them and return it to her room.

After about a month of this ritual, a notice was posted on the locker room door: "This locker/restroom is to be left empty of any desk or other personal effects not belonging to female firefighters." It was signed by then-Assistant Chief Jim Evans. (Evans is now the interim chief, pending the February arrival of new AFD Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr.)

"I went to my lieutenant and asked, 'What's going on?'" Allen said. Hagen promised to look into it and later told Allen that he had been informed by Station 15 C-shift Capt. Keith Weiss that the posted order came directly from Evans. Citing the pending litigation, AFD management and staff declined to comment for this story.

You Don't Belong Here

Despite official declarations welcoming all races and genders in city departments, the AFD shows little diversity in personnel. The fire force of approximately 1,000 people includes 56 African-Americans; Allen is the sole African-American woman. There are 51 women in the force, of whom 44 are assigned to operational units. (For a summary of AFD demographics, see "AFD Staff by the Numbers," p.28.) "The numbers give you a picture of

"I didn't feel part of the group. I just got the feeling that ... I didn't deserve the same treatment as everyone else."

– Nona Allen

who they're letting in and who they're not letting in," Allen said. Despite those dismal numbers, the recent contract between the city and the Austin Firefighters Association was rejected by union members, in large part because the new contract would have made it easier for management to increase staffing diversity; the union argues that allowing too much hiring flexibility to management will result in favoritism and lower performance standards. See "Disagreeing to Agree," p.28.

Throughout this period, Allen spent much of her shifts sitting on the cement floor in the women's locker room while her male colleagues played video games and watched TV across the hall. When she wanted a soda, she would have to ask one of her male colleagues to buy one for her. Yet Allen says the situation didn't interfere with her firefighting duties when her unit responded to calls to fight fires. "That was great; we worked great as a team on the job," Allen said. "I got to fight 16 fires in my first six months. That's more than anyone else in my graduating class."

Like that of all probies, her job was on the front line, holding and guiding the nozzle, working directly with her lieutenant. But for Allen, the teamwork in the field only put her experiences at the station in harsher relief. "You get back to the station all pumped up, and all the guys would go celebrate in their locker room, jamming to music, drinking Cokes, and hanging out sitting around on cushioned chairs," Allen said. "That's when it really hit home." Allen said the message she got was that she wasn't the same, that she wasn't worthy of the same benefits as her male colleagues. "That's the picture that was painted for me," she said. "You don't belong here. Every day I got that message. I didn't feel part of the group. I just got the feeling that I don't belong here – that they were saying that you're not equal to us, and I didn't deserve the same treatment as everyone else."

In April 2007, a sympathetic male colleague brought her a desk and chair from his house so she could comply with Evans' order but still have a place to study. This arrangement lasted less than a week. A few days later, she arrived at the station to find another notice stating that Evans had ordered that no furniture was allowed in the locker room.

A 'Miscommunication'

At the end of July, Allen met with the newly appointed Station 15 B-shift captain, Chris Swenson (who had replaced Hagen), to again complain about the unequal treatment. Despite Evans' order, Swenson agreed that the women's locker room should be accorded the same rules as the men's locker room, and he allowed the furniture to be replaced.

A month later, when Allen showed up for her shift, the desk and chair were gone. A handwritten note on the women's locker room door stated that by order of Evans, the previous shift manager had removed the furniture. Swenson and Battalion 5 Chief Doug Kusey (there are six geographic battalions in the AFD; Station 15 is in Battalion 5) promised they would ask Evans what was going on, recalled Allen. They said Evans refused to change the order. "If they went up the chain of command and his boss said no," Allen said, "there's nothing else they can do without putting their own jobs in jeopardy."


Encouraged by her father, Allen began to document the disparate treatment she was receiving at Station 15. Her homemade video pans the men's locker room, a portrait of dormlike living: empty soda cans, teeter-

ing piles of video games, towels draped on the station benches and cushioned chairs. Around the corner from the main room you can see the vending machines and connected study room. Across the hall, the women's locker room – with its gray cement floor, painted cinder-block walls, and solitary line of three lockers – looks more like a cleaning-supply closet than a place to change clothes, relax after a strenuous fire call, or study for qualifying exams. Allen's video and related photos are posted with this story at austinchronicle.com.

Despite the humiliating routine of moving the furniture, Allen says the men in her station were mainly supportive of her request to have furniture in her locker room. "The guys used to say, 'I can't believe they're doing this – it's 2007,'" Allen said. But the continued orders from upper management made some of them wary that Allen's furniture battles were eventually going to cause problems for the furniture in the men's locker room. "I think that's why some guys were putting the weights on the desk," she said. "It was like: 'Hey man, just stop moving it. It's going to be painful to keep doing this. Just give up and leave it in here.'"

CONTINUED ON P.26

"They couldn't have chosen a worse place to assign her."
– Lt. Jan Wesson, speaking of Station 15




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The women's locker room at Station 15: A desk and chair were moved into the room the day Nona Allen, standing in doorway, was transferred to Station 26.

**"I never wanted to go to court. ... I just want a place to sit."
- Nona Allen**

Beginning in July, Allen started requesting a transfer to another station. "I just wanted to leave; I didn't want to make a stink," Allen said. Her requests for transfer were denied.

Finally, on Sept. 11, 2007, Allen filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission accusing the department of race and gender discrimination as well as retaliation for complaining about her disparate treatment. In her claim, Allen stated that she was "subjected to different terms and conditions of employment at Station 15 when compared with my male co-workers at Station 15 and also when compared with my white female co-workers at every other Station in the City by being consistently denied comparable equipment and accommodations in the women's locker-room."

She went on to describe what she believed to be the upper-level command involvement, declaring that "Chief Evans and Chief Turpin consistently ordered that I not be provided with a bench to sit on while changing or a desk to study on, much less all other amenities that the men were allowed." (Duke Turpin is the division chief for the A shift of the entire Fire Department.)

EEOC staff member Thomas Price called Allen after she submitted her complaint and tried to convince her to drop it. "He told me that the Fire Department was already in so much trouble from the other discrimination complaints that if I dropped the case they would leave me alone for the rest of my career," said Allen. "He said that my lawyer was just trying to make money." Allen's lawyer wrote a letter to the EEOC, and Price's supervisor took him off her case. (The EEOC did not respond to calls concerning the Allen case.)

On Sept. 12, the day after she submitted her EEOC complaint, Allen was called to a meeting with then-Chief J.J. Adame (who has since resigned under pressure from city management), Evans, Assistant Chief Dawn Clopton, Swenson, Kusey, and her lieutenant, Hagen. At the meeting, Allen said, Evans claimed that the

furniture debate had been a result of miscommunication. Evans said his name had been used out of context for the orders barring furniture in the women's locker room in Station 15, according to Allen. "He said that, but it couldn't be true," Allen said. "Both my captain and battalion chief had gone to speak to Evans personally to ask if I could have furniture, and he told them, 'No, she can't have it.' That's who the written orders came from."

When she returned to Station 15 after that meeting, she found that all of the things that she had wanted had been supplied. A desk and a chair had been placed in her locker room, and the vending machines had been moved from the men's locker room to a common area. "The funny thing was, I never got to use any of it," Allen said. On that same shift, Allen was informed that her request to be transferred to another station had been granted.

Since September 2007, Allen has been working at Station 26, on Wentworth Drive in Northeast Austin. She's much happier. "It's totally different there - everyone shares all the furniture in one big locker room," she said. There are individual bathrooms for changing. Allen says she now has time to concentrate on firefighting.

Station 15: 'Dereliction of Duty'

In spite of Allen's ongoing difficulties and the department's abrupt reversal once her complaint was filed, a department representative told a KTBC-TV reporter that the EEOC had "not supported [Allen's] claims." In fact, the EEOC's response, dated July 9, 2008, was ambiguous. Allen did receive a "Dismissal and Notice of Rights Response" - a standardized form, signed by commission San Antonio District Director Pedro Esquivel, stating that investigators were "unable to conclude" wrongdoing but that they couldn't completely rule it out either: "This does not certify that respondent [the city of Austin AFD] is in compliance with the statutes." According to Will Sutton, Allen's attorney, 98% of EEOC com-

plaints receive similar responses. "They are overworked and underfunded, so they just don't have time to investigate these claims," said Sutton.

In June, Allen met with Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald, who said he was very concerned about the allegations and wanted to know why AFD assistant chiefs had time to worry about station furniture placement. He promised that he and City Manager Marc Ott personally would conduct an investigation and demand accountability and get back to Allen in two weeks. Allen never heard from McDonald again, though a city representative communicated a month and a half later that it appeared that the whole controversy was all a result of miscommunication of Evans' orders.

McDonald declined to comment specifically on Allen's case but provided a statement: "Any time these types of issues are raised, they are of concern to the City of Austin. However, there are pending legal actions; therefore, we are not in a position to publicly discuss this case."

One firefighter unsurprised by Allen's experience is Lt. Jan Wesson. She joined the AFD 25 years ago. Like Allen, Wesson started in Station 15. "They couldn't have chosen a worse place to assign her," said Wesson, now Allen's lieutenant at Station 26. There have been a total of three African-American women in the history of the AFD. In 2004, one of them, Barbara Jonell Booker, a probationary firefighter, was fired after only three months, a very rare occurrence, Wesson said. In 2006, Booker sued the city for discrimination. (The suit was dismissed in October; Booker's attorney, Robert Notzon, says she will appeal.) "Then Nona comes three years later and is top notch - in the top of her class - and all of these problems are happening," said Wesson.

Asked about Allen's case and Booker's before her, Darren Hyson, secretary of the Austin African-American Firefighters Association, responded, "It just so happens that the only two African-American females hired [by AFD] have been mistreated. They did not receive the same treatment that their peers of equal status have received."

In Wesson's time, her male colleagues used to post pornographic magazines in her changing room. "Back then, there was nothing you could do to stop them," Wesson said. Though such explicitly sexist and hostile behavior toward female firefighters is now rare, there's still a sense that the Fire Department "doesn't have to play by the same rules as everyone else," said Wesson. She says the stage was set for a less than welcome reception for Allen.

"Until about a month before Nona [Allen] was assigned there, the guys had been using that room as a sleeping room," said Wesson. "They had to remove the bed so she could have a locker room. Knowing that history, if I was in upper management and got a complaint from the only African-American female in the department, I would go down to the station and find out exactly what was going on," Wesson said. "To not do so is dereliction of duty."

On Sept. 18, 2008, Allen filed a discrimination lawsuit against the city of Austin.

A Community Issue

Every station has a different layout, but Allen knows of other stations with furniture in the women's locker rooms. In Station 4, for instance, she said a female firefighter has a bed in her locker room. And there are no rules that say you can't put furniture in locker rooms, she said. In fact, a department memo from seven years ago states that the female locker room in Station 15 should have seating. "So if it's not the fact that I'm a woman - if other women have furniture and it's not a problem - for me that's when it crosses over to race," Allen said.

On Oct. 17, the city filed a response to Allen's lawsuit in which it denied the allegations of discrimination. "Defendant asserts that it had legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for its actions and that its actions were not discriminatory," reads the brief. The city argues that Allen "failed to exhaust administrative remedies" and that therefore her "claims ... are barred in whole or part" and that the statute of limitations has already passed. The city takes "special exception" to Allen's claims that she was the victim of retaliatory treatment and racial discrimination (not, however, to her claims of gender discrimination) and requests that the court require her to prove these allegations. Discovery between the parties will proceed over the

next few months; Sutton says that, as a general rule, such cases take an average of 18 to 24 months to go to trial, though most of these cases settle before making it to court.

"I never wanted to go to court. ... I just want a place to sit - that's it. This is crazy, that you have to go to court to get something done," Allen said. "If I were to just sit back and say, 'OK, this is just a guy thing,' then the same thing would happen to the next person to come along. ... It would just kill my heart if this happened to somebody else. This is where I live, and Austin is my community. I cannot let that happen to anybody else. This is not a 'Nona versus city of Austin' issue - it's a community issue." ■



Men's Locker Room



Women's Locker Room

Wx web extra

See Nona Allen's videos of Austin Fire Station 15 women's and men's locker rooms with this story at austinchronicle.com.

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Disagreeing to Agree

With contract negotiations suspended, Austin firefighters look inward for a change

BY MICHAEL KING

Late last year, the months-long contract negotiations between the city of Austin and Austin Firefighters Association Local 975 ended acrimoniously when the union members overwhelmingly rejected the new contract proposal, tentatively concluded under the state's "meet and confer" laws governing public-safety unions. Although the negotiating teams from the city and the union had largely resolved pay and pension questions, the discussion soured over hiring procedures and standards. City management wanted increased flexibility in hiring procedures to broaden the demographic diversity of the department, and the union countered that undefined "flexibility" in hiring potentially threatens common and fair hiring standards altogether. Although the union negotiating team officially recommended the contract proposal to the membership, a split in the committee meant that some union officials campaigned against the agreement – and on Nov. 26, members concluded a 582-160 vote to reject the contract.

That's where things stood in December when City Manager Marc Ott announced (with City Council approval) that the city had fulfilled its "statutory obligation" to negotiate and would not return to the table – perhaps not until next summer, at the beginning of the

new budget cycle. The previous contract expired Sept. 30, and until further notice, the Austin Fire Department is operating under state civil service rules. Asked later about the deadlock, Assistant City Manager Mike McDonald reiterated that in management's judgment, "right now we've got an economic crisis that takes priority. We negotiated in good faith for 7½ months, and we reached a tentative agreement, but the members voted to reject that agreement. We have fulfilled our statutory obligation, and now we have to turn our attention to this economic crisis."

The Austin Firefighters Association was not happy about the city's response to the contract rejection and still isn't. "Contracts get voted down all the time in labor negotiations," said recently elected AFA Secretary Bob Nicks last week. "But that doesn't mean negotiations end. If that's the city's position, we consider that evidence of negotiating in bad faith." In December, Nicks and a committee of firefighters wrote to Ott, asking "what it would take" to get negotiations moving again, but at this point, management hasn't budged.

Earlier this week, McDonald said the situation has not fundamentally changed, and with continuing bad economic news, the city has to concentrate on other priorities. "We don't



A group of Local 975 union firefighters has formed a hiring and diversity committee to "help get the union's message out" to the community and to develop a hiring process proposal to present to the full membership and eventually to department managers. Chaired by battalion chief and Austin Firefighters Association Secretary Bob Nicks, the committee members include (back row, l-r) Lt. Pablo Ruis, firefighter Danny Wynn, specialist Greg Pope, firefighter Mark Schultz, (front row, l-r) firefighter Katherine Casey, firefighter Carrie Stewart, and Nicks.

plan on additional meetings with the firefighters in the near future, but it's not because we have no interest in talking to them. We just have other urgent priorities right now that we have to focus on." He rejected Nicks' accusation of "bad faith." "The union [committee] was itself split on that contract," McDonald said, "so it was not presented to the membership in a normal, unified fashion."

Yet even while city management has reaffirmed its opposition to further negotiations, in the last few weeks there has been movement on the union side, and in a surprising direction. According to Nicks, a battalion chief and also AFD director of training, the firefighters have shifted their own priorities from further negotiations directly to the hiring issue, and more broadly to the negative public image of the AFD and the union that has been created by the impasse. "We're not trying to get back to the table right now," said Nicks last week. "We don't want to get back to the table and have 'racism' used against us" in negotiations.

That's because the major sticking point has reflected the city's insistence on broad flexibility in hiring procedures to meet its goal of creating a more diverse firefighting force – less Anglo, less male, and more reflective of the demographic makeup of Austin as a whole. Contrary to much public perception, insists Nicks, the union shares the city's goal of diversity – the two sides are just at loggerheads over how best to get there.

Statistics and History

Certainly the raw demographic numbers of the department staff argue that it's way past time for the AFD to diversify. As figures provided by the department last week reflect (see "APD Staff by the Numbers," at left), in a city that is approximately 45% white, 35% Hispanic, and 9% African-American, 79% of our firefighters are white, and 95% are men. Only 15% are Hispanic, and 5.5% are African-

American. (The remaining percentages, e.g., for the city's growing Asian population, are even worse.) This is not a new or surprising issue; it took a Department of Justice investigation and consent order in the early Eighties to raise the African-American numbers to what are now 56 firefighters. And as both Nicks and McDonald point out, a large group of black and Hispanic firefighters who entered under the decree will soon retire – meaning that without serious short-term recruitment, the minority firefighter numbers soon will be getting worse.

Despite those distressing numbers, Nicks says his fellow firefighters are being unfairly characterized by the city and local media as (so says their letter to Ott) a bunch of "white guys who want no change." He says that he and five other firefighters who (with the union's blessing) signed the letter to Ott are a multiethnic group of (mostly young) men and women committed to the department and the city's future. Frustrated by the deadlock with the city, Nicks says the group has become a de facto "hiring and diversity committee," tasked by the union with conceiving a cadet hiring and standards proposal that will meet the approval of the city as well as the union. "The city says it wants diversity," Nicks said last week, "but they haven't been able to come up with an effective plan to create it – instead they just want 'flexibility.' We think that's a recipe for more unfairness, and we believe there are better ways to do it." The group, now with seven members but still without an official name as of last week, is formulating a draft plan it is showing to official and media representatives in an attempt to restart the conversation.

Flexibility or Fairness

The crux of the argument over the hiring of new cadets turns on the meaning of the much-debated terms "standards" and "flexibility." In the name of maintaining "high standards," the

AFD Staff by the Numbers

AFD Rank	Male	Female	Caucasian	Hispanic-American	African-American	Asian /Other	Total
Total	962 95.0%	51 5.0%	796 78.6%	149 14.7%	56 5.5%	12 1.2%	1,013
Firefighter	493 92.8%	38 7.2%	384 72.3%	99 18.6%	38 7.2%	10 1.9%	531
Specialist	189 95.5%	9 4.5%	161 81.3%	25 12.6%	11 5.6%	1 0.5%	198
Lieutenant	175 98.3%	3 1.7%	152 85.4%	20 11.2%	5 2.8%	1 0.6%	178
Captain	68 100%	0 0%	64 94.1%	3 4.4%	1 1.5%	0	68
Battalion Chief	30 100%	0 0%	28 93.3%	2 6.7%	0	0	30
Division Chief	4 80%	1 20%	5 100%	0	0	0	5
Assistant Chief	3 100%	0 0%	2 67%	0	1 33%	0	3

Women make up only 5% of the Austin Fire Department staff overall, and there are only four women on the force with the rank of lieutenant or above (1.4% of those in that category). Of the 106 officers ranked captain and above, 98 are white males.

SOURCE: AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

union balked at the city's demand for "greater flexibility" in various candidate rankings and skill tests and examinations used in the hiring process; the city responded that "standards," in this context, has become little more than a code word for repeating the same old mistakes and hiring in the same old demographic patterns. "We haven't lowered any 'standards,'" insists McDonald. "Wherever we've made a change, we've tightened the standards, not lowered them."

The argument came to a deadlock over the proposed contract, which the city says intentionally included a provision (Article 17, Section 9: "Changes to Process") that would have granted broad flexibility (Nicks says "unlimited flexibility") to newly appointed Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, who assumes her office in February. Article 17, "Hiring and Cadet Training," contains sections on examinations, ranking, grouping of candidates, interviews, etc., mostly specific and technical. Section 9 reads, "Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement or Chapter 143 [of the civil service code], the City may amend the process described in this Agreement or may develop and implement a process for

hiring that deviates from any current restrictions of this Agreement and/or Chapter 143," followed by a couple of narrow exceptions. According to Nicks, the provision "means they can change the hiring process in any way they want or develop an entirely different process disregarding civil service 143 law." Moreover, he said, the city rejected the inclusion of "fairness principles" that would guarantee the same process for all applicants. The union's negotiators split strongly over this provision, but narrowly approved the contract; when it went to the members, Nicks and others spoke out against it, and Nicks believes the members' rejection confirms his own judgment of this provision.

The city responds that the union's stated fears of variable standards (i.e., selective favoritism) are exaggerated in light of governing law and common practice and also ignore a historical Fire Department culture in which nepotism, favoritism, and institutional racism created the radical demographic imbalance still in evidence today. McDonald says the department, especially under a new chief, needs the ability to "tweak" the hiring process to get it right, and a rigid contract, binding for four years, would make it impossible to adjust to mistakes or changing circumstances.

Nicks doesn't deny that the department he joined in the mid-Eighties was still marked by casual racism and sexism, but he says it's virtually unheard of among current firefighters. "You just don't see it or hear it any-

more," he said, "and I think people are making judgments based on the way things used to be – especially among these younger firefighters, it's just not that way anymore."

Not everyone at AFD is persuaded that racism is a thing of the past, nor that the rejection of the proposed contract carries no taint of resistance to greater diversity. Darren Hyson, secretary of the Austin African-American Firefighters Association, commented wryly: "Some folks look at the history of resistance to meeting the diversity goals ... and think, could that be what's still going on? The burden of proof is on those that are resisting." He also dismissed the claim that flexibility in hiring threatens "standards." "The Texas Commission on Fire Protection mandates what [standards] must be met," Hyson said, adding that a contract can't change that.

Evolving the Process

Whatever the general level of personal racism or gender animosity at large in the Fire Department, the personnel numbers are undeniable, do not fairly reflect the population of the community they serve – and because of those pending retirements, are

"The city says it wants diversity, but they haven't been able to come up with an effective plan to create it – instead they just want 'flexibility.' We think that's a recipe for more unfairness, and we believe there are better ways to do it."

– Bob Nicks

likely to get worse before they get better. Nicks says he and his colleagues are determined to make those numbers change for the better and are in the midst of developing an overall hiring plan to address both the short-term shortage of minority and female cadets as well as the long-term need for a fairer hiring process that the entire department, and then the whole city, can support.

It's arguable that the union's new posture is as much an attempt to make lemonade out of post-negotiation lemons as it will be a new breakthrough approach to hiring firefighters. When the contract was initially rejected, union officials clearly expected the city to return to negotiations to pursue alternatives. For the next several months, at least, it does not appear that's going to happen. "This is still an evolving hiring process," Nicks says, "and will not be presented to the membership for their approval until it is closer to a completed program. This is a committee authorized by the association president but has been given much latitude to work toward solving the hiring issues, addressing mischaracterizations [of the firefighters], and then returning to the table."


New Fire Chief Kerr is arriving in Austin at a very interesting time. Indeed, her own appointment is testimony to a wind of change blowing across City Hall. Whether that breeze will soon kindle embers now burning among the firefighters themselves the next few months should tell. ■

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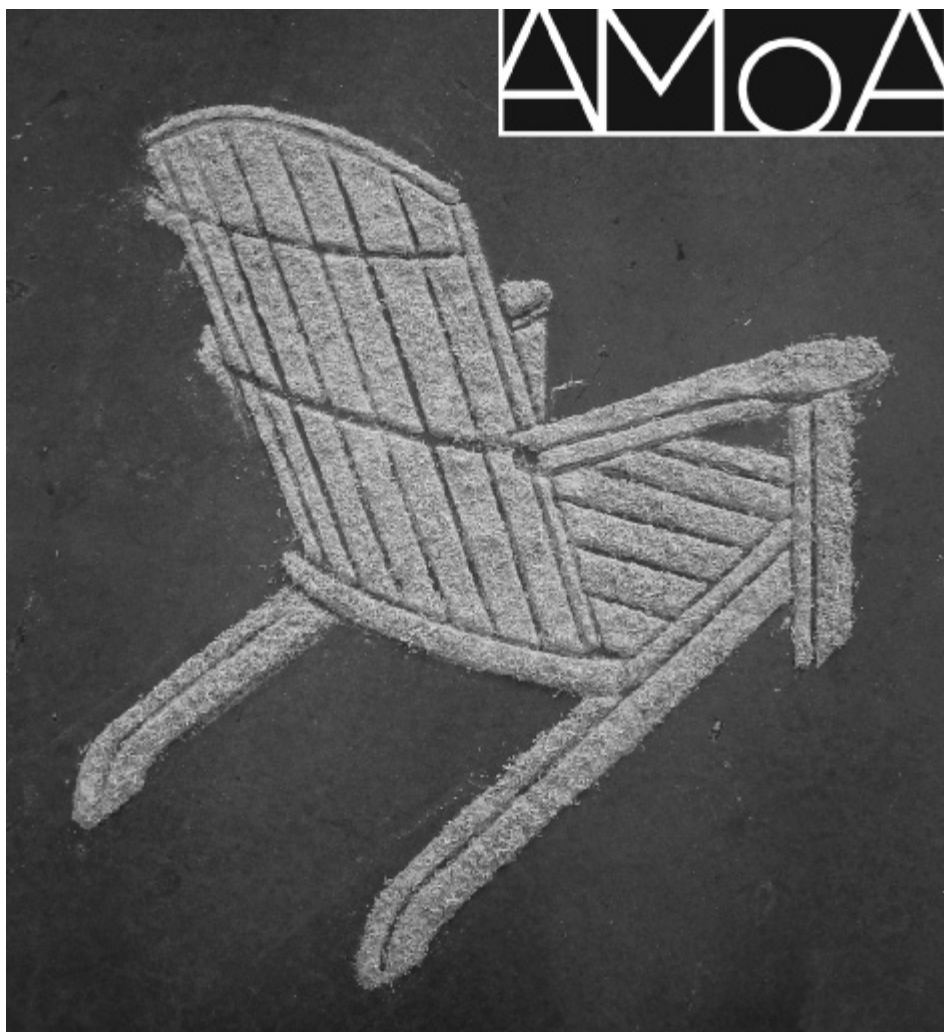


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Jill Bedgood, *Eternal Vacation*, 2007, Sawdust, 35 x 31 x 3/8 inches, Courtesy of Damian and Paula Priour

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President Obama

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Everyone knows there's something extraordinary in the air. Everyone wants it to mean what they want it to mean. But when a historical moment is as extraordinary as ours, it busts boundaries, defies expectations, and abounds with paradoxes – perversely as disappointing as it is fulfilling, as contradictory as it is inevitable, unavoidably revealing the underside of “normal” and exposing all that teemed beneath the surface of what was and what can never again be. Logical analysis is inadequate, for logic is based on yesterday. All we know about tomorrow is that it's not likely to play by any rules we know.

Barack Obama ascends to the presidency at such a moment in history – a moment he helped create. But it is one thing to have a part in creating such a moment, quite another to control it. It's rare that one can control what one creates.

A year ago, people whose intelligence I respect told me that I ignored the “intangibles” about Obama, failing to understand his “evanescent” side. I still don't know what they meant or if they were right. But when I studied Obama's mission statement in *Foreign Policy* (July/August 2007), I saw nothing markedly different from America's overseas intentions these last 30 years. Right there, in black and white, Obama praised George H.W. Bush for “the effort to oust Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991.” So now I'm not surprised when he surrounds himself with foreign-policy hawks – I'm only surprised at liberals who are surprised.

Two days before Super Tuesday – Feb. 3, 2008 – *The New York Times* ran a front-page story on how Sen. Obama promised his Illinois constituents he'd make the nuclear industry accountable for leaks in its nukes – then he allowed that industry to write a bill that effectively let them do as they pleased.

Those execs reciprocated by joining his cause as highly profitable “bundlers.” Obama went with the money, betraying his constituents. So I wasn't surprised last summer when he voted for a surveillance bill that he'd promised to filibuster. Again, all that surprised me was that liberals were surprised.

I wasn't prepared to put faith in a politician who said, as Obama did: “I felt I heard God's spirit beckoning me. I submitted myself to his will, and dedicated myself to discovering his truth and carrying out his works” (*The Atlantic*, December 2007, p.49). How surprising is it when that man chooses an anti-gay evangelist to mouth the invocation at his inauguration? Obama is appealing to people who share his hierarchical belief in God. And he wants folks who didn't vote for him

to have something to cheer on Inauguration Day – which makes a kind of sense. That is, after all, the sort of thing he said he'd do. Inclusive. Nonideological. The surprise, yet again, is that liberals are surprised.

They'd best read David Mendell's biography, *Obama: From Promise to Power*, in which

Obama says, “I never feel like I left what I consider to be the mainstream of American thinking” (p.247). With variations, he repeated that statement often. In picking the sort of cabinet I would have expected of Hillary Clinton, he's living up to what he said. His picks are savvy for a man determined to govern from the center. Given his rhetoric, it's odd that among his top foreign-policy people there is no one who opposed the war from the beginning. Odd, too, that his economic advisers all are Wall Street insiders – not one consumer advocate among them, as yet. But it can be argued that, given the makeup of Congress, Obama needs people who can convince conservatives. (Liberals, as evidenced, need less convincing.)

letters
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PEAT DUGGINS

As for Obama's orchestrations of great masses of people indulging in passionate displays of near-hysteria – historically that sort of thing hasn't worked out well. He exhorted crowds to shout: “We believe! We believe! We believe!” That's when he lost my trust. I kept thinking of Eugene V. Debs, the great radical of a century ago. Once Debs was organizing tenant farmers in the South. As he ended a fiery speech one called out, “Brother Debs, stay with us here, and lead us into the Promised Land!” “Friend,” said Debs, “if I could lead you in, somebody else could lead you out.”

I thought of that at every Obama mass event – especially when I was most moved. In assuming the mantle of power, Barack Obama becomes Power with a capital “P” I am glad

he's president, but I mean to be a responsible citizen. A responsible citizen is difficult to lead, insists on being heard, never takes power at its word, is neither a cynic nor an optimist, and reserves judgment until rhetoric is fulfilled or betrayed by deeds.

If the rhetoric is fulfilled, only then is it time to cheer. If the rhetoric is betrayed, then, yet again, it's time to rebel.

Obama's presidency appeals to our cinematic sense of story: An exceptionally extraordinary man comes out of nowhere and takes power in a dangerously extraordinary time. That cinematic aura is part of what got him elected. He is that man, and this is that time, but we'd best remember that this ain't no movie. We need to be a citizenry, not an audience.

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We wanted change? We've already gotten more change than anyone sufficiently comprehends. Consider 2008 as it becomes 2009. Barack Obama is an urbane Northern black man elected with roughly the same white votes as Bill Clinton, a charming Southern white man ... at the very moment right-wing Republicans quasi-socialized U.S. housing, insurance, and banking ... just three months after Russia successfully invaded a U.S. ally (Georgia) while suffering no consequences. Those events together constitute a shattering of economic, geopolitical, and social paradigms unique in history. Add the rising might of China, India, and Brazil; the maturation of the European Union (countries that have bloodied one another for centuries acting peacefully in concert); the empowerment of Western women; and the social acceptance, throughout the West, of homosexuality and endless varieties of gender-bending. Throw in the deadly wild card of stateless entities effectively employing violence for political effect the world over. Spike all that with the connectivity of the Internet, the inexorability of climate change, and the euro now an effective competitor with the dollar. Stir it all into the same chili pot, and you have a world no one wanted and few imagined, a world surreal yet unavoidably real, brave or not, that every day races ahead of institutions created to govern a tamer world that is no more.

That is what President Obama faces. A world rearranged, a world in drastic transformation, a world in which no one can be certain of the meaning, force, or value of any of its ferociously contesting elements. Humanity, as a species, is shaken to its core. In such a crisis, "optimism" and "pessimism" are equally vacuous poses. In such a world, "negative" and "positive" are merely two sides of an eight-sided box. In such a world, no one knows what to do, and everyone must try – try our best for our own good no less than for the good of our neighbors, remembering, as Jesus most specifically taught, that even our enemy is our neighbor. The one inescapable fact, deniable by no one, is that we are all in this together. The other inescapable fact, equally undeniable, is that we're each in this alone. Upon the paradox of these clashing facts – clashing yet blending, too – does our fate depend, all and every one of us.

Like it or not, we are sharers in one another's fates as never before, equally doomed, equally blessed, equally at risk, equally participants. So the word "democracy" has taken on new meaning. The world is "democratic" in a brand-new way, in that no one anywhere is separate from our shared crisis and we will rise or fall, survive or fail, unavoidably as neighbors.

And the face of this time, the face of this change, has, topsy-turvy-like, become Barack Obama's – the most enigmatic and emblematic face in our world. A world of startled, unwilling, frightened, eager, yearning neighbors. ■

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Events at BookPeople



BASED ON THE MOVIE

BILLY TAYLOR

Saturday, January 17 3 PM

Simon & Schuster

It's been nine months since Bobby Conlon's wife dumped him for a hot young film director, and he's doing great! To prove it, he flies to Texas to work on the most dysfunctional movie ever. Just when things couldn't get any worse, his wife takes over the movie. In spite of everything, Billy hopes for a happy ending. This is the movie business, right? This was featured as a New & Noteworthy book in our August '08 newsletter, and we are excited to welcome author, Billy Taylor, to BookPeople today at 3 PM.

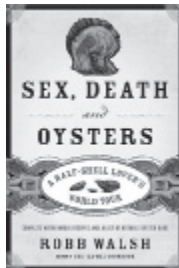
SEX, DEATH, & OYSTERS

ROBB WALSH

Sunday, January 18 3 PM

Perseus Book Group

Robb Walsh (*The Texas Cowboy Cookbook*) was astonished to discover that, all around the country, the local oysters of Galveston Bay were being passed off as Blue Points and Chincoteagues (oysters with more prestige and a higher price). This sparked an oyster curiosity that has led him around the world, sampling literally thousands of different oysters. This five-year journey is chronicled with humor, with and lots of recipes. Join us in welcoming this local Texan to BookPeople today at 3 PM.



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The New York Graphic Workshop: 1964-1970 is provided by Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and Jeanne and Michael Klein. Additional support is provided by the Alcoa Foundation.

Tamara Melcher, *Untitled*, 1965 (detail), Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 60 in., collection of Forrest Myers, Brooklyn, NY.

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THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN COMEDY TOUR

If you don't laugh, the terrorists have already won

An Israeli and a Palestinian walk into a bar.

Okay, no, wait, I got that wrong. Hold on – is it two Israelis? No, wait – it's three, isn't it? Yeah, that's it: three Israelis. And a Palestinian. And they're not walking into a bar, no, they're walking into the Jewish Community Association of Austin.

Okay, now I got it.

And they're not actually from Israel or Palestine, these guys, they're all definitely Americans, but they're of Israeli heritage. Except for the Palestinian, of course, whose heritage is, well, you get the idea. Yeah, and he likes to refer to the other three as "hostages." Seriously.

A real riot, these wisenheimers, lemme tell you. You'll plotz.

Yisrael Campbell, Aaron Freeman, Charley Warady, and (Marhaba!) Ray Hanania: These four guys are comedians, professional stand-up funny-men, and they tour the country (and beyond – to Jerusalem, even) cracking wise about the various ethnic trials and tribulations of life as hyphenated Americans but especially about the seemingly interminable Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

You'd think a show like this might not do well.

You'd think a show like this might, ah, bomb. But from all reports, these guys – oh, the slang of the entertainment world! – these guys *kill*. That's partly because they've honed their respective solo acts for years before joining forces for this united front of humor. Campbell, born Catholic but later converted to Orthodox Judaism, also works his schtick in solo shows such as *It's Not in Heaven* and the upcoming *You Can Never Be Too Jewish*; Freeman, another convert (and African-American besides), is a frequent commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*; Warady plied his Jewish gags in gigs on campuses across the U.S. and on Comedy Central before actually emigrating to Israel in 1998; Hanania is a comedian and a columnist for both Saudi Arabia's *Arab News* and Israel's *Jerusalem Post*. Together, these men are a live comedy version of the Four Horsemen of the – uh, on second thought, let's set that metaphor aside for another time. But here they come, the Israeli/Palestinian Comedy



(L-r) Yisrael Campbell, Ray Hanania, Aaron Freeman, and Charley Warady

Tour, ready to shatter the tensions of political and military and cultural aggression with a few swift salvos of laughter.

Please note: Any rumors that the current escalation of violence and heavy warfare along the Gaza Strip is part of a clever cross-media publicity campaign for this show ... well, those rumors were as yet unconfirmed at press time. And check your weapons at the door. – Wayne Alan Brenner

The Israeli/Palestinian Comedy Tour will appear Saturday, Jan. 17, 8pm, at the Dell Jewish Community Campus, 7300 Hart. For more information, visit www.shalomAustin.org/spotlight.



Rosalyn Nasky in "Fray" from Passion at Play

Most performing-arts companies are all about bringing in more people. In something of a shift, American Repertory Ensemble is bringing in fewer people to its next show. Deliberately. The program, *In a Sense*, is limited to just 100 audience members, who will be sitting onstage with the artists.

According to ARE Artistic Director David Justin, that wasn't always the plan. Initially, the company was just looking for an alternative to its home space, the University of Texas' McCullough Theatre, which was unavailable due to this month's grand reopening of Bass Concert Hall next door. As ARE was exploring other venues, the economy took a header, and, in Justin's words: "We thought, 'How do we look at the circumstances we have and make the most of this experience for an audience?' And one of the things that's always been mentioned by audience members of our performances is the intimacy,

having that much talent in such a close proximity. We thought, 'Why don't we take that to the next level and put the audience onstage, inside the magic?' So we were able to utilize the Payne Theatre in the Department of Theatre & Dance. And the nature of putting people onstage and how we could configure the stage space started limiting us to 100 seats."

Justin has some experience working with the audience in such close confines, and "it's got its pluses and minuses," he allows. "The minuses are that there are only a hundred seats, that you can't share it with three, five, or seven hundred people. The other side of that, in terms of artistic integrity, making connections with the audience, really sharing art forms, and building community, those things are home runs. It's so spe-

cial for both the artists and the audience. That's the thing that makes me think, 'Well, I'm sorry that it's only 100 people, but it's really worth it.'"

That's especially true when you consider the caliber of talent that will be performing at your elbow: Atlanta Ballet principals Christine Winkler and John Welker, who will dance to Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 13* as performed by pianist Carla McElhaney, whose performance with trumpeter John Carroll on Hindemith's *Sonata for Trumpet and Piano* was a highlight of ARE's *Passion at Play* program last summer; Texas Guitar Quartet founding member Jonathan Dotson; New York City Ballet alumna Michele Gifford; local musician Graeme Francis; and *Conspirare* founder and Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson. Even Justin finds himself floored by the creative energy he's surrounded himself with. "I'm just always so humbled by the talent in the room. I'm like, 'Why am I the only one in here?' I feel very fortunate to be doing what I'm doing."

Not surprisingly, given that lineup, ARE has already sold out the lone 7pm performance of *In a Sense* this Saturday. "And we sold it out eight days before the performance," says Justin. "You know, in this climate, that's a big deal. It's really encouraging to know that there's that much support. I'm excited by the implications of that for the future."

Future, yeah, but what about the present? "We have started selling tickets to the 2pm dress rehearsal," he adds. "We're running it like a show, but the caveat is: If something goes wrong, the audience gets the privilege of seeing the gloves come off." – Robert Faires

The dress rehearsal for *In a Sense* will take place Saturday, Jan. 17, 2pm, at the B. Iden Payne Theatre, 300 E. 23rd, on the UT campus. For more information, call 762-4125 or visit www.americanrepensemble.org.

SEE. HEAR. SPEAK.

No evil, just laughs

For the past 15 years, Austin + January + performance festival has always equaled FronteraFest. (See "Risk Immersion," p.34.) But those creative sneaks in the city's improv community, who seem to be able to infiltrate just about anything (see also FronteraFest), have been carving out a corner of January for their very own little performance festival. If you're not yet familiar with see. hear. speak., the key to the four-night celebration of comedy is simple: Each verb in the title corresponds to a specific performance medium that is the focus of that evening's entertainment. "See" is video (Thursday), "hear" is music (Friday), and "speak" is spoken word (Saturday and Sunday). And that's all you need to know. Well, except for the fact that the comedy being showcased in the fourth iteration, Jan. 15-18, covers some of the city's most energetic sketch and improv troupes, plus a smattering of guests from the wilds of New York City and Los Angeles. For example:

- "See" will not only feature video from local sketch factories the P! Company and Studio 8 but the eternally sozzled Lovey & Lovey giving us their tipplers' take on scenes from classic cinema.
- "Hear" serves up the loop-de-loops of Austin playback manipulation master Chuck Watkins and the Francotacular cabaret stylings of faux Parisian duo Le Sexy; the West Coast improvisers whose every scene ends in self-murder, Pacto Suicidó; Phoenix musical duo Dangerville; and the indescribably out-there Imagine the Band, with the wetsuit-clad Eric William Pierson belting out original songs to backup musicians you have to conjure in your own cranium.
- "Hear" brings to town stand-up kings Sean Patton, Upright Citizens Brigade alumnus Sean Conroy, and *Saturday Night Live* writer Ali Farahnakian, plus an Austin spin on the after-hours chat show, *Late Night With Midnight Society*, hosted by the local troupe.

All shows are at ColdTowne Theater, 4803 Airport. For a full schedule, see Arts Listings, p.66. For more information, visit www.seehearspeakfest.com.

– R.F.

Risk Immersion

Time again to sink deeply into FronteraFest's exhilarating experiments in performance

The creativity has been unleashed.

FronteraFest, our annual jamboree of homegrown performance, where anyone and everyone is encouraged to take the stage, blasted off Jan. 13, and through Feb. 14, you can savor more self-written monologues, interpretive dance, improvised comedy, slam poetry, hip-hop, musicals, and who knows what else than any other time of the year. Experimentation is the order of the day, and the free-for-all spirit that has always reigned in this 16-year tradition is part of what makes it exhilarating. Where else can you see so many people taking so many risks – just because they can?

The *Chronicle* takes pleasure in offering you a guide to the fun. The Short Fringe – the showcase of pieces 25 minutes or less – runs Tuesdays through Saturdays, at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. As always, the Saturday program offers the Best of the Week, culled from works presented Tuesday through Friday, and the fifth week features pieces judged Best of the Fest. Each Wednesday will feature a piece commissioned by the playwrights organization Austin Script Works.

The 2009 Long Fringe offers 18 full-length productions running Jan. 22-Feb. 1 at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, and Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. Plus, there's Mi Casa Es Su Teatro, a host of original works performed in homes around Austin, on Saturday, Feb. 7. For information, call 479-PLAY, the FronteraFest hotline at 236-7511, or visit www.hydeparktheatre.org.
– Robert Fairies

Thursday, Jan. 15

"No Comas Tomates

Antes de Dormir
Porque Tendrás
Pesadillas" by
Adam Martinez and
Isabelle Salazar,
with Todo Big
Time Presents.

"She Creatures:
Scenes of Mythic
Women" by Sarah
Saltwick. Selkies
and sirens, music
and food.

"A Cure for
Boredom" by
Bastion Carboni.

A lighthearted buddy comedy – about suicide.
A selection from the collection of plays *A Matter
of Taste*.

Le Sexy by Jason Laney and Stephanie Russo.
A comedic French lounge act.

Girltrap. Improvised comedy by Brent Foshee
and Josh Krilov.



Friday, Jan. 16

"Time of Elements" by Mysti Jace Pride and Nisha
Brown. Dance inspired by the four earthly elements.
"Letters of Compliment & Complaint" by Mocha Jean
Herrup. Herrup's critical-thinking intervention
strategies with corporate America. Monologue with
music and PowerPoint.

"Strings" by Jeff Hernandez and Brad McEntire.
Audacity Theatre Lab comically explores what
happens when a writer's own creation turns on him.
Girls Girls Girls. All-female troupe improvises a full
musical with the help of a keyboard player.

"Calm" by Nigel O'Hearn (book) and Michael McKelvey
(lyrics). Short play for six voices and one piano in
which six high school students strive to understand
themselves through arson and sexual exploration.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Best of Week One

Tuesday, Jan. 20

"Patchwork" by Julianna Fry. Look at memories after
a death through the disjointed words that survive.

"The Choices That We Breathe" by Kristie Schuh.
A three-character play.

"Tower to Tower: The 1 Man Show" by SaulPaul.
A life story told through hip-hop and spoken word.

"Coloring Outside the Lines" by Alex Garza. Stories
by a messy and colorful array of characters.

"The Alcoholic Drama" by Thomas LeVrier. One act,
three actresses. Directed by Chase Hodgson.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

"Reclaiming Mary" by M. Melissa Marlowe.

"Being the Right Size" by Sissy Siero and Gina Faunt-
Saez. One woman's questions and epiphanies about
how she "fits" into the world.

"Fenimore and Randall Get Stuck" by Aimée
Gonzalez. (ASW Commission) Directed by
Jamison Driskill.

"Am I Freaking JOB?" by Erin Molson. Monologues
based on horrible luck in life and finding humor in it.

"A Brilliant Revolution" by Francisco Rodriguez,
Amanda Garfield, and Fred Jones. KOUF Radio is on
the air: We don't just report the news; we attack it.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Get Up. Master improvisers Shannon McCormick and
Shana Merlin present narrative long-form improv.

"Bloomingdale's Elephants" by P. Poullette
MacDougal. A 10-minute comedy.

Firth and Arjet. Improvised character comedy by
Kristin Firth and Jessica Arjet.

"Out of Lines" by Christopher Lee and Christopher
Michael. Two titans of slam poetry unite in a hip-hop
theatre piece showing glimpses of black masculinity.
TBA by Eirik Ott. Some kind of Big Poppa E thing.

Friday, Jan. 23

"Two Young Ladies From a Small Texas Town" by
Belva McKann. Sisters Lurlene and Ruby Jean in the
Dead Center, Texas, trailer park.

"Harold," an excerpt by Howard Petrick. Story of a
boy whose dream is to be a great concert violinist



set in small-town America during the McCarthy era.

"Anarky and the Baby Ruth" by Melissa Jackson.

Comedy in which two candy-bar creators meet with
Anarky as they're making two human candy bars.

"T.A.G." by Stamp Lab (Cheryl Coward, Ana-Maurine
Lara, and K.T. Shorb). An exploration of transgressive
acts and their impact on marked bodies.

Murphy. Long-form Chicago-style improv from Lisa
Jackson, Kyle Sweeney, Josh Krilov, Anthony Norton,
Stephanie Russo, and Brent Foshee.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Best of Week Two



'Leela's Wheel'/ '52 Pick Up'

Gemma Wilcox, a former Austin resident
now living in Boulder, Colo., wants to make
her living as a performer. "Ten years ago, I
toured the Canadian Fringe Theatre circuit as
a stage manager with my aunt and her the-
atre partner," says Wilcox, who will be acting
in two shows, *Leela's Wheel* and *52 Pick Up*,
during the Long Fringe. "We toured across
Canada for two summers in a row. We also

Tuesday, Jan. 27

"Nine Hundred Pound Goose" by Walter Miranda.

"The Park" by Brandon Furst.

"Open Mic" by Kerri Lendo and John Morton. Play
taking place at a performance open mic.

"Play It by Ear" by Leticia Rodriguez. Solo
performance regarding life in the burbs.

"A Work in Progress" by Seth Johnson and Patton
Quinn. Dramatic scenes of the authors' relationship
created to help them work through their problems.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

"Dress-Up" by Emma Holder and Julia Kitchen. Two-
woman improv and sketch show exploring the joy
and terror of getting ready for the outside world.

"Lascivious Lunches and Decadent Dinners" by
Priscilla Sample (ASW Commission). Popular cook
Lynn Matthews finds herself a suspect in the
police investigation of her husband's death.

ratliff+jackson. John Ratliff and Lisa Jackson perform
Chicago-style improvised comedy.

"Folding House" by Sheila Gordon. A real estate
auction, a stroke victim, and 9/11 truth seekers
converge in this solo performance.

TBA by Stephen Pruitt.

Thursday, Jan. 29

"Five 'Til" by Aimée Gonzalez. A Loaded Gun Theory
performance.

"Cash Smear" by David Garcia. A socioeconomic
struggle with religious connotative/symbolic
elements of a hyperreal world of sex.

Lovey & Lovey. Michael Jastroch and Tami Nelson as
two hopeless boozers bantering between scenes
ranging from funeral heckling to awkward first dates.

"Las Vegas Girl" by Timothy Braun. Two men recall
the deaths of women under an Austin moon tower.

"Midlife Narrative With a Mandolin" by Nettie
Hartssock. Swallowing the Big Pill and looking for the
"Big Chill."

did the Edinburgh Festival and Adelaide
Festival. I was quite young – 19, 20 years
old – and it was so incredible, so amaz-
ing. I got to experience and learn a lot."

So much that she put together a tour of
her own material a couple of years ago. In
Wheel, much of which was written while
Wilcox was in Austin, "it's just me and a
chair. I play 20 characters. Inanimate
objects, men, women, children, animals.
There's a cat and hamster and peacock
and Scottish chickens and a single father
and a heroin addict ex-wife. I play a saxo-
phone character, I play a guy playing the
saxophone, and I play a woman singing
along to the saxophone."

Wheel is part of Wilcox's 2009 tour,
which is traveling all around North
America, along with 52, in which she
appears with Sam Elmore. "It's 52 scenes
about a relationship. The titles of the
scenes are written on 52 cards. We throw
the cards up in the air, they fall on the
ground, and we pick the cards up random-
ly and perform all 52 scenes."

Sounds ambitious – just like Wilcox.
Don't miss her, because there's no telling
when she might travel through again.

– Barry Pineo

'The Dick Monologues'

So, what's a girl to do after a particularly ugly dating experience? Why, put on a show, of course! Spike Gillespie created *The Dick Monologues* "after a particularly dicky experience with an especially dicky man." The longtime local author, filmmaker, ordained minister, nuclear physicist, and militant knitter invited some of her performer friends to stage "revenge as art" at Hyde Park Theatre one summer night in 2006.

"The only rule was that they do a piece interpreting the word 'dick' any way they saw fit," says Gillespie. She supposed that maybe a few people would attend. The show was sold out, and "people asked us to do it again. And then again," she says.

The Dick Monologues still runs monthly with a regular lineup of writers, performers, singer-songwriters, and special guests, such as Lauren Lane, formerly of TV show *The Nanny* and recently star of Zach Theatre's *The Clean House*; musician and "whimsicologist" Southpaw Jones; Rudy Ramirez, "token gay Latino"; *How Perfect Is That* author Sarah Bird; slam poet Diane Fleming; and *Austin American-Statesman* columnist Sarah Barnes. The atmosphere at *Dick* is loose and informal and maybe just an excuse to eat and drink: Performers read their stories, potluck on stage, set up shots of likker, and Gillespie brings her knitting. There's almost the feeling of a revival meeting, and why not? "We've all had dicky experiences," Gillespie notes.

— Mary Jo Pehl

Friday, Jan. 30

"Duty to Warn" by Teresa Stankiewicz. A young bipolar woman has attempted suicide, and her dysfunctional family fights to help her.

"Snow in the Heat of Summer" by Consuelo Samarripa. Medley of stories, legends, and myths.

"Stories From the Block" by Tim Curry. One-man show about being a prison guard.

"Reunion Musical II" by Charley and Carolyn Devany. A comedic musical about recovering from high school angst 20 years later.

"A Reluctant Tragic Hero" by Anton Chekhov. Andrew Varenhorst and Noel Gaulin of humdrum collective perform Chekhov's comic sketch.



"Stories From the Block"

Saturday, Jan. 31

Best of Week Three

Tuesday, Feb. 3

"McSki" by Bill Johnson. A one-person show.

"Edges" by Amy McAndrew and Cindy Vining. Reflections on female identity.

"(Dys)Connected" by Collin Bjork. Story of a mother whose search for her missing child is characterized by failed communication.

"My Darkness, My Inheritance" by Marcella Garcia. Monologue about the effects of the death of one's mother at an early age coupled with turning 30.

"Dada Space Clown" by David Jewell. A monologue.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

"After School Special: The Musical" by Rain Nox. All the specials' drama, angst, and heavy-handedness distilled into one head-spinning musical extravaganza.

"Pyretown" by John Belluso. Excerpts from the play.

"The Bitter Poet" by Kevin Draine. Poems about

looking for love in all the wrong coffee shops, strip clubs, and black-box performance spaces.

One AM. Improv by Chris Trew and Tami Nelson.

"Almost Entirely Unlike Comedy" by Hank Schwemmer (ASW Commission). Is it stand-up or a deconstruction of stand-up? And why is there a 12-drink minimum?

Thursday, Feb. 5

"The Walls Are Alive (with the sound of)" by Jennifer Margulies. In her family home, a decorator finds two spirits living: an unborn baby and an unwritten play.

"Damned Avalanche" by Patrick Knisely and Jenny Carlson. Improvised comedy.

"Oh, Daddy!" by Rhonda Kulhanek. New one-woman show from the creator of "The Mommy Confessions."

"Lulu's Charms in the Dark" by Candyce Rusk. Three women dance the night away in Chicago's Riverview Ballroom in the 1940s.

TBA by Katherine Catmull.

Friday, Feb. 6

"by a quiet sea" by Wura-Natasha Ogunji. The story of eight women whose paths cross.

"57 Boyfriends" by Stephanie Denson, Kirk German, and Heather Huggins. Semiautobiographical one-woman show.

"You're Killing Me Here" by Sheila Rinear. A woman sneaks into auditions for a Shakespearean company and outrageously tries to show what she can do.

"Travel Mugs Are Following Me" by Natalie George. Dance piece with eight to 12 performers.

"Whoom" by Emily Fordyce and Donna.

Saturday, Feb. 7

Best of Week Four

CONTINUED ON P.36

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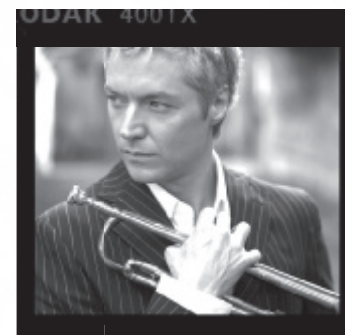
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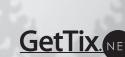
INTERCONTINENTAL
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN



This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, by a grant from Texas Commission on the Arts, and is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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AUSTIN TEXAS



'My Bugatti Story'

Imagine you are a handsome race-car driver. Now imagine you use your race-car driving skills to help fight the Nazis. Your imagination has just inhabited the life of Robert Benoist and the inspiration for Paul Ehrmann's new play, *My Bugatti Story*. Benoist was a renowned French race-car driver who, during World War II, became an agent with England's Special Operations Executive. Legend and history have it that Benoist parachuted into France, helped smuggle information and arms for the French Resistance, and even jumped from a moving car to flee the Gestapo. A real-life spy thriller.

Ehrmann first learned of Benoist when he was living in Los Angeles and writing for network television. Fascinated by the story, he wrote a screenplay complete with "some classic action sequences," such as a '57 Bugatti race car pursuing a steam locomotive. Though financing for the project never came through, Ehrmann jokes, "My work has been chasing the dime out in Hollywood like some natural fool." The story continued to grip his imagination, and when Ehrmann moved to Austin four years ago, he refashioned the screenplay into a play. Reworking the story for the stage strengthened it. "The voice of the narrator, most often hidden in a movie script, most prominent in a novel, least finds an arena in this stage production. Also, my jokes have gotten funnier," Ehrmann concludes. "It may be the Austin air or good nutrition, but I think the challenge and reward of facing a live audience makes us writers better!"



— Hannah Kenah

LONG FRINGE AT THE BLUE THEATER

The Bird and the Bee

(Capital T Theatre) Chloe and Jacob are beautifully in love. The first time they meet, they end their lives. Two plays explore the trajectory of two disaffected youths. "The Bird," by Al Smith, explores Jakob's journey; "The Bee," by Matt Hartley, tells Chloe's. *Wednesday, Jan. 21, 9:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 2pm; Wednesday, Jan. 28, 7:30pm; Friday, Jan. 30, 7pm.*

Drywall

(Buy the Whey) Do Doug and Peter have what it takes to make it as big-time Broadway playwrights? Or will Allison's constant disapproval and Roy's outlandish stories keep them from spinning their own tale? Find out on the next hilarious installment of *Drywall*. By David Meyers and Patrick Knisley. *Saturday, Jan. 24, 2:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 8:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 8:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 6:30pm.*

The Dick Monologues

(Spike Gillespie) Since 2007, *The Dick Monologues* has brought together Austin's best performers, writers, and musicians to whip out and size up the many definitions of "dick." New pieces are exposed alongside old favorites for folks that love dick, hate dick, and even have one of their own. *Monday, Jan. 19, 7:30pm; Friday, Jan. 23, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, noon; Saturday, Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

A Matter of Taste

(Poison Apple Initiative) Cannibalism. Incest. Suicide. Someone will be offended by this play (possibly vegetarians/vegans, performance artists, gay men with active lifestyles, Larrys, etc.), though that's not really the intention. We predict there will be snort-laughing and that you'll enjoy yourself. Written by Bastion Carboni. *Sunday, Jan. 25, 6:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 29, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 10:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 8:30pm.*

Sex, With Benefits

(Daniel Huntley Solon) In an abandoned New Jersey summer home, two young cyber fuck-buddies

meet for the first time. Battling to understand and fulfill their fantasies, they find themselves limited by stubborn desires and paralyzed by years of expectation. Can there be a happy ending, or is each just another loveless bedmate? *Thursday, Jan. 22, 9pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 8:30pm; Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, noon.*

Kill Will: The Lost Diary of Shakespeare

(Strike Theatre) Shakespeare's lost diary drops into the hands of a petty thief in London, with gangsters and scholars tearing through one another to get this priceless relic from him. Intrigue, violence, murder, and humor, courtesy of Austin Alexander, who co-directs with Nathan Osburn. *Tuesday, Jan. 20, 7:30pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 4:15pm; Thursday, Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, noon.*

The Science of Suggestion

(Christina Houle) The cast solicited more than 200 suggestions in various locations, then created text, movement, and visual imagery to reflect the broad spectrum of input received. Written by Layne Tanner, Mellissa Watt, Tanya Winters, Leigh Gaymon-Jones, Lindsay Robinson, and Christina Houle, who directs. *Thursday, Jan. 22, 7pm; Friday, Jan. 23, 9:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, noon; Sunday, Feb. 1, 4:30pm.*

The Drowned World

(Ken Webster) The Southwest premiere of Gary Owen's hauntingly powerful vision of a futuristic world where the beautiful are hunted down and destroyed. Hyde Park Theatre Artistic Director Ken Webster directs an all-star cast of local actors. *Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 4:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:30pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 2:15pm.*

Reality Check

(The Green Room Theatre) Would you bet it all for \$10 million? One contestant will take that chance and run through the gantlet of the courts and pass the jury - vicious, judgmental jerks you are. Yes, you are the jury, and one of you will be the accused. Written by John and Tracy Medberry. *Saturday, Jan. 24, 6:30pm; Monday, Jan. 26, 7:30pm; Friday, Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 2:15pm.*

LONG FRINGE AT SALVAGE VANGUARD THEATER

Dance Carousel

(Spank Dance Company/Austin Independent Choreographers) A showcase of 10 local dance artists, each creating four one-minute dances, for a total of 40 one-minute new movement pieces. *Tuesday, Jan. 20, 7:30pm; Friday, Jan. 23, 7pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 1:45pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 4:15pm.*

Our Angle in Heaven

(Maggie Gallant) In this one-woman show, Gallant presents painfully honest and funny stories of eight Brits whose lives turned odd corners when Princess Diana died. Plus the greatest conspiracy theory you'll ever hear. Lou Rigler directs. *Saturday, Jan. 24, 6pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, noon; Wednesday, Jan. 28, 9:15pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 4pm.*

Things in Life

(Ben Prager) Actor/playwright Prager uses a series of monologues to portray, with unblinking realism, a half-dozen familiar types in various stages of life. *Friday, Jan. 23, 9pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 4:15pm; Thursday, Jan. 29, 7pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, noon.*

Tear Down

(Hat Shop Productions/John M. Lively) In Lively's play, an elderly couple crippled by the memory of a lost child creates a magical world of hope and artifice, moving from one reality to the next, unaware that the last vestiges of their lives will soon come down - progress knocks on their door. *Thursday, Jan. 22, 8:45pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, noon; Friday, Jan. 30, 7pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 5:45pm.*

Let's Get Real

(Michael Kranes) "How many of you are completely happy in your lives?" This simple question has been asked worldwide to millions by master teacher Ted Jiles. *Let's Get Real* will give you very real tools to "explore an opportunity for levels of

happiness you only dreamed about." *Thursday, Jan. 22, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 10pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 3:45pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 6:15pm.*

52 Pick Up

(Gemma Wilcox Productions) Gemma Wilcox and Sam Elmore perform this piece by T.J. Dawe and Rita Bozi. There are 52 cards in a deck and 52 scenes about a couple's relationship. The title of each scene is written on a card. Two actors shuffle them, throw them, pick them up, and play all 52 scenes. *Wednesday, Jan. 28, 7pm; Friday, Jan. 30, 9:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 8pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 1:45pm.*

Leela's Wheel

(Gemma Wilcox Productions) Wilcox portrays 20 characters in this newly extended version of her award-winning comedy-drama *The Honeymoon Period Is Officially Over*. *Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 29, 8:45pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 2:15pm; Sunday, Feb. 1, 8pm.*

My Bugatti Story

(Paul Ehrmann) A man regains his sanity through the persona of a pre-World War II race-car driver who became a hero of the French Resistance. Close to 71% of Ehrmann's script is true. We travel through space and time with the main character/writer and four actors in multiple roles. *Monday, Jan. 19, 7:30pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 7:45pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 5:45pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, noon.*



Dance Carousel

Cochise!

(Improv for Evil) A fully improvised Seventies cop show. Detective John Cochise is a loose cannon scouring the streets of Metro City looking for trouble, and he won't stop until justice is served. We get the leads, shake down the witnesses, chase the bad guy, and take down Mr. Big. *Wednesday, Jan. 21, 7:30pm; Saturday, Jan. 24, 2:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 25, 8pm; Saturday, Jan. 31, 10:15pm.*

'Our Angle in Heaven'

Anyone perusing the title of this Long Fringe entry might think there's been a mistake, but there's no typo. "The crowds lining the street for Diana's funeral were proudly holding up various signs for the TV cameras," says Maggie Gallant, the writer of and sole performer in *Angle*. "People had put a lot of work into them, but I was amused by some of the misspellings, especially the one that read 'angle' rather than 'angel,' and I thought it would make a good show title."

Gallant, an English expat, only started writing and performing a few years ago: "I've always wanted to. Had my parents given in to my nagging to send me to stage school when I was an 11-year-old, I'm sure I'd be a star by now. But I fell into a public relations job, the only bearable parts of which were when I got to do television interviews and give presentations and new business pitches. I'm secretly a bit of a show-off."

A natural mimic, Gallant gets to show off quite a bit in this dark comedy, which she's been working on for a couple of years, performing a shorter version of it in last year's Short Fringe. This time, it has eight characters, including a Pakistani, an Irish woman, a Diana impersonator, and Gallant herself. And while the show might appear to be about all things Diana, "the impetus to start writing this piece was to tell my story," Gallant says. But if you want to know what that story is, you'll have to find out for yourself. — Barry Pineo

THE TAKER AND OTHER STORIES

by Rubem Fonseca
(translated by Clifford Landers)
Open Letter Books, 166 pp., \$15.95

If there's a writer out there more death-obsessed than Brazilian Rubem Fonseca, I'd love to hear his name. I'm just not sure I'd like to read his work.

In *The Taker and Other Stories*, the first collection of Fonseca's short stories to appear in English, the dominant tone is one of doom and existential catastrophe. Everywhere you look, the forces of evil are triumphing over the forces of good, or rather the forces of chaos are smothering the forces of order, calling to mind the apocalyptic novels of Cormac McCarthy, transplanted to a late-20th century metropolis and stripped of any biblical, or even poetic, resonance.

Fonseca's violence is lurid and grisly, his prose stark and unblinking, an unrepentant slap in the face to the hopes of liberal literary theorists who believe the redemptive forces of language and art are enough to make sense of brutality and economic despair.

In the collection's namesake, "The Taker," a poor man from one of Rio de Janeiro's improv-

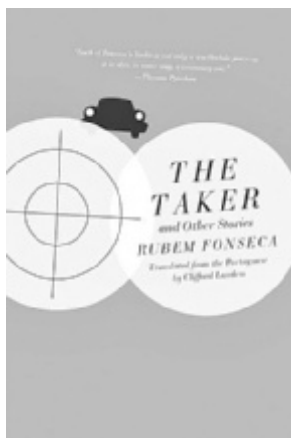
erished favelas converts his jealousy of the city's wealthy into murderous rage and class-conscious vigilantism. He hunts down the city's privileged like so many deer, confident that anything done to cripple a system in which some live in splendor while others live in squalor is just. In "Angels of the Marquee," a retired widower seeking to do good is sliced and diced for his troubles, a cautionary tale to anyone living with the delusion that charity in this world will bring about salvation. Even the innocent and the lonely aren't free from the violence, as demonstrated by a harried businessman in "The Other" and an unsuspecting pedestrian in "Night Drive."

Fonseca has volumes to say about the tenuousness of life, the viciousness of our fellow humans, and the price to be paid for the creation of a system built around the

success of the few coming at the expense of the many, and he says them in the calm, cool, ironic tone of the true nihilist: Nothing matters anyway, so what difference does it make what one person does to another?

You could call his style "journalistic" or "existential," but "ruthless" might be more to the point.

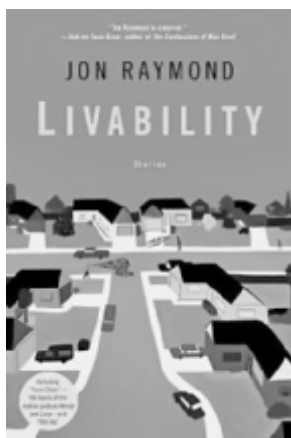
— Josh Rosenblatt



LIVABILITY: STORIES
by Jon Raymond
Bloomsbury USA, 272 pp., \$15 (paper)

Like Miranda July, whose blurb adorns the cover of his new story collection, Jon Raymond seeks to explore the subtle undercurrents that shift the lives of characters foraging through the inert gloom of the Pacific Northwest. Unlike July, who prods and pokes at the quirks and mannerisms of her protagonists, finding the sublime in the individuality of characters living outwardly uninspired lives, Raymond attempts something which may actually be more difficult: to write life as it is lived – which is to say devoid of significant drama – and to write of it without recourse to stylistic flamboyance or narrative tricks.

Many will come to this collection via the recent, widely acclaimed movie release *Wendy and Lucy* (which has yet to open in Austin). That film, starring Michelle Williams, was co-written by Raymond and is based on "Train Choir," the last and longest story here. It is a prototypical Raymond story, not least in terms of plot: A young woman, falling toward hard times, is driving from Indiana, through Oregon, and on to Alaska to find work in the canneries. Along the way, in a small, nondescript town, the girl's car breaks down. While wait-



ing for her car to be fixed, she is arrested for stealing pet food and subsequently loses her dog. That, essentially, is all. Quite how this pitch played out in front of film executives, one scarcely dares imagine (apparently, well enough). Meanwhile, the penultimate story here concerns a film writer/director waiting to learn whether his film will be green-lit for production and contemplating his life choices while taking his daughter to buy new shoes.

While Raymond possesses a keen sensitivity, he has set himself a demanding task, one likely to expose the limitations of even the most gifted writer. His prose style is clear, if unexciting, and perhaps where he succeeds most is in conveying a broad cultural and specific individual ennui, while still managing to retain narrative interest. The stories' shortcomings, then, are so prosaic as to be disappointing: too much perfunctory dialogue and characterizations that are often clichéd – a wall is described as "puke-colored;" a vagrant possesses "small, reptilian eyes;" and a salesman is described as "a wiry, rodent-like man."

Finally, however, what marks just about all of these stories is the sympathy with which the author treats his characters, muddling through the gloom in search of better days.

— John Davidson

new in fiction

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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

A KICK IN THE ASS An e-mail arrived asking me to attend the **Kick Ass Awards** produced by the fabulous **Spike Gillespie**. My friend and regular "After a Fashion" photographer Seabrook Jones was receiving an award for his dedication to the **Austin Public Library**. Sadly, I realized that the awards were scheduled for 7-9pm Friday and I would not be able to see Seabrook win, as **my sister, Margaret**, had told me well over a week before that she wanted me to block out that very time for a private meeting. Then another e-mail announced that my friend **Bob Dailey** was being honored with a Kick Ass Award for his contributions to **AIDS Services of Austin**. But again, the time conflict would make me have to pass. I figured I'd wear something nice for dinner with Margaret, and indeed, when she picked me up around 6pm, she had on cocktail attire as well. I didn't ask where we were going, but as we headed toward Lamar (avoiding the messy water-main break), I began to wonder. We pulled up to **BookPeople**, where the awards are held, and Margaret explained that she knew I wanted to see my friends be honored, so we'd drop by before dinner. Cool. The presentation began, and one of the inductors, **Chronicle** Editor Louis Black, began to introduce the next winner, who turned out to be ... my sister, Margaret. I applauded her heartily. But her acceptance speech began to take on a different tone as I realized that accepting this

award had her already in place to present the next Kick Ass Award to ... *me*. I was shocked but bounded up onstage just as my **iPhone** started ringing. "Just a minute, y'all," I said to the crowd. Just kidding, of course. In my enthusiasm for winning, I said something like, "I'm so proud to be a part of this fucking community ..." forgetting that it was a family affair and was chastised by Margaret. Nothing could dampen my good spirits that evening, and the next day, as I was placing my award on a revolving stand in a well-hit, mirrored niche on my mantle, I began to re-enact the final scene from **All About Eve**. With me, an aging, pathetic, and terminally ill queen posing as an ingénue in my own living room with a tablecloth draped around my shoulders, clutching my award, and solemnly bowing to my imaginary audience. Kickass, indeed.

NOTES For almost 10 years now, **Blackmail** owner **Gail Chovan** has been my oldest and best friend here in Austin. She has completely reshaped my viewpoint on Austin and fashion and remained a favorite fashion icon in my pantheon of characters. Gail, with her signature waist-length tresses, is an instantly recognizable local legend. I did not see her at last weekend's birthday party for 58-year-old **Alejandro Escovedo** at the fab new **Hotel Saint Cecilia** (www.hotelstcecilia.com) or at the **Jingle Ball** (don't ask why I missed it after so many years),



TODD V. WOLFSON

Gail Chovan displays the last hair-rah before she prepares for chemo. Hair by Deborah Carter.

but **Todd Wolfson's** photo of her from Alejandro's party conveys the glamour that follows her everywhere. Pardon the play on words, but this hairstyle was Gail's last *hair-rah* – the final 'do before she shaves her head in preparation for the chemotherapy to combat her breast cancer. She, like me, was hit with a cancer diagnosis at age 50 (the Fatal 50s?), but also like me, I'm sure she'll survive this devastating forecast. I know you join AAF in wishing her the very

best... AAF also sends its love to **Giacomo Forbes**, the quick-witted and friendly hairdresser (www.giacomoforbes.com) who just unveiled his fabulous new **GF Organica** Hair Oil treatment. Sweet Giacomo suffered severe injuries after he was attacked Downtown during the holidays and is said to be recovering well.

AN APPLE A DAY? I am absolutely plucked. In my constant pursuit of living the Apple dream, I found myself all curled up on the couch in front of a fire, writing my entire column (this one) on my iPhone. I used **Notes** – an application (I mean, um, app) that has revolutionized my life. When I opened the e-mail to myself, I laughed at what I had written and was inspired to start on a whole new riff. I hit reply and began writing a hilarious account of something. I kept being interrupted, of course, and after a while, I kept my eye on the battery power indicator; I knew if I didn't save my reply as a draft, I'd lose it if the iPhone powered down. The battery power remained full for a fairly astonishing amount of time, and I pecked away merrily until ... until ... until the phone shut itself off at about 600 words of text. That battery-power indicator had lied. My dream of a totally iPhone-made column vanished. So now, I've dragged myself up to my cold loft and am pecking away on the ol' **Mac PowerBook** again, signed, *NOT sent from my iPhone.*

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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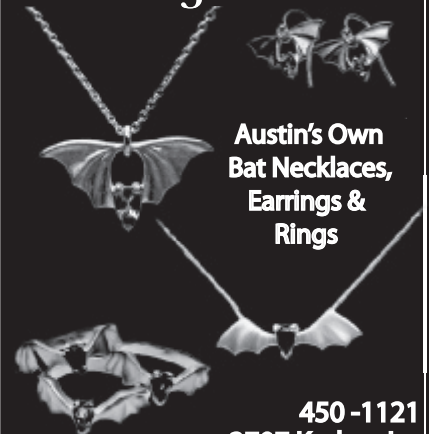
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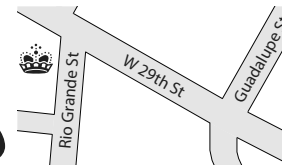


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BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

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Consumption of Riesling is growing faster than any other white varietal in the U.S. for several good reasons. Foremost, it is still a relatively undiscovered wine, which means the costs haven't skyrocketed like Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. Second, it's generally lower in alcohol, and that means that a person can drink more with less effect, and with fewer calories. Third, its vibrant acidity is unsurpassed in the wine world, making it the perfect palate-cleansing food wine. Finally, for people who enjoy full, rich flavors, Riesling is exceeded only by Alsace's Pinot Gris and White Hermitage.

Riesling has one big problem. Because it's so fruity, people always think the wine is sweet, even when it has no sugar whatsoever. But Riesling lovers like their wines in a rainbow of sweetness, from bone dry to honey rich. Pity the poor consumer. How will we know what we're getting?

All of the following Rieslings are dry, i.e., have less than 1% residual sugar. The budget best buy is **McWilliam's Hanwood Estate Riesling** (\$9), an Australian wine with lovely, crisp acidity and an apple-and-citrus aroma. The Aussies keep most of their Rieslings for themselves, so this is a great opportunity to try their version. **Chateau**

liquid assets

Ste. Michelle Dry Riesling (\$12) from Washington state costs a bit more, but the acidity is even more delightful. This is a perfect wine for Indian or Southeast Asian food.

From Germany, **Gunderloch's Jean-Baptiste Riesling Kabinett** (\$21) is the perfect wine for people who prefer wines with more subtlety and complexity. Apricot and apple aromas and a flinty finish are good indicators of what makes many Riesling lovers pick Germany as the best place on earth for the grape. I would counter with its neighbor in France, Alsace, where **Domaine Trimbach** makes what some consider to be the best single white wine of all, **Clos Ste. Hune Riesling**. That wine is rare and very expensive, but there's also a **Trimbach Riesling** (\$18), which gives a hint of the heights of the family's Riesling art.

McWilliam's is available at Grape Vine Market and many H-E-B stores. The Chateau Ste. Michelle is at the Twin Liquors on Parmer and 1431, as well as at the Twin Liquors Marketplace in Hancock Center. You can find Gunderloch at Grape Vine Market, Whole Foods, Central Market, and some Twin Liquors. The Trimbach is available at the Austin Wine Merchant, Grape Vine Market, Whole Foods, Central Market, and Spec's.

— Wes Marshall



Event Menu

Jan. 21-23

► **Kenobi Restaurant and Sushi Bar** (10000 Research, 241-0119, www.kenobiaustin.com) hosts a celebratory new year's feast and first anniversary party with a Japanese-fusion menu designed by new Executive Chef **Egil Valentin**, to pay tribute to the Asian tradition of "reunion dinners." The four-course dinner is \$40 per person; guests may choose to enhance their meals with a selection from Kenobi's impressive sake menu or, for an extra \$12, "toast the new year with a variety of premium Japanese sake flights." Reservations suggested. Wednesday evening, Jan. 21.

► **Hayashi Sushi & Grill** (1335 E. Whitestone Blvd., 986-7176, www.hayashigrill.com) chef/owner **Cheng Lin** has created a unique series of sake tastings and food pairings. For \$45 per person, guests select five dishes from a list of delectable choices, each perfectly paired with a premium Japanese sake. Seating is limited, and reservations are necessary. Friday, Jan. 23, 6-9pm.

recently reviewed

AMERICAN CAFE, JUICE BAR: CASTLE HILL FOOD 4 FITNESS You don't need to be a member of Castle Hill Specialized Fitness to enjoy these premade, fresh-daily meals that can be heated and eaten there or taken home. 1112 N. Lamar, 472-1674. www.food4fitness.com.

AMERICAN CAFE: LEAF Healthy, fresh, gourmet entrée salads in a fast, casual environment, made with a commitment to local farmers, vendors, and the environment. Fabulous. 419 W. Second, 474-5323. www.leafsalad.com.

AMERICAN CAFE: SOMNIO'S CAFE There's a heavy emphasis on local, organic vegetables, plus free-range, grass-fed, pastured, and hormone-free meat. 1807 S. First, 442-2500. www.somnioscafe.com.

FAST FOOD: BABY GREENS Drive-through salads may sound a little difficult to eat, but every salad here is offered as a wrap, in a big, thin tortilla, making it into an easy-to-eat-while-driving salad burrito. 2316 S. First, 462-1697. 10025 Burnet Rd., 835-2229. www.ilovesalads.com.

FRENCH, JAPANESE: WEFUSE Formerly the Fuse Box, this spot serves up fresh salads such as cranberry with goat cheese and shrimp and melon. The bento boxes are varied and reasonably priced. 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall), 236-0207. 120 E. Fourth, 236-1011. www.wefuse.net.

JAPANESE: ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST You have to work pretty hard to spend more than \$7 here. When we want fast, fresh, and tasty food, we head to one of the three locations. Various locations. www.eatzen.com.

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: DAILY JUICE CAFE Need a healthy brunch? Everything on the menu is composed of raw vegetable matter of one kind or another. 4500 Duval St., 380-9046. www.dailyjuicecafe.com.



COOKING WITH THE SEASONS AT RANCHO LA PUERTA: RECIPES FROM THE WORLD-FAMOUS SPA

by Deborah Szekely & Deborah Schneider, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 208 pp., \$35

Most of us start the new year with the same typical resolutions, such as living a healthier lifestyle or losing weight. Unfortunately, I myself tend to drop out at the first mention of *chicharrónes*. But after reading *Cooking With the Seasons*, I actually feel inspired to stick to a healthier lifestyle regimen for real this year. The reason could be that this is not a diet book nor a fast fix to weight or health problems. Instead, it offers a seasonal assortment of enticing yet very simple recipes and menus created with the freshest ingredients available and without processed foods whenever possible. The goal here is to change the way you think about food and cooking in your own kitchen.

Author Deborah Szekely invented the destination fitness resort and spa in 1940 when she opened Rancho la Puerta, now known as Baja California's premier resort spa. For Szekely and co-author chef Deborah Schneider, "food is the very force of life, and eating simply and healthfully is one of life's most profound pleasures." For anyone who loves cooking – and eating – as much as I do, this statement makes perfect sense. Nothing is more rewarding and soothing than a leisurely cooked meal, especially using what's available in my garden. And although I understand and completely agree that this is not a daily possibility for most of us, it is important to make the best effort we can. Relieving stress is one of the most effective contributions to a healthier lifestyle.

The authors offer sidebar tips with advice on everything from using herbs to modifying recipes and how to choose sustainably harvested fish. The chapter on basics provides information on different grains and their cooking times, vegetable-cooking techniques, and the Rancho la Puerta at-home skin-care regimen using ingredients readily available in most people's pantries.

This book's beautiful photos and dynamite recipes have firmly planted the image of a relaxing weekend in Baja in my head. In the meantime, while I save some money for this personal reward, I'll keep reading this book and learning from it every week. I encourage you to do the same.

— Claudia Alarcón

I've never been much good with new year's resolutions, but I do have a **wish list** for 2009. Here are some things I'd like to see in the coming year: 1) **Rain for area farmers.** After growing up in the desert, I thought I knew plenty about appreciating rain, but the extreme drought conditions that persist from last year have me looking for more help. In the spirit of living in an attitude of gratitude, my new mantra is, "I will be so grateful for rain." Everybody repeat it with me now, several times a day. 2) **More gardens.** Unfortunately, there's no place to garden at my house, but I'd really like to see more gardens everywhere else – at public schools, retirement facilities, the lawn of the restored Governor's Mansion, the White House lawn, restaurants, and people's homes. It would be great to see more Americans of all ages reconnecting with the source of their food and eating seasonally while saving money and becoming healthier in the process. 3) **More blogging.** My blog, Virginia's on the Range (austinchronicle.com/onthorange), got short shrift during the last days of 2008, and I really need to get back to it. I'm also planning to check out more food-related blogs this year, especially the one **Boggy Creek Farm** co-owner **Carol Ann Sayle** has been recruited to write for *The Atlantic* (more on this as it develops). 4) **Austin food on the radio.** I've yearned to create a food-related local radio program for years, and I'm game to get it started this year just as soon as I can find a venue. 5) **Local food at the Texas Book Festival.** Austin restaurants and artisan-food producers successfully present great street food at Austin City Limits Music Festival in Zilker Park every year, and I see no reason why the Book Festival couldn't be an equally valuable local culinary showcase. 6) **Texas food books.** And speaking of books, I need to finish my Hill Country culinary guidebook and move on to the next project, a memoir with recipes. I'm also hoping there will be a bigger crop of Texas cookbooks at the 2009 Book Festival. 7) **A stable Austin restaurant economy.** I know my end-of-the-year predictions were somewhat dire. I hope local restaurant owners are able to weather the financial crisis with smart money management and good value for the dining dollar... The invitations to one of Austin's most creative culinary fundraisers, **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner**, went out last week. There's still time to make a reservation for one of the 19 fascinating dinner parties being thrown to benefit **Project Transitions** (www.projecttransitions.org). Dinner party themes range from A Night in Spain to Out of Africa and from Loco for Locovores to Remember the Maine: An Eastern Seaboard Sampler – there truly is a menu to appeal to every palate. Guests choose a dinner party, pay \$100 per person to Project Transitions, and show up at the designated house at 7pm on Saturday, Feb. 7, for a delightful evening of great food, great company, and perfectly painless community service. At the end of the evening, guests and hosts gather at **Nest** on West Sixth for a Champagne and dessert reception. Call 454-8646 today to get an invitation or make a reservation. I've chosen Fat Tuesday, Texas Style this year, and I can't wait... The fish departments at **Whole Foods Market** are featuring **Arctic Char** this month. Our **Kate Thornberry** tried some last week, paired with fresh kale from her garden, and enthusiastically described the delicious Char as "less oily than mackerel and a little milder than salmon"... The **Chinese New Year** is celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice, which means this becomes the **Year of the Ox 4707** on Monday, Jan. 26. For many years, this paper ran custom cover art designed by the late tattoo artist **Rollo Banks** to herald the arrival of Chinese New Year. We expect many local Asian restaurants to offer new year's celebrations in the coming weeks, and our "Event Menu" (at left) spotlights the ones we knew about at press time.

PAGGI HOUSE**200 Lee Barton Dr., 473-3700****Monday-Thursday, 5-11pm;****Friday-Saturday, 5pm-12mid;****www.paggihouse.com**

If you've lived in Austin for any length of time, odds are that traveling around the city can sometimes be disconcerting. Especially lately, and particularly Downtown, where high-rises spring up like mushrooms and the construction crane is once again the totemic Downtown bird. "Where did that building come from?" we ask ourselves. "What used to be on that corner?"

When we peer amidst the modernity for vestiges of old Austin, all too frequently there's not much to see. Some bright spots exist, however, where the new and the old Austin converge and cohabit comfortably – one of them is the latest, stunning incarnation of Paggi House on a bluff south of the river, overlooking the ever-changing Downtown skyline.

One of the earliest extant buildings in the city, Paggi House has weathered much history since it was built in the 1840s as a family home. It became an inn, where Robert E. Lee purportedly stayed (it's definitely possible; he was stationed in Texas before the Civil War). The name honors Michael Paggi, an Italian who traveled to Mexico in the 1860s as part of Emperor Maximilian's entourage. When that ill-fated venture collapsed, Paggi migrated to Austin to become a prosperous entrepreneur with a carriage business, an ice company, an ice-cream shop, a Barton Springs bathhouse, and a steamboat. He purchased the inn on the bluff in 1884 to house his nine children.

Paggi House has been a restaurant since the 1970s, when it still nestled within bucolic green acreage. Now, as a part of a multimillion-dollar development on Paggi's original tract, it's engulfed by a covey of luxury condos. Within a completely new context, the structure has been rethought and retooled; not only did this venerable old lady receive a flattering makeover showcasing some of her best features, but she now wears cascading skirts of sleek decks and outdoor dining rooms that soften the transition between the 19th century house and its abutting 21st century glass-and-steel neighbors. It's a scenario that could easily have been heart-breaking, but the deliberate juxtaposition of old and new and the intelligent design by J Square Architecture work remarkably well.

Inside the house, the ambience is elegant, inviting, and mercifully subdued, and the old/new motif continues. Dark-stained oak floors and black, uplighted ceilings contrast nicely with pale old plaster walls. The two intimate dining rooms, one on each side of the entry hall, sport ornate original fireplaces, black leather chairs, white table linens, graceful black glass chandeliers, and large contemporary paintings by Austin artists Roi James and Shawn R. Camp. The space once occupied by a tiny kitchen has been incorporated into one of the dining rooms, doubling its size.

The new kitchen, housed in a revamped out-building, is putting out some interesting food that might surprise Gen. Lee. Executive Chef Shane Stark, Culinary Institute of America graduate and formerly of Kenichi, calls it New



JOHN ANDERSON

The open-air bar and courtyard are a reflection of the venerable old house coexisting with the new Austin.

American cuisine, but Asian and French influences are evident, too. The starters (also available on the bar and happy-hour menus) are substantial enough to make a meal. The tender butter-poached Maine lobster tail on a bed of mashed potatoes (\$16) is pleasantly complemented by astringent grapefruit. Grilled Hill Country quail from Bandera (\$13) comes over tasty leek-and-mushroom risotto with some snappy green snow peas for contrast. I'm a sweetbreads fanatic, and Stark's take (\$11) is one of the best ever – softly roasted with cremini mushrooms, it melts into a creamy sherry vinegar sauce. The mushroom cream soup (\$11) is ridiculously rich, redolent of mushroom essence, and spiked with melting chunks of sharp Parmesan.

In the main course offerings, Asian tones dominate in the huge piece of *sake*-roasted Mero (Chilean) bass (\$32), served with steamed Chinese broccoli in a sweetish miso broth, as well as in the seared slices of duck breast (\$31), with braised chard, mustard cream sauce, and a somewhat superfluous fried spring roll. On the local/regional front, the four-rib rack of Texas lamb (\$37) is grilled with a peppery pine-nut crust and served on a bed of goat cheese mashed potatoes with tiny caramelized parsnips. It's challenging to make filet mignon (\$35) interesting, but a smart topping of Manchego, red onions, and mixed mushrooms does the job. While entrée prices are not inexpensive, portions are substantial and satisfying, and you certainly won't leave hungry. There's very little on the menu suit-

able for vegetarians (salads, cheese plate), but I imagine the kitchen can easily improvise.

Desserts (\$9) are probably the least thrilling aspect of the menu, and it's more a matter of texture and mouthfeel than flavor. Apple clafoutis in lemongrass crème anglaise with a quenelle of *kabocha* squash ice cream is quite yummy, but the components are uniformly soft and rich, save only for a sprinkling of crunchy toffee chips. Same for the pumpkin bread, served with d'Affinois (creamy mild cheese) ice cream and tart pomegranate sauce. Vanilla-bean French toast seems more like a comforting pudding; the compote of grapes provides some textural contrast, but the side scoop of peanut-butter mousse definitely does not. The exception is the oddly named German chocolate tart: The crisply crusted, artisanal Swiss bittersweet-chocolate and coconut tart is aptly complemented by mildly smoked caramel ice cream.

Servers at Paggi House are natively turned out in shades of charcoal, and for the most part, the service I've experienced has been smooth and accomplished. On my first visit, the entire waitstaff seemed distracted; while nothing was seriously amiss, the effortless-seeming rhythm necessary in the best fine-dining venues just wasn't quite happening that night. Fortunately, subsequent visits completely reversed that impression, with service right on the mark. (My one quibble, and this is common in Austin, is the swift collection of a diner's plate the second he or she lays down her fork, even if others at the table are still eating.)

Co-managers Tori and Tom Tinnon (formerly of Cork & Co. wine bar) are frequently present, unobtrusively orchestrating operations and chatting with customers. Their expertise is evident in the well-balanced and interesting wine list: about 20 wines by the glass, a respectable selection of bottles under \$40, and a variety of offerings from France, Italy, California, Oregon, New Zealand, and Austria. None from Texas appellations, however.

While the dining room ambience is quietly elegant, it's a different scene at the covered but open-air bar in the old courtyard, which is patronized by a hipper, much more casual crowd. This isn't to say that the bar area is not gorgeous – it is, and the metal sculpture fountain splashing into the ancient stone cistern is brilliant – or that the bar service isn't accomplished; it definitely is. It just feels a bit like the grownups are inside having dinner and the young ones are outside hanging in the bar. Based on the relentless club music and the big TV, this is clearly a planned dichotomy. Maybe it's just another reflection of the venerable old house coexisting with the new Austin.

The new improved Paggi House has just about everything going for it – good food and drink, good service, and good design – and those who dreamed up and executed its reincarnation are to be commended. While there are a few details that need tweaking, it's a little piece of historic Austin sure to become a new urban destination.

– MM Pack

WHISK HANDCRAFTED CUISINE

4238 Bee Caves Rd., 329-6405

Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm

www.whiskaustin.com

Plenty of people have noticed that the Texas Hill Country bears a striking resemblance to the Provence region of France, and now the area is dotted with vineyards, olive groves, and lavender fields that serve to heighten the similarities. The newest Provençal enhancement in the hills just west of Downtown Austin is Whisk Handcrafted Cuisine. Former Memphis restaurateur Linda Waller has converted a country limestone cottage into a cozy and inviting take-out shop with an open kitchen redolent of the foods of Provence and the Mediterranean. The front room has a community table surrounded by tall chairs and a rustic limestone bar (stained with Merlot) with stools that offer the perfect vantage point for observing cooking demonstrations or just chatting with the cooks while enjoying a casual meal. Colorful Staub pots filled with soulful soups and stews sit atop an induction cooktop, waiting to be savored.

Waller has staffed her enterprise with two accomplished Austin cooks – Gail Calder, former owner of Two Women Cooking and Austin Kitchens, and Jacob Zavala, most recently executive chef at the former Oakville Grocery in the Domain. This talented trio turns out a regular menu of sandwiches, hot soups, and entrées to eat in or take out, and they keep a refrigerated case and a freezer stocked with entrées and side dishes for reheating at home.

Some of the menu items are constant, while others change

with the seasons. Although she's a relative newcomer to Austin, Waller is working to cultivate relationships with area farmers and meat producers so that she can feature their products in her menu items. For example, the toothsome coq au vin (\$15 for a half chicken simmered in wine with vegetables) comes from Dewberry Farms.

I first visited Whisk soon after Waller announced her opening and made a second stop there last week, both with delicious results. On our first visit, we enjoyed hearty sandwiches for lunch, and I snagged some of the coq au vin with sides of rice pilaf and haricot verts almondine for two very satisfying dinners on subsequent days. The excellent brown-sugar-and-coffee-crustured steak sandwich (\$11) is a demibaguette dressed with soft Taleggio cheese, grilled

portobello mushrooms, and piquant arugula. The equally impressive Nuske's Applewood Smoked Ham Sandwich (\$11) sports creamy Camembert and Dijon mustard on pumpernickel. Whisk sandwiches are made on La Brea Bakery bread, a top-quality par-baked frozen bread line that is indistinguishable from the best homemade, and its demibaguettes also accompany the hearty stews. I'll grant that the sandwiches are pricey, but the portions are generous, and the ingredients and flavor combinations are first rate.

Some women friends joined me for a late lunch at Whisk last week, and we sat at the bar chatting with the cooks while sampling the soups du jour and then savoring our choices. The winners on this trip included a flat-bread sandwich made with African spice chicken (\$9), shredded Dewberry Farms chicken meat in a brightly flavored green-olive sauce accompanied by fresh cilantro and sunflower sprouts – a uniquely light and refreshing presentation. I lapped up the tender, soul-satisfying beef daube (\$9), as fine

an example of the rustic French beef and vegetable stew as you're likely to find this side of the Atlantic. My overwhelming favorite, however, was Zavala's Catalan Carrot & Ginger Soup (\$5 a cup, \$10 a pint, \$32 a quart), a luxurious savory blend of roasted carrots and spicy ginger thickened with bread in the Catalan style. Whisk regulars have discovered Zavala is an absolute wiz with soups, and his carrot creation is the main reason my "Best Bites" list for 2009 already has one entry. The Provençal

pork tenderloin (\$15) with truffle mashed potatoes and a tomato stuffed with goat cheese is waiting patiently in the fridge for dinner this weekend.

Now that her lunch and take-out business is up and running, Waller is adding chef's table and wine dinner events to the Whisk schedule. Guests can arrange to book the dining room for a custom dinner party or sign up for an event such as the one planned for the final Saturday of this month: The Mid-Winter Food & Wine Tasting features salad, soup, fish, poultry, meat, and dessert courses paired with wines for \$79.95 per person. The cozy atmosphere and satisfying cuisine at Whisk can transport you to the sun-splashed Mediterranean. The trip will be worthwhile.

– Virginia B. Wood



Linda Waller

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

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. 4230 Duval St., 452-1040. \$

THAI: THAI VILLAGE Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. 6406 N. I-35 #1550, 452-3888. www.thaivillageaustin.com. \$\$

UT

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

BARBECUE: RUBY'S BBQ Award-winning natural barbecue in a down-home Austin setting with an outstanding assortment of vegetarian options and side dishes. Available in sandwiches, by the plate, and by the pound. 512 W. 29th, 477-1651. www.rubysbbq.com. \$

BRAZILIAN: SÃO PAULO'S Offers Tex-Mex dishes, as well as Brazilian cuisine such as its version of the national dish, *feijoada*. São Paulo's constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. 2809 San Jacinto, 473-9988. www.saopaulos.net. \$\$

BURGER JOINT, DELIVERY, PUB GRUB: PLUCKERS WING BAR This may be the local Oakland Raiders headquarters, but there are plenty of TVs, and the wings keep coming until the wee hours. 2222 Rio Grande, 469-WING (9464). www.pluckers.com. \$

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

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: PLAYERS Hey playa, these fry boys will outfit you with the tastiest of grub on the go. Burgers do go with that shake. 300 W. MLK, 478-9299. \$\$

INTERNATIONAL: BOOMERANG'S GOURMET VEGGIE & MEAT PIES Find more than 11 different flavors of authentic Aussie meat pies in flaky crusts. Very friendly counter folks and great coffee, too. 3110 Guadalupe #150, 380-0032. www.boomerangpies.com. \$

PAN-ASIAN: JADE LEAVES TEAHOUSE Not just for tea anymore! Popular Asian dishes have been enhanced by offering vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and raw-food options. 3110 Guadalupe, 687-0569. www.jadeleaves.net. \$\$

PIZZA: MILTO'S This longtime UT-area institution serves both Italian and Greek specialties. The wonderful weekday lunch specials are both filling and cheap. 2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021. \$\$

PIZZA: SALVATION PIZZA This place specializes in Pizza Napoletana and fresh ingredients. 624 W. 34th, 535-0076. www.salvationpizza.com. \$

TEX-MEX: CHANGOS TAQUERIA Making fresh tortillas right before your eyes, it offers great mahi fish tacos, al pastor, and pork in chipotle. Get a fresh-fruit *liquado* on the side. 3023 Guadalupe, 480-8226. www.changos.com. \$\$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: HANG TOWN GRILL Jetson-era family restaurant with gourmet pizzas and mesquite burgers for your mom and dad and combo meals for the kids. Outdoor patio. 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 347-1039. www.hangtowngrill.com. \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: RUSSELL'S BAKERY & COFFEE BAR A fine assortment of cakes, cookies, and sandwiches along with coffee, juices, and Italian sodas. The peanut-butter-and-chocolate-chip cookie is a tasty reward. 3339 Hancock, 419-7877. www.russellsbakery.com. \$

BURGER JOINT: BILLY'S ON BURNET This true neighborhood beer and burger joint is a great place to enjoy hand-shaped patties, well-seasoned fries, and good vegetarian options. It has a great selection of draft beers and 10 flat-screens, too. 2105 Hancock, 407-9305. www.billysonburnet.com. \$

CHINESE: SNOW PEA A couple of the standouts are the Spider Rolls and the spicy tuna rolls; the *hamachi* yellowtail has always been unfailingly fresh and succulent. 3706 Jefferson, 454-3228. www.snowpeaaustin.com. \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NAU'S ENFIELD DRUG Venerable, iconic, drugstore-counter grill serving burgers, eggs over easy, grilled-cheese sandwiches, and the milkshakes of your dreams. 1115 West Lynn, 476-3663. www.naus-enfield-drug.com/grill.html. \$

FINE DINING: JEFFREY'S Jeffrey's has long set the standard for elegantly casual fine dining in Austin. Carefully prepared food, intimate ambience, and superior service. 1204 West Lynn, 477-5584. www.jeffreysofaustin.com. \$\$\$\$

FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches, salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 3418 N. Lamar, 302-1486. www.lamadeleine.com. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: ZUZU HANDMADE MEXICAN FOOD Fresh, healthfully prepared, yet authentic Interior Mexican food served in a colorful, clean, kid-friendly atmosphere. Excellent salsas. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 5770 MoPac N. #500, 467-9295. www.zuzuaustin.com. \$\$

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

TEX-MEX: ENCHILADAS Y MAS TEX-MEX RESTAURANT Hundreds of satisfied customers will testify that the chorizo migas are worth a drive across town. 1911 W. Anderson, 467-7100. www.enchiladasmx.com. \$

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TACOS Y CAFE



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 caramelized 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 bellissimo! - *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*

Great freakin' pizza! - Tibetan Monks

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screens

AUSTIN GOES TO PARK CITY

Zombies and Mongols do the 'Dance

BY MARC SAVLOV

Two Austin films are headed to Park City, Utah, this week, *Zombie Girl: The Movie*, co-directed by Justin Johnson, Aaron Marshall, and Erik Mauck, screening at Slamdance, and Michel Orion Scott's *Over the Hills and Far Away*, which is Sundance-bound.

First up, *Zombie Girl*'s Mauck: "Justin [Johnson] and I had been doing a series of short featurettes on Austin-based productions called *Between the Scenes* and throwing them up on YouTube for a couple of years now. We'd read Dan Eggleston's list [a Yahoo! group called AustinFilmCasting] or go to AustinActors.net and see what was shooting and then go do a minidoc on it. One day we came across a post that said something like, '12-year-old girl casting for zombie movie.' Right away it was obvious that was something we wanted to do a segment on."

That 12-year-old girl was Austinite Emily Hagins, and the casting call was for *Pathogen*, the ambitious feature from, well, a 12-year-old girl.

"It became apparent pretty early on to Justin and I that there was the potential for a feature-length documentary in Emily's story," recalls Mauck, "so we had dinner with Emily; her mom, Megan; and Rebecca Elliott, who helped produce *Pathogen*, and we set it up."

The resulting doc, which played to an enthusiastic house at Fantastic Fest 2008, is a portrait of the artist as a young girl covered in blood. Displaying a maturity beyond her years while dealing with the twin bedevilmings of her day job – being a kid – and her real profession – being a kid making a splatter movie on nights and weekends – Hagins' story is nothing if not inspirational.

(Orson Welles was twice Hagins' age when he finally got around to *Citizen Kane*.) With her already artistically inclined parents doing everything they could to help the project achieve completion, the plucky, unflappable Hagins, who received a

\$1,000 Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund grant midway through production, is the very picture of tweenage determination. And guts. Lots and lots of guts.

Mauck: "Emily's a unique girl. A lot of the visionary aspects of being a filmmaker were already there when we first met her, which is surprising given her age at the time. She had drawn storyboards; she had written a script; she knew in her head exactly what she wanted pretty much from the outset. The difficulties of getting actors and extras to make her vision a reality is where the dramatic arc of her story appeared. But ultimately *Zombie Girl: The Movie* is a story about having a vision and making it real, no matter what."

Displaying guts of an entirely different sort, not to mention enough heart to change more than a few lives for the better, Michel Orion Scott's immensely moving *Over the Hills and Far Away* chronicles an Elgin family's odyssey into the unknown after their 4-year-old child is diagnosed with autism.

Respected human rights journalist/activist and longtime equestrian Rupert Isaacson and his wife, Kristin Neff, a professor of psychology at the University of Texas, took along Scott and his crew on what was to be, for both parents and their son, Rowan, the trip of a lifetime. They went to

Mongolia, where Rupert believed he could find help for his son from the shaman of the near-mythical reindeer people of the Mongolian Steppes.

Having already determined that Rowan's increasingly unnerving autistic tantrums

and their equally distressing satellite symptoms were, miraculously, becalmed whenever Rowan was near or on a horse, Isaacson, a believer in the potential healing powers of indigenous shamans the world over, found that the most difficult part of this adventure to the land where man first domesticated the equine would be convincing his spouse that they were actually going to do it. And why not? It sounds crazy, even irresponsible, but given Rowan's illness and the frazzled, near-desperate state it imposed on his parents ... why not?

"Before we went," says director Scott, "I had already decided that this was going to be a film about a family and whether Rowan was healed over the course of the trip to Mongolia – and I frankly didn't believe he would be. I knew that it would be a beautiful film about a family coming to terms with their son's autism, having an adventure, and then coming home and realizing that, look, we have to value his autism for what it is. That's what I was expecting."

What Scott actually brought back from Mongolia was something even more emotionally satisfying. *Over the Hills and Far Away* is a documentary that opens a door to new perceptions of what it means to be autistic, what it means to be the parents of an autistic child, and what Western medical practice too often fails to include in its prescription for wellness of all kinds: the power of the spirit.

Sometimes, when the mind wanders or stutters or functions outside the perceived notions of normalcy, the only option is thinking and acting outside of the box, over the hills, and far, far away. ■



Erik Mauck

PHOTOS BY MARY SLEDD



Michel Orion Scott

film news

BY JOE O'CONNELL

COURTNEY AIMS LENS AT AFGHANISTAN

Heather Courtney knows that documentarians go where the story takes them, and that's why she'll soon spend two months embedded in Afghanistan shooting footage for *Where Soldiers Come From*, which follows five high school friends who join the National Guard to pay for college, then end up shipping out overseas. It's a decidedly personal project for the Austin filmmaker (*Letters From the Other Side*), who hails from tiny Hancock in the northern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She describes her hometown near the shores of Lake Superior as cold, snowy, harsh, but beautiful. Small-town America is often seen through stereotypes, and she wanted to change that. "As someone who comes from a small town, I wanted to tell a rural story that was more complex and at the same time universal," she says. With a grant from the **Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund** offered up through the Austin Film Society, she traveled back to the former copper-mining town in early 2007 to shoot footage of abandoned mines, only to discover her real story when she met a 19-year-old recent Guard recruit and his friends. "For the past two years, I've just been filming them and their families in their normal daily civilian lives, going to school, working, partying, and every once in a while their monthly trainings," Courtney says. "I would spend a few months in Michigan and then come back to Austin for a few months and then back to Michigan, etc. And now I'm going with them to Afghanistan when they deploy in just a few weeks." First stop is Camp Shelby in Mississippi, then she embeds with the soldiers overseas near the end of January. The doc is also funded by the Paul Robeson Fund and the Independent Television Service and will eventually air on PBS.

AND THE REST ...

Twilight director and McAllen native **Catherine Hardwicke**; J.R. Ewing his own bad self, **Larry Hagman**; and **Powers Boothe** (of *Sin City*, *24*, and *Deadwood* fame) are the first names to leak for the 2009 **Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards**, which will move to Thursday night, March 12, this year. Hardwicke also directed *Lords of Dogtown* and *Thirteen*. Hagman, a Fort Worth native, will receive his award from his Dallas wife, **Linda Gray**. Boothe, a theatre graduate of the school that shall forever be known as Southwest Texas State University, has a respected career both as a stage and screen actor but is still perhaps best known for an Emmy-winning turn as the Kool-Aid drinking cult leader in the television film *Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones*.

The **2009 South by Southwest Film Festival** lineup is starting to fall into place. Newly announced additions to the fest include centerpiece comedy *Observe and Report*, starring **Seth Rogen**; a number of documentaries, including *New World Order*, which follows **Alex Jones** and other conspiracy theorists; and new panelists such as **Catherine Hardwicke**, **Mike Judge**, and **Mark Woollen**, creator of award-winning trailers. For more information, visit austinchronicle.com/pip or www.sxsw.com/film.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

A Republic of Indie in a Netflix Nation

How Austin's homegrown video stores are faring against the big red giant

BY MARC SAVLOV

You know things are heading south by south weird when Salemi, Sicily, buys out your favorite independent video-rental store. Which is exactly what happened last week to the entire rental stock – some 55,000 titles in all – of Manhattan's legendary rental store Kim's Video on St. Mark's Place. (On the plus side, the *New York Daily News* reports that Salemi will now host "the Neverending Festival, a non-stop public projection of Kim's Video collection." That's cool; just let us know what time *Beneath the Valley of the Ultra-Vixens* starts, and we'll book our flight accordingly.)

The closing of Kim's rental department is major news in the tape-head and retail video-rental worlds (which also include, obviously, DVD rentals), but it's just the latest bad news in a increasingly long list of video stores coming to the end of their running time. And it's not just happening in New York, either. One of the largest independent video stores in the world, Seattle's Scarecrow Video, is, according to the Alamo Drafthouse's Terror Tuesday programmer and VHS evangelist Zack Carlson (see "Never Forget: The Humble, Indispensable VHS," p.49), also suffering. Video stores in Austin are feeling the pinch, too, although, surprisingly, Austin's four main independent video/DVD rental outlets – Vulcan Video, I Luv Video, Hyde Park's venerable Movie Store, and Encore – are doing considerably better than the national average.

And the national chains are faring even worse. Blockbuster, the longtime Antichrist tormentor to indie Nazarenes such as Kim's Video, has been in market-share free fall since 2002, with its stock price dropping harder than *The Wrestler's* patented Ram Jam, from a millennial high of \$30 to the pitiful current, hovering around \$1.32 per share.

Part of this nationwide trend can be attributed to the unstoppable rise of Netflix, the Los Gatos, Calif.-based DVD subscription service founded by Reed Hastings and Marc Randolph. Launched in 1997, Netflix allows subscribers to rent from its voluminous library of more than 100,000 titles (including the relative handful of films available in the barely popular Blu-ray format) for a flat monthly fee. (Netflix also offers a smaller number of

films for streaming.) Ordered online ("queued up," as the parlance goes), the movies show up in your mailbox a couple of days later and can be watched and returned immediately or used as beer coasters for as long as the customer wishes: no late fees, no waiting in line at the video store, no hassles, and more of a selection than any brick-and-mortar video store in the country. No fools they, Netflix also gives subscribers a prepaid envelope to return DVDs. (Its incoming, disc-sized envelopes are an eye-catching scarlet which has been referred to by some catty rental clerks as representing "the blood of the independent video-store owners.")

There are other subscription services, of course, including Blockbuster's own (Total Access), Amazon's and Apple's streaming download stores, plus a variety of online movie download sites, but for the purposes of this article, we're going to use Netflix as an all-purpose bogeyman representing the trend toward online and downloadable movie rentals, as opposed to its neighborhood flesh 'n' blood counterparts. (Which, on the face of it, might not sound fair to Netflix, but then again they haven't returned our e-mails requesting an interview, and we're pretty sure they can take the heat.)

So Kim's is closed; VHS, aka JVC's Video Home System, is officially a dead format (fittingly, David Cronenberg's *A History of Violence* was the last major studio film to be distributed on VHS); and easy online video

subscription services are making things tough all over for your neighborhood mom 'n' pop rental store. Media of all kinds – newspapers, videos and DVDs, music (the slow, bloody death of the Recording Industry Association of American has by now been grinding on, or so it feels, longer than the Hundred Years' War) – are in an escalating state of flux. No one really knows for sure what your TV room is going to look like two years, much less 10 years, down the road, so rapidly are the delivery systems being shuffled. Even Blu-ray's future is suddenly in doubt, thanks to



I Luv Video co-owners John Dorgan and Conrad Bejarano

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

sluggish sales and a dearth of available titles. HD DVD? Super VHS? They were obsolete before you even found a space in the Best Buy parking lot.

One unexpected (and worrying, for independent video-store owners) piece of news arrived last week, courtesy of the mammoth South Korean television manufacturer LG Electronics – whose motto is "Life's Good" – who had a record \$44 billion in sales in 2007, according to their online press release. LG has announced a partnership with Netflix and will be releasing a LCD HDTV that will receive more than 12,000 Netflix-distributed movies directly to the TV set with no clunky converter box or other peripherals. The times, to quote Dylan, are a-changin', and they're a-changin' faster than it takes to be kind and rewind. Even in Austin.

□

"We started out in 1984 as a video store in Garland, Texas. We stayed there for three years until a company called Blockbuster Video opened their third store approximately 250 feet from our front door."

That's Chuck Lokey, the longtime owner of Encore, one of a handful of original Austin movie-rental stores still extant. (Prior notable casualties include, among many, many unsung others, Videoasis, Video Barn, and dearly missed South Austin hangout Pedazo Chunk, the latter of which was owned by Danni Knowles, sister of *Ain't It Cool News* godhead Harry.)

"At that time, Blockbuster was owned by the Cook family, and they eventually got forced out of their own company. Anyway, we stayed there for two years after they'd opened, and I went to my landlord to try to get a better deal, but he told me, 'No, somebody's offered me double your current rent.' Guess who? Blockbuster. They've been my nemesis forever. So we moved to Austin, and that's when we added music to what was previously just a video-rental store. We've been here since November of 1995."

Among the big four Austin indie video stores, Encore is the one people south tend to forget about (although it recently picked up an *Austin Chronicle* "Best of Austin" award for Best Metallurgy thanks to its newfound focus on all things metal). That's a shame, because for a long time, from the mid-Nineties to the end of the last century, Encore was the place to rent laser discs, that now-defunct digital-video format that existed from 1978 until 2000 (the final laser disc released in the U.S.? Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow*). Like most supercool technological gadgetry, the laser disc found its most receptive audience in Asia and, in particular, Japan, where it outsold and outlasted its American counterparts by orders of magnitude, limping along until 2001 when the format died a particularly graceful death with the release of the Hong Kong-produced, Tony Leung chopstick action comedy *Tokyo Raiders*. R.I.P. laser disc, we hardly knew ye.

And as for Encore today, in the age of Netflix? Diversification has been the name of its adapt-or-die game plan, and it's working: If you need a Deicide hoodie for your black metal offspring or a CD compilation of the best of Italian prog rock Argento scorers Goblin, this is the place to go.

"Video [rental] is not doing as well as I'd like," says Lokey, "and it's certainly not the strength of our store anymore. It used to carry the ball, but now it's music. We're selling more music and T-shirts. I've learned, too, with specific regard to Netflix, that we've made serious inroads in renting and selling television series. I've got more TV series now than I ever thought possible, and that's because Netflix doesn't carry that many TV series. Our small selection here does quite well."

One of the defining aspects of Austin's video/DVD rental scene is its unwavering loyalty: There are Vulcan people, I Luv Video minions, Movie Store browsers, and, natch, Encore metallurgists.

"Sure," says Lokey, "we have our regulars. We develop new ones all the time, and most folks,



Encore owner Chuck Lokey

Never Forget The Humble, Indispensable VHS

Alamo Drafthouse programmers Lars Nilsen and Zack Carlson, both megafans of the VHS format, recently spoke to us about the importance of local video stores. For more on their highly personal feelings about the rise of Netflix and the importance of keeping the tape alive, visit austinchronicle.com.

- M.S.

Lars Nilsen: I really do think of Vulcan and I Luv Video as the Alamo Drafthouse of video stores. Here at the Alamo, we're in a business that's supposed to be trailing off and dying - movie theatre chains are having trouble all over, and the death knells are sounding all the time - and yet we're doing well because we provide a personalized experience that's so close to our customers' hearts. And I think what Vulcan and I Luv are doing is exactly the same thing. Nothing has made me happier - almost nothing - than seeing Hollywood Videos shutting their doors and Blockbuster videos shutting their doors after only a few months of hardship because they can't deal, they can't cope, they're not on nor have they ever been on ground level. Vulcan and I Luv, on the other hand, have *always* been on the same level as their clientele. ...

Right now, in the world of independent video retail and rental, there's a war going on. And places like Vulcan and I Luv Video are the ones practicing guerrilla tactics against the big entrenched armies of Netflix and similar companies, who will never win. Because when it's time to take that war to the jungle, Vulcan and I Luv Video are already there. They never left.

Austin Chronicle: You guys are zealots. Why is it so important to keep up with grainy old VHS tapes, anyway? Isn't shiny/faster/newer better?

when they find us, we've got 'em. It's kind of an odd store, really, because in the last three years, we've morphed from being a video store that also sold music on the side into being much more of a CD-and-music-driven store with video rentals on the side. Certainly, as far as selling music, we're one of the best in town, and in terms of selling metal music, we *are* the best. No one else even comes close. I've got guys coming from Houston, San Antonio, to buy the new black metal CDs. Which is part of the new niche marketing game. You've got to play it, and we've gotten very, very good at it. It's like our motto says: 'Encore: Things are different here.'



Alamo programmer
Zack Carlson



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Zack Carlson: VHS is crucial, not just as nostalgia, but also because it's a viable way to grow as a person who appreciates movies. Only 25 percent of the movies ever made prior to the birth of VHS were ever actually released on home video. Today, approximately 50 percent

of the movies that were available on VHS are now available on DVD. So you're looking at huge sections of films that were just lost. I think there's about 90,000 feature films - besides porn - that are available on DVD, which means that there's another 90,000 movies out there that people are willing to just let fade away if they're going to forego the VHS format. And that alone makes VHS completely valid and an integral part of being a movie fan. ...

It's like having an ugly child. If the only way to see this movie is on VHS, you should watch it on VHS. Just because it's not in your slick, modern, digital technology doesn't mean that it's not a great film. If you had an ugly kid, would you throw it away? No, you'd just turn the lights down a little and savor its unique, otherworldly grotesquery, which, after all, is what makes it so special in the first place. VHS and ugly kids matter. They are life. ■

It's not just Encore that's different, though. It's Austin and its homegrown film-geek culture that has allowed places such as the Alamo Drafthouse, websites such as Harry Knowles' *Ain't It Cool News*, and the two biggest indie video-rental stores in town - I Luv Video and Vulcan - to not only survive but indeed thrive while nearly everywhere else in the country the market is grinding to a standstill.

Video-rental outlets outside of Austin - and indeed all the major rental chains - appear seemingly paralyzed by an unknown

CONTINUED ON P.50

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Vulcan Video manager Joe Shivers

JOHN ANDERSON

future that not only includes the specter of Netflix (and its impersonal, vaguely onanistic methodology that makes the subscriber feel specifically catered to when, in fact, they're having zero interaction with anything resembling the sage old video store clerks of yore) but also the prospect of yet more online-download or streaming platforms to come. Technological advances in media delivery – to televisions, to cell phones, to iPods, to Xboxes and Wiis and PS3s – are happening at a rate that's outpacing the corporate conglomerates' ability to think straight or to plan for the future. The future, in a very real sense, is happening *right now*, and the metaphorical five-year plan of Blockbuster (and its ilk) has been frantically pared down to a five-month plan, a five-week plan, and, ultimately, the shuttering of many obnoxiously blue-and-yellow boxlike stores: 290 Blockbuster stores closed in 2006, nearly 300 in 2007, and dark, if unconfirmable, rumors of a Blockbuster-free world are hovering on the horizon.

Which is good news to Conrad Bejarano, co-founder of Austin's I Luv Video, the largest and most popular of Austin's independent video stores.

"Can you make sure to mention that this year is our 25th anniversary?" he asks over drinks at Spider House (which Bejarano also owns with I Luv co-founder John Dorgan, along with the neighboring EcoClean and the soon-to-be-reopened United States Art Authority).

Done.

"I was working at a video store called Sounds Easy in Phoenix in 1984," says Bejarano by way of explaining I Luv's origins, "when I came to Austin to visit my friend John, and I thought, you know, this would be the perfect town to open a store for this new trend called 'video stores.' Not long after that visit, I moved here, and John, who was a huge fan of the Clash, and I opened up London Video in Dobie Mall, which did really well, but because there was no parking and no visibility from the street, we sold it within a year.

"We immediately opened up our first I Luv Video way down on Slaughter and Manchaca,

and eventually we had nine different locations all over town. Back then we were pretty mainstream as far as what we offered. We kept the culty stuff up at our Airport location. But we've learned that our store's culture isn't conducive to having stores too far south or too far north, and so we ended up consolidating into the two current stores."

I Luv Video has always been a mainstay and supporter of obscure, psychotronic fare – personally, we recall getting hipped to the short films of NYC cinema transgressors Nick Zedd and Richard Kern via I Luv way back in the late Eighties – even going so far as to add a seemed-like-a-good-idea-at-the-time pizzeria to the mix, with an I Luv Video Pizza at the original south location. (The concept – videos, pizza, and beer delivered to your house – was a natural fit for South Austin and lasted a surprising six years.)

Eventually, though, Bejarano and Dorgan realized it was their two cult cinema-centric stores – at 2915 Guadalupe and 4803 Airport – that were bringing in the most customers and developing the most repeat clientele. Sensing that any attempt to compete with then-industry titan Blockbuster for market share of mainstream video rentals was doomed for disaster ("You've got to remember that the price of VHS tapes, in the Eighties, was running anywhere from 60 to 80 bucks a tape," reminds Bejarano), the chain pared itself down to the two current locations and began to grow exponentially.

"What we decided to do was sort of groom our clientele and just get two or three copies of a mainstream VHS release – as opposed to the 50 to 100 copies a single Blockbuster would buy – and spend the rest of the money on films we wanted to watch, which were weird, underground, and generally not carried by Blockbuster – or anyone else, for that matter. And that's stayed our guiding philosophy from there on out. What's happened is that we've created a culture from scratch by adding cool movies that you can't find anywhere else, cool staff members who aren't snobs but will actively help customers find what they

don't even know they're looking for, and just anticipating what our customers want."

Unlike the rest of the world, I Luv Video is doing bang-up business. "Every year it gets better and better," says Bejarano. "These last two, three years, the sales and rentals have just been amazing, because now, from a rental perspective, you buy a DVD for \$16, rent it out for \$4, and get it right back. It's just an amazing business."

Of course, having been in business for 25 years, I Luv Video has amassed the largest back catalog of VHS and DVD titles in town. With some 80,000 titles on hand at its Airport location alone, it's now one of the largest and most respected video/DVD rental stores in the world.

"If we were to try to open up all over again now, it just wouldn't be possible. We couldn't even find half the titles we have in stock because so many of them, especially the VHS copies, are just gone. And as far as Netflix having an impact on us? I don't see it. We have customers who have Netflix and still come into the store and browse and rent from us. Right now, we're doing better than we ever have, although 14 years ago we thought that the advent of DVDs would be the end of the video business. That's why we opened up Spider House Cafe, right next door to our Guadalupe location. John and I figured, 'Geez, in a few years our video business is going to die, so let's find an alternative.' As it turned out, the exact opposite happened: I Luv Video on Guadalupe fed into Spider House and vice versa. In a way, they're symbiotic, which is also what's going on with EcoClean and the USAA – it's all part of the same I Luv Video culture, with the same people and the same clientele interacting to one extent or another in all four places.

It's a totally Austin kind of thing, I think. I'm not sure that this could have taken root and grown the way it did anywhere else."

□

Down at Vulcan South, on the newly hyper-revitalized hipster hub that is (*cringe*) "SoCo," general manager and Vulcan spokesman Joe Shivers is equally sanguine about Netflix and the alleged Death of the American Video Store, if a bit more animated.

"The one thing that Netflix has done that I don't like is that it's made a place like Vulcan less special. And by that I mean, it used to be you could come to a town like Austin, find Vulcan, and discover a whole new world of movies that you didn't even know existed. And now so much of that is available to discover online, via Netflix and similar sites. We have things they don't, for sure, but they really do have a pretty good selection. I remember when I was a kid, I had to search all over Birmingham, Alabama, all the Blockbusters and so forth, to find a single copy of, like, *Evil Dead*. And when I finally did

find it, it ... was ... *awesome*. That sense of going on a quest to find something that difficult to find – that's almost, like, mythic – is no longer around, because now you can find whatever you want, whenever you want, on the Internet. You know, we've definitely lost some customers to Netflix, but I see a lot of customers who do both, actually. It's not that big a deal for us. The worst thing Netflix has done is get people thinking that there shouldn't be late fees. Video stores cannot exist without late fees. You just can't do it. There's no way to survive without them. But on the whole, we're doing fine. Better, actually, in terms of hard numbers of films rented, profits earned, than ever before."

In a roundabout way, Shivers has hit on the very root of what has allowed Austin's independent video stores to – in most cases – flourish while the rest of the country sees its neighborhood mom 'n' pop rental stores wither and die in the advent of Netflix et al.

Vulcan, I Luv Video, Encore, and even the smaller but still doing fine, thanks for asking, Movie Store in Hyde Park are – unlike Blockbuster or Netflix or *any* online movie retailer/renter – tightly bound up in the *community* of Austin. They're not just places to go rent a movie to watch on the weekend; they're places to go hang out, to browse the stacks and aisles for hours, if you want, to ask

“That sense of going on a quest to find [a film] that difficult to find – that’s almost, like, mythic – is no longer around, because now you can find whatever you want, whenever you want, on the Internet.” – Vulcan Video general manager Joe Shivers

the living, breathing, and incredibly well-versed in the nuances of outré cinema staffers what *they* recommend. Chances are, they'll know what you want before you do, and they'll hip you to things that are so kickass cool your head will explode. *And* they'll be right there to help you pick up the pieces and steer you toward something even cooler – albeit perhaps less Cronenbergian in its mind-blowing awesome-

ness; a person can only take so much metaphorical head trauma, after all – the next time you come in. Austin appears to be increasingly unique in this way, and the cineastes, sprocket heads, film geeks, and just plain customers of Vulcan, I Luv Video, Encore, and the Movie Store (along with the lingering echoes of Pedazo Chunk and Waterloo Video) seem to know it, appreciate it, and most remarkable of all, rarely take it for granted.

It's a strange, often downright surreal age of constant content flux that we're living in, on *all* fronts, technological and otherwise. Marshall McLuhan's prescient note that "the medium is the message" has doubled back and gone meta on itself: The medium is the message, and the message is now the medium. Online or off? Netflix or Vulcan? Miraculously, VHS isn't really dead, and neither is the independent video store. And at least we won't have to book passage to Sicily the next time we want to bring home feral cinematic strays such as Buñuel's *Un Chien Andalou* or Sam Fuller's *White Dog*. ■

Brand-New Day

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Tuesday is not an official national holiday, but with so many viewers eager to witness history in the making, maybe it should be. Jan. 20 is Inauguration Day. Across the nation, attention will turn toward the small screen to watch Barack Obama be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States. It's not going to be a regular workday, and some would say it's the beginning of a new day in the United States of America.

Although tens of thousands will descend upon the national capital for the inaugural parade, the swearing-in ceremony, and a cavalcade of balls, many more will remain in their home states, attending local inaugural balls or watching events as they unfold on TV and online. It's no surprise that regular network programming will be pre-empted or that the cable news networks are planning for all-day coverage. What is new is the number of entertainment networks opening their schedules for inaugural time. HBO, MTV, Nickelodeon, Current TV, E!, and others are turning their cameras toward some aspect of the day, while CNN.com is joining forces with Facebook.com, the popular social networking site, to show the inauguration with Facebook users' responses (i.e., status updates) streaming live and in real time on the CNN.com screen.

For a fuller description of events, go to Picture in Picture at austinchronicle.com/pip.

Many, Many, Many Happy Returns

Here's the lineup of new and returning TV series:

Thursday, Jan. 15: **The Beast** (A&E). **Patrick Swayze** stars as an undercover FBI agent in this new series that may be the talk of the season because of its offscreen drama. Although Swayze was diagnosed with cancer shortly after he signed on and was undergoing chemotherapy during production, he managed to get through shooting of this new series, missing only one day of work. After shooting, he was hospitalized with pneumonia. All representatives (and fans) are hoping for the best.

Jan. 16: **Friday Night Lights** (NBC). Those with satellite have already seen the third season. Now the rest of the world can catch up. **Battlestar Galactica** (Sci Fi). The cult favorite returns for its swan song in 10 final episodes.

Jan. 18: **Big Love** (HBO). This is the third season of the drama about a family of polygamists. **United States of Tara** (Showtime). If the supertalented **Diablo Cody** (*Juno*) wasn't one of the creatives behind this series about a woman (played by **Toni Collette**) with multiple personalities, I might be concerned. At present, I'm exceptionally curious.

Also returning: **Flight of the Conchords** (HBO), about a folk duo from New Zealand



JOHN ANDERSON

Barack Obama

trying to make it in New York, is quite possibly the quirkiest comedy on TV. And **The L Word** (Showtime) returns for its sixth (and final) season.

Jan. 21: **Lost** (ABC). They're baaack! Except now, the Oceanic Six are returning to the island because – oh, who the hell knows why they do anything? **Lie to Me** (Fox). **Tim Roth** leads a team of deception experts to help solve crimes.

Jan. 22: **Burn Notice** (USA). This engaging little dramedy – about a spy unceremoniously dumped by his handlers and his efforts to find out why while working as a private investigator – has been flying under the radar for a while now. It returns next Thursday for its third season.

Jan. 25: **The Last Templar** (NBC). A miniseries starring **Mira Sorvino** as an archaeologist.

Jan. 26: **The Closer** (TNT). Blink, and you'll miss it. Only five episodes of the crime drama starring **Kyra Sedgwick** are airing. **Trust Me** (TNT). A new series starring **Eric McCormack** (*Will & Grace*) and **Tom Cavanagh** (*Ed*) as friends who work in a high-profile advertising firm.

Coming in February: **Medium** (NBC), **Heroes** (NBC), and **Dollhouse** (Fox), the highly anticipated high tech drama from **Joss Whedon** (*Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*).

And in March: **Castle** (ABC) stars **Nathan Fillion** (*Waitress*) as a crime novelist who helps solve crimes in real life. **Breaking Bad** (AMC) and **Reaper** (CW) return for their second seasons. **Kings** (NBC), another anticipated series, stars **Ian McShane** (*Deadwood*) in a drama loosely based on the biblical story of King David. **Cupid** (ABC), based on Rob Thomas' original cult comedy about the god of love forced to live among humans, stars **Bobby Cannavale** (*Third Watch*).

As always, stay tuned.

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

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The Beginning of the End

Drumroll, please: Nearly a month ahead of schedule, **South by Southwest** announced its **full band list** today (Thursday). Leading the charge are reunited Scots the **Vaselines**, garage rock pioneers the **Sonics**, and illustrious Latin vocalist **Lila Downs**, not to mention **Wovenhand**, **8Ball & MJG**, **Andrew Bird**, **Grizzly Bear**, **Black Lips**, **Peter Bjorn & John**, and as previously announced, **Primal Scream** (www.sxsw.com/music). "We were able to get a lot of the invitations out earlier than we have in the past couple of years, and that really sped up the process," says SXSW Music Creative Director **Brent Grulke**. "The real truth is that I yelled at or rather implored people to listen to more acts and to do so more quickly." Of the 1,154 acts listed, more than half hail from outside the States, notably Leeds-by-way-of-Austin electronic duo **Ocelot**. Though there's still no word on the **Faces** reunion, pianist **Ian McLagan & the Bump Band** is confirmed to perform, along with fellow Austinites **Explosions in the Sky**, the **Black Angels**, **Ruthie Foster**, and the **Band of Heathens**. Locally based labels

Dead Oceans (**Akron/Family**, **Phosphorescent**, **Mt. St. Helens Vietnam Band**) and **Western Vinyl** (the **Fleet Foxes'** **J. Tillman**, **Here We Go Magic**, **Mom**, Austin's **Balmorhea**) should have two of the most blogged-about showcases, while other certified next big thing picks to make the grade include the **Drones**, **Friendly Fires**, **Vetiver**, **Passion Pit**, **Hacienda**, and the **Girls**. As for locals still awaiting confirmation, Grulke assures, "We're obviously going to invite a good number more bands."



Lila Downs



8Ball & MJG



The Sonics



The Vaselines



Wovenhand

BY THE BOOKS

In case there was any doubt as to the magnitude of SXSW, **AngelouEconomics** released its second annual economic impact report this week, which concluded that the industry conference grew last year by nearly every statistical measure. In 2008, SXSW featured more than 1,800 artists across 80 stages and generated approximately \$103 million for the local economy, an 8% increase from the previous year, not including any unofficial day parties or private events. The report, which was commissioned by SXSW, also put a net value on the Festival's coverage – some 200 million media impressions – at \$17.6 million.

WALK THIS WAY

According to volunteer coordinator **Jillian Lobstein**, SXSW will need more than 1,700 helping hands this year. "Volunteers get more insight into all the elements that have to work together to successfully put on three events at once," she says. "It's about being able to participate in the Festival as a host." Applications can now be found online (www.volunteer.sxsw.com), and crew selections take place on a first come, first served basis at the annual **Volunteer Calls** at the **Hilton Hotel** on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2-5pm, and Monday, Jan. 26, 6-9pm. Unlike previous years, music production stage-crew members will have a scheduled night off and only be required to work three to four nights, though all volunteers will have to work on Wednesday, March 18.

THE FIRST CUT

Ancestors, **Annuals**, **Melissa Auf der Maur**, **CKY**, **Crystal Method**, **Crystal Antlers**, **Cut Off Your Hands**, **Easy Star All-Stars**, **Earthless**, **Ecstatic Sunshine**, the **Ettes**, **Tim Finn**, **Fight Bite**, **Adam Franklin**, **Gang Gang Dance**, **Lesser Gonzalez Alvarez**, **Sebastien Grainger**, **Hank IV**, **Human Highway**, **Ida Maria**, **Japanese Motors**, **Japanther**, **Jeremy Jay**, **Justin Townes Earle**, **Lake**, **Malajube**, **Mayyors**, **Mika Miko**, **Monotonix**, **Daniel Martin Moore**, **Nomo**, **Notekillers**, **Ra Ra Riot**, **Raveonettes**, **Alina Simone**, the **Shackletons**, **Thee Oh Sees**, **Shugo Tokumaru**, the **Wrens**

NINE LOCALS POISED TO BREAK OUT AT SXSW 09

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T Bird & the Breaks
Mothflight
Ringo Deathstarr
Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears
Suzanna Choffel
Wine & Revolution
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Ben Mallott

MOJO RISING FROM THE UK

The Week That Was Lovers
Max Tundra
White Lies
Laura Marling
Liz Green
The Courteeners
Mumford & Sons
We Have Band

Year of the Moose

The best new music venue in town isn't on Red River or South Congress. Like the **Bad Livers'** **Mark Rubin**, who curates monthly programs at the **Odd Fellows Hall**, the **Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735** (2103 E.M. Franklin) has been regularly hosting shows for the past three months to attract new members. The fraternal organization, which opened its doors locally in 1966, features two assembly rooms, with capacities of 55 and 320, respectively, and because all events are private (a member must sign you in as a guest), it's technically legal to light up inside. "There's a good support system here," says local booker and member **Polly Smith**. "Everyone here has your



Plutonium Farmers at Austin Moose Lodge No. 1725

JOHN ANDERSON

back, and the fact that it's a nonprofit means the money goes to good causes, too." The Loyal Order of the Moose presents the **Persimmons** on Saturday, followed by **Lonesome Dave Fisher** this Tuesday and **School Police** on Thursday, along with the **Plutonium Farmers'** experimental, No Wave vibrations every Monday night.

Random Play

● In what could be called the **Continental Club** revue, **James McMurtry** departs this week for his first ever European tour, with **Jon Dee Graham** and **Ian McLagan** in tow. "I've always been scared about the overhead," discloses McMurtry. "They don't have **Motel 6** over there." The night watchman takes some solace in returning to a new paradigm in the nation's capital. "It's hopeful, at least the beginning," he shrugs. "I still have to worry about what the new president is going to find when he gets into office." On that note, the **Austin Community College Jazz Ensemble** is performing at the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday as part of the **Presidential Inaugural Gala 2009**. Word has it that **C3 Presents** is producing no small part of the festivities.

● **FremantleMedia**, which owns **American Idol**, is suing **Palazio Men's Club** in federal court, claiming that the South Austin establishment's weekly Stripper Idol competition qualifies as trademark infringement.

● The **Kerrville Folk Festival** has achieved an official nonprofit status, after being acquired by the **Texas Folk Music Foundation** last month.

● OTR is getting the heck out of dodge before SXSW draws any closer and will return Jan. 30. In the meantime, don't forget to vote in the annual **Chronicle Music Poll**, p.57.

Middle Americana

Listening in on the ASG Songwriters Symposium

BY DOUG FREEMAN

Packed inside a small conference room at the Downtown Hilton Garden Inn, two dozen songwriters sit in a semicircle in black business chairs. As musicians workshop their songs, guitar picking rings out in contrast to the sterile confines, white walls and fluorescent lights the antithesis of smoky bars and dark dance halls. For the nearly 100 participants gathered at last weekend's Austin Songwriters Group Songwriters Symposium, the event may be the most valuable gig they play all year.

The symposium, now in its fifth year, serves as the annual capstone to ASG's efforts to cultivate both the craft and commerce of songwriting, bringing together instruction from local veterans such as Will Sexton, Kimmie Rhodes, Bill Carter, and Ruth Ellsworth; opportunities to record demos and test new material; and endless sessions of song pitching to Nashville publishers led by BMI's Thomas Cain and Montage Music Group's Bobby Rymer.

"They're at all different levels," says ASG Executive Director Lee Duffy of the group's membership. "There are people that do it for money, people that do it for therapy, and people that do it just 'cause they have to. The goal isn't to get everybody to the same level. There are realistically maybe 10 writers that could break through to another level. We just want them to have every opportunity and access to outlets for their songs."

While ASG remains an intimate organization, under the recent direction of Duffy and President Rick Busby, the group, which now counts about 300 paying members, has consolidated its resources. Most of ASG's 22 years have consisted of informal coffeehouse workshops and picking parties, but since establishing the symposium, the group has begun to forge a reputation worthy of its home city. Last fall, ASG opened its first organizational headquarters, a comfortable duplex off South Lamar converted into a songwriter's haven with rooms for writing and a make-shift studio and performance space (www.austinsongwritersgroup.com).

"What we do here with ASG is really focus on the educational aspects of how to improve in your craft," offers Busby. "That's what the song-doctoring sessions throughout the year are about and the workshops here at the symposium."

The pitch sessions to Nashville publishers can sting with hard reality. By the end of the weekend, Rymer has heard songs from nearly every participant in the symposium, listening intently with eyes closed as the songwriters play recorded demos or pick out their tunes on guitar.

"I come down here with two sets of ears," says Rymer. "I come down here listening for Nashville and what they're looking for, but more importantly, I'm just looking for great songs, whatever format they fall into. The bulk of it, I can't



Known quantities: (l-r) Bill Carter, Will Sexton, and Stephen Doster

do anything with, but turn over enough rocks, and you'll find something."

For Duffy and many of the members of the ASG, that bridge to Nashville is important, even though recent efforts by Save Austin Music to urge local government to help create more of an industry infrastructure in the city is met with a surprising dose of skepticism from the group. Those doubts are born from experience in the case of Bob Cheevers, who sought refuge in Austin after years of toiling in the Nashville machine.

"I loved living there and worked real hard, but there's a kind of toxicity to Nashville," admits Cheevers. "Once you get that dollar bill involved, it

television and film. Yet the ambition of most ASG members is to place a song with an established act.

"People in Nashville like to go with known quantities," Rymer notes. "The heads of labels, A&R, artists, they like to cut songs from known, hit writers. It's a safer bet ... but there are folks that I've run in to down here and am pretty impressed with what they're doing, like Betty Soo."

Betty Soo serves as one of ASG's burgeoning homegrown notables. Having joined the organization's workshops in 2005 when she first began writing songs, they have helped hone her craft and network contacts that have led to her putting out her debut album, *Little Tiny Secrets* ("Texas Platters," Nov. 16, 2007), and touring nationally.

"I like that this symposium is just about the songwriting," offers Soo. "I wouldn't want it to be about performance – there are already things like that. You can go to South by Southwest or Americana [Festival] or the Folk Alliance and get as much information as you want about how to polish your performance."

"But if you want to build relationships with people in Nashville or those that allow you to pitch your songs, that's not findable or accessible information."

That's what makes this a valuable and separate event for me." Soo is also an anomaly in ASG. Her youthful twentysomething presence stands out in a room with writers mostly twice her age. ASG is creating a number of programs to involve local songwriters in their teens, but as yet, there's scant outreach from the organization to attract the young songwriters already shaping the sound of Austin's music future.

"It would be great to get some younger people involved, and it's a very country-oriented thing, which is fine, but in this town, a lot of the younger writers aren't country writers," notes Graham Weber, who hosts open mics at the Cactus Cafe and attended the symposium for the first time. "This could be a very valuable tool for so many people in this town who want to do better things for their music, in whatever way they want to interpret that." ■



Betty Soo

Betty Soo is also an anomaly in ASG. Her youthful twentysomething presence stands out in a room with writers mostly twice her age.

becomes about the dollar and the formula. In Nashville, L.A., and New York, they're still churning out commercial product, but the majors are dinosaurs now, and small indie labels have grown. The best news of all is that you can record a great record in your home – you can start your own label or publishing company.

"[ASG] is plugging into that."

The dichotomy of digital innovation and songwriters trying to penetrate the traditional system is an uneasy balance observable throughout the weekend. Rymer estimates that around a quarter of Montage Music Group's interest is now concerned with licensing to what was once considered alternative outlets:

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She Was Just 17

Smells like teen spirit part 2: 'Just as good as the boys can'

BY MARGARET MOSER

If Austin's teen music scene exudes a whiff of hype (see "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Oct. 24, 2008), consider this: Seventeen-year-old Ariel Abshire released her debut album, *Exclamation Love*, in late October on Darla Records. Abshire didn't solicit the small but prestigious California-based label, which broke My Morning Jacket, recorded the American Analog Set, and keeps alive Klaus Nomi. It found her on MySpace.

"[Darla] said they don't usually do that — they get a million requests a day," acknowledges Abshire. "It took a long time to get around my being a minor, [since] it's difficult to sign a contract because it's not really set in stone."

More concrete is the fact that Abshire is only one of dozens of young women 21 and under making their mark in Austin.

True Feelings

It didn't hurt that Abshire's stepfather, Lance Myers, was in popular 1990s ska band Gals Panic and steered his friend Andy Sharp toward producing her. Another major stepping stone was starting at Natural Ear Music School before her teens and that founder Michele Murphy put her under the tutelage of Austin Music Awards Hall of Fame fiddler Alvin Crow. Soon she was singing with Crow's Hardcore Country at the Broken Spoke.

"Being with him a few times a month since I was 11 has had a huge impact on me," enthuses Abshire. "I sang my first show at the Spoke when I was 12. Hardcore Country Night influenced me on my album. It's why the instrumentation is simple."

Exclamation Love is a rare recording and not because of Abshire's age. Her youth lends it a love-struck poignancy, but it's the authenticity of her music that makes it so striking, bare emotion expressed poetically against lean arrangements. Her lyrical bite might betray baby teeth in places, but the impression it leaves is permanent. *Exclamation Love* is nothing if not fully realized.

"Ninth to 10th grade was when I wrote these songs," she reveals. "The most recent ones, I was 16 when I wrote them — 'Exclamation Love' and 'Subscriptions and Lies.' But most of them I started when I was 14 and 15 and ended up finishing them later. It's good to look back on your true feelings, not clouded by the feelings of the moment, then you can write about it."

Something's Got to Happen

Sasha Zoe Ortiz doesn't simply talk; she bubbles effusively. She's no teenager, yet at 21, she's a pure product of Austin's music scene. The daughter of singer-songwriter Natalie Zoe, Ortiz credits Austin School of Music's Dave Sebree and teacher Cid Sanchez for guiding her into the Blues Mafia.



Ariel Abshire

As lead vocalist for the local fivepiece, Ortiz applies her muscular, sultry alto to the band's spirited original blues-rock and also takes pride in performing with T-Bird & the Breaks. In December, Blues Mafia, whose youngest member is 16, competed in an international youth competition called the Blastbeat World Finals in Dublin, Ireland, and won second place. The band's first CD, *On the Shoulders of Giants*, is due in March.



The Cipher Crew

PHOTOS BY SHELLEY HIAM

"There's a lot of negativity in Austin toward young bands, especially if you don't have anything out," admits Ortiz. "Over the course of a year, we built up a fan base, but you can't do it if the venues won't let you try. Most of the venues here are 21 and up, and that's hard to break into when you're young."

"Something's got to happen. Someone's got to step up. Somebody's got to change things. Now is the perfect time for musicians to take everything back."

The Femme Cs

The Cipher Crew wants you to know it isn't your ordinary rap pack. It's a mixed-gender project promoting socially responsible hip-hop and supporting the East Austin community. The local Cipher Crew is based on an NYC effort, captured in 2006's *The Hip Hop Project*, a documentary produced by Bruce Willis and Queen Latifah.

That's fine by T-Fly, Charity, AROC, Sonja, and Johnetta, the five young women who meet twice a week with the boys of

the crew to rehearse and rap. Much like the underlying message at Girls Rock Camp Austin, empowerment is a big issue with these young women. Their environments often mean additional challenges, such as the high incidence of teen pregnancy and school dropout rates. For them, rapping and performing allows them to acknowledge these issues creatively.

"Being a woman doesn't mean we can't rap, because we can," offers pretty, exuberant 17-year-old Cora Lee, better known as AROC. "We're rappers too, and we've got hot rhymes. The first time I got onstage, I loved it — it was poetry."

"I started writing more and more, and with the response I got, I thought, 'Okay, maybe I'm good at this rapping thing!'"

"So we can do it just as good as the boys can."

Carry On

Being a young member of the fairer sex presents complex issues to girls in music, but Ariel Abshire's voice and image demand an adult context for the music.

"Aaron [Miller] of the El Guapos and I write some songs together, and we perform them at my shows," she explains. "Also in my band now is my producer, Andy Sharp; the drummer from his old band Kissinger; and Alex. We call ourselves Ariel Abshire & the Full Grown Men Band."

To Cipher Crew's T-Fly, the old double-standard is still in place. "We have to work twice as hard at everything we do, memorizing, performing, writing, all that. We always have to be on top of our game."

Sasha Zoe Ortiz says it's all in the way you handle the situation.

"Honestly, at first I wanted to be treated as an equal," she muses. "I wanted the band to let me carry equipment, because that's the way my mom raised me as a woman — to be strong and confident and put yourself out there. And I do."

"But you know what, mom? I'm gonna let them carry the PA system!" ■

Six Under 17

MACKENZIE ALEX

With more than an hour's worth of original material, MacKenzie Alex is ripe to play anywhere she can plug in. Favoring her solo performances on electric guitar as well as acoustic, her unusually well-honed compositions come partly as a result of writing with her mother, Chey. Alex, 16, attends the Austin School of Rock and Roll and studies under Alvin Crow, as did Ariel Abshire.

OLIVIA BENNETT

Super Pal Universe: www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6AqkwW62p0&feature=related

What do you do when you're 14 and your band disintegrates? Keep going with your other band, of course! Olivia Bennett, who's studied with James Mays and Mady Kaye, performed in Sara Hickman's ultraconcept multimedia act, Super Pal Universe, but now focuses on playing bass with Aftermath, which is in the running for the SchoolJam Texas competition. Her fourpiece, mixed-gender pop-rock band recently released *Live at Roadhouse Rags*.

CARSON MCHONE

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGzpjQKOSA

A 16-year-old at McCallum Fine Arts Academy, Carson McHone's direction is clear. With her acoustic guitar and a variety of influences from Dolly Parton and Ryan Bingham to Ana Egge, she's a folkie studying with Darcie Deaville and shaping her songwriting in the tradition of Eliza Gilkyson and Lucinda Williams. McHone also teaches horseback riding, recently causing a stir by riding her horse through a Schlotzsky's drive-through.

HILARY WHITWORTH

Anarchy on Mars:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAI2C5kCbW4

Singer Hilary Whitworth wasn't surprised to find her emo-indie rock band Anarchy on Mars as one of four Austin bands in the SchoolJam Texas semifinals currently under way. A voice student at the Austin School of Music Rock Camp USA, she exudes an 1980s punky pop presence with her quartet onstage, singing, songwriting, and playing keyboards, synthesizer, and bass. Whitworth also played violin for three years at the Armstrong Community Music School.

JENNY WOLFE

Jenny Wolfe with Freddie Steady 5:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zM39zJXPR7s

By the time 16-year-old Jenny Wolfe won last year's Best Teen Band at the Austin Music Awards, her band the Pack had dissolved on the heels of its first CD, and she'd formed a new one. Wolfe's soaring vocals have been guided by Freddie Krc, her teacher at Natural Ear Music School, where she started at age 10. Wolfe often sings backup with Krc's Freddie Steady 5 and occasionally with pop-rock darlings Avenging Poor Yorick. Her new CD, *After School*, is due Feb. 17.

TAYLOR YANEZ

Performing since she was 9, Taylor Yanez has no problem playing solo, but it's by no means her only platform. Like younger brother Tristan, who sings for Natural Ear Music School's teen cover band, the Aviators, the 16-year-old also sings part-time with the Loose Cannons when she's not performing with her band, the Modern Day Hippies. Yanez, who favors blues-rock, isn't modest about her ambitions as a singer: "I plan on taking the Austin music scene by storm."

— M.M.

MUSIC POLL BALLOT

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.

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

ROCK: _____

PUNK: _____

METAL: _____

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH: _____

DJ: _____

INDIE: _____

JAZZ: _____

BLUES: _____

HIP-HOP: _____

INSTRUMENTAL: _____

EXPERIMENTAL: _____

COUNTRY: _____

BLUEGRASS: _____

ROOTS ROCK: _____

FOLK: _____

LATIN TRADITIONAL: _____

Best Austin Musicians (BAND IF APPLICABLE)

FEMALE VOCALS: _____

MALE VOCALS: _____

ELECTRIC GUITAR: _____

ACOUSTIC GUITAR: _____

BASS: _____

DRUMS/PERCUSSION: _____

KEYBOARDS: _____

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT: _____

SONGWRITER: _____

PRODUCER (PRODUCER NAME, ALBUM TITLE): _____

Related Categories

NEW CLUB: _____

LIVE MUSIC VENUE: _____

ACOUSTIC VENUE: _____

ALL-AGES VENUE: _____

RECORD STORE: _____

RADIO STATION: _____

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION): _____

RADIO PERSONALITY (SHOW, DEEJAY, STATION): _____

LOCAL LABEL: _____

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

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

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!

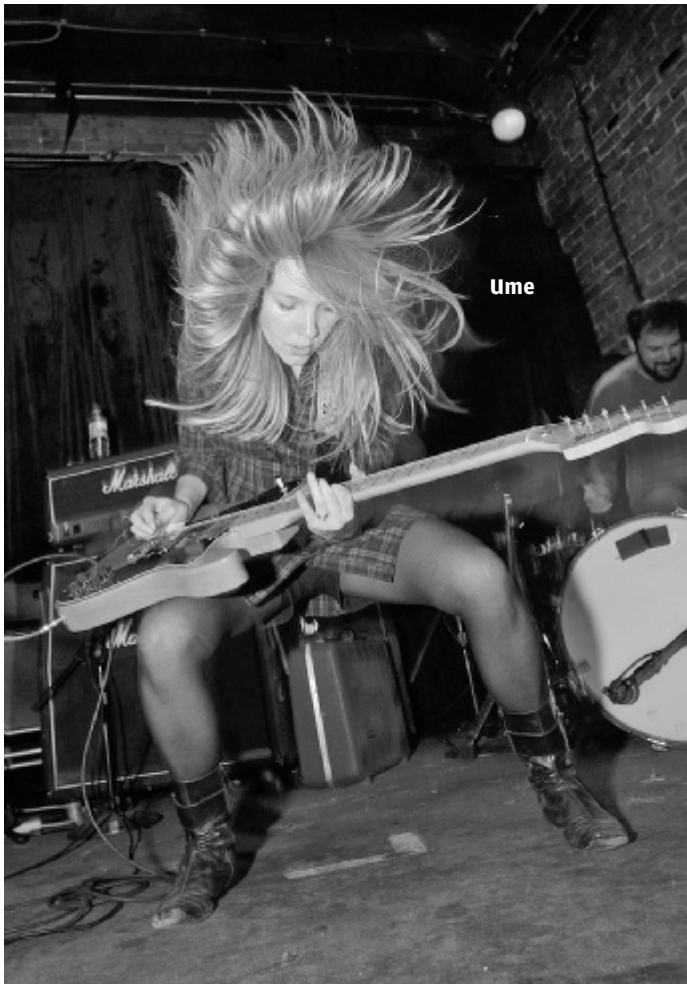
Please mail to: Music Poll

The Austin Chronicle

PO Box 49066

Austin, TX 78765

free week live shots



Ume



Frank Smith



Lions of Tsavo



Those Peabodys



The Teeners

HARLEM, UME Emo's, Jan. 8

Working with producer Frenchie Smith has unearthed something in Ume, the band's previously distorted waves of noise finally solidifying into something hookier. The local trio played songs from new EP *Sunshower* as well as material from 2005's *Urgent Sea*, but there was no noticeable gap. Singer/guitarist Lauren Larson still owns the stage completely, taking off like an unmanned firehose during the solos. Yet as the band's become tighter, more focused, Larson's playing has also matured. Another trio on the verge of great things, Harlem lands on the opposite end of Ume's noise pop. Plowing through much of its excellent 2008 album, *Free Drugs*, without losing its sticky garage feel, the threepiece looked like it just woke up from a nap, but plied its damn catchy songs with verve. Somewhere in between Ume and Harlem was El Paso Hot Button, a one-man metal and fog machine from Oklahoma, stomping on his kick drum and wringing bluesy punk with nasal aplomb. He got the crowd into it for half an hour or so, but then every song started to sound the same, and the strobe light didn't help the situation. —Audra Schroeder

THE TEENERS Emo's, Jan. 9

Peeling into the penultimate night of Free Week, the Teeners grabbed Emo's outside crowd by the throat and crammed their filthy garage-punk manifesto into the faces of all that could take it. While vocalist Johnny Vomitnoise acted as seesawing metronome, the quartet perverted the raw, belligerent aspects of the Stooges and New Bomb Turks to create its saucy, jagged

moxie. Shifting gears for a lighter, more experimental set, newcomers the White White Lights put on a set consisting of a fair amount of New Wave mixed with a whole lot of rock. Jennifer Matthews' vocals were sexy and clear, radiating nuances of Beth Gibbons and Chrissie Hynde from her perch behind the stacked Rhodes/key-board rig, while the rhythm section maintained a stoic elegance and the guitar kept things in check. San Antonio's Hacienda merged poppy Beach Boys with early Elvis Costello for its collection of sweet, retro garage rock, while the Strange Boys' affinity for Bob Dylan is non-pareil and illuminated each song with a folky flavor that complements their smooth incorporation of psychedelia. —Francesca Camillo

LIONS OF TSAVO Red 7, Jan. 9

The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming! Propaganda dripping down the walls in varying shades of Red 7, the club's barren innards echoed forlornly in makeover mode. Daniel Francis Doyle jammed like Marnie Stern on his electric guitar while standing astride a drum kit in his socks. "Little pig rolling in shit," he sang, axe looped and his one-man band thrashing the room's cacophonous acoustics on beats and bleats. Outside, Northwestern interloper Blowupnihillist cleared the patio with electro experimentation designed to atomize South Pacific atolls. Afterward, hardcore/metal quartet Rat King tried peeling corrugation off the outdoor stage's Texas shed metal. Back inside, Vitamins, one of Tia Carrera drummer Erik Conn's three local bands, thrashed two-man like Death From Above 1979. Penultimate bill headliner Lions of Tsavo overlapped on the outdoor stage, pulver-

izing death metal dual vox and guitars in a chain reaction set off by its Zeppelin-esque rhythm duo. Not since the Sword — half of which was in attendance — has a local metal band erected such a fire wall of sonic density. Swordsman Bryan Richie, who produced Tsavo's thundering *[Firelung]*, was nowhere to be seen among the mile-wide smiles at the end of the Austin quintet's 30-minute set, closing on the new title track distorting time, volume, and groove from a plane of sound achieved only through alchemically divine metallurgy. —Raoul Hernandez

THOSE PEABODYS, THE CRACK PIPES, SHAPES HAVE FANGS Emo's, Jan. 10

After warming up the huddled crowd at Club de Ville on Saturday night, Shapes Have Fangs rematerialized inside at Emo's for a hearty second serving, simmering with richly distorted 1960s soul and keeping hard-driving metric attention and deep bass hooks that conjure the Kinks at their ripest. A new split 7-inch with Cavedweller drops later this month, so start pre-training now. The capacity crowd slurped the set up, despite riding the tail end of this year's Free Week musical smorgasbord, then demanded a complementary helping of Southern revival from Austin's own tenacious rock prophets the Crack Pipes. A cohesive collision of clangy cymbals and the gut-summoned howling of the Rev. Ray Pride found absorption in the shimmy-shaking, shoulder-to-shoulder crowd. Lest attendees find themselves longing for another hit, the upcoming Crack Pipes tribute album, *13 Crack Tracks*, features locals sharing the love. The evening's pre-hangover nightcap was dosed out by threepiece Those Peabodys. Drummer at large Erik Conn

tenderized the set with the sort of nimble, feverish precision typically reserved for a Benihana's chef, while guitarist Adam Hatley and bassist Clarke Wilson took shifts on lead vocals, a position better filled by Wilson or, better still, by an independent contractor. —Jamie Laughlin

THE LOVELY SPARROWS, FRANK SMITH, BRAZOS Mohawk, January 10

"Cold weather does not make for nimble fingers," laughed a bundled Shawn Jones as the Lovely Sparrows played into the chill of the Mohawk's outside stage. Whether due to the bluster of weather or the outdoor setting, the Sparrows traded their usually intricate orchestration for a direct rock sound, leaving dexterity to Jones' deft wordplay. "Rene, Your Country" and "Department of Foreseeable Outcomes" from the local quartet's recent *Bury the Cynics* were given punchy, garage-pop licks, cushioned by Lauryn Gould's flute and keys, while a raggedly enthusiastic take on the Traveling Wilburys' "End of the Line" fired up the crowd. Frank Smith proved a bit more schizophrenic, the quartet shifting between the hypertwang of "Highway Eyes" and a much less enticing screamo closer. Brazos stole the show as headliner, reformed as a trio after the departure of guitar maestro Nathan Stein. Frontman Martin Crane soulfully plied new songs such as the swooning "Day Glow" and mellow groove of "Passenger," which warrant anticipation for Brazos' upcoming release. "We Understand Each Other" extended a minimal VU psychedelic pop alongside Crane's surprisingly effective adaptation of Adrienne Rich's poem "The Observer," before closing with requested favorites "Mrs. Virginia" and "Mary Jo." —Doug Freeman

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.

DAD & THE LADIES Mary and DJ Bobbie throw one of the most popular ladies' nights around, seven years running. Come early, and catch Dad in a good mood for cheap drinks. Thursdays: Dad's Happy Hour, 3-8pm; Ladies' Night, 8pm-close. Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.rainbowcattleco.com.

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

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. sankofaasaf@gmail.com.

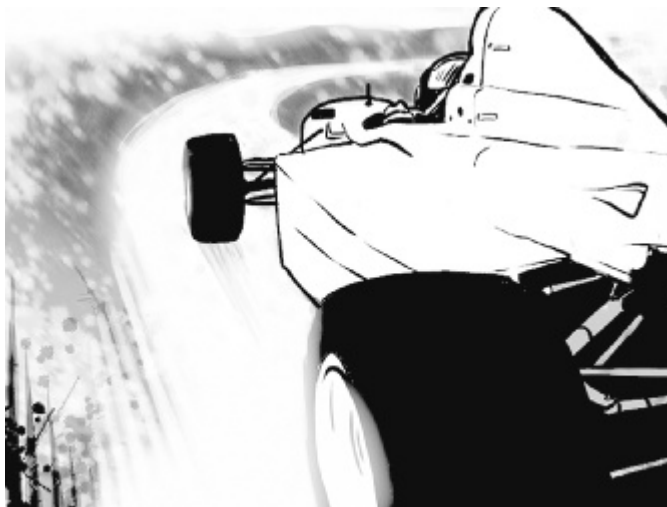
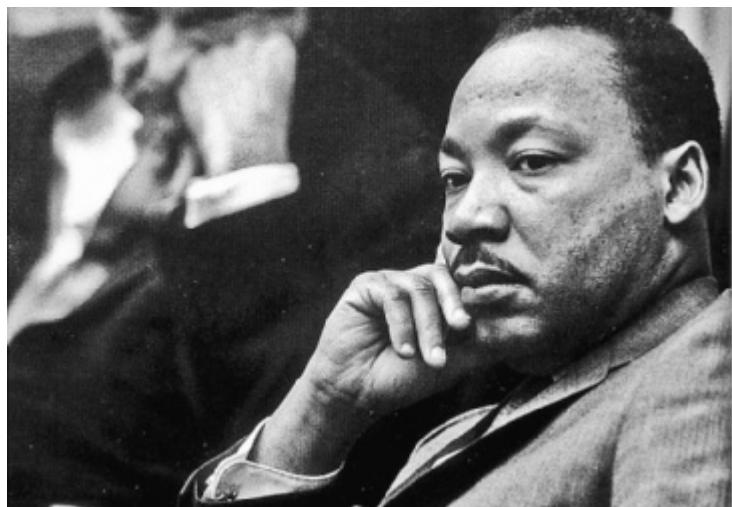
MLK CHILDREN'S ORATORY CONTEST Kids from local elementary schools were asked to explain what dream they would share with Dr. King, and now the finalists share their speeches with the public. Who better than the next generation to kick off Martin Luther King Jr. weekend? 6pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver,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

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.

RECRUIT TO RIDE PARTY Come on ride it. Jump on this recruiting party to learn about the Hill Country Ride for AIDS, happening in late April. 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.skillsshareaustin.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.



THURSDAY, JAN 15 TO THURSDAY, JAN 22

calendar

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

SATURDAY **17**

WONDERDOG Bring the little ones to this play about the new girl in school and the pug that befriends her. Jan. 15-20. Rollins Studio, at the Long Center, 701 W. Riverside, 743-7966. \$6.25-8.25.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
**St. Edward's University,
Women & Their Work**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS
(See Film Listings.)
Crawford @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7pm
No Drinks Allowed in Screening Room @ Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7pm
Poetic Justice @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 7:30pm

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

RECOMMENDED
YOUNG ONES
GAY PLACES

PEOPLE UNITED has a live conversation with Tom West of the Austin GI Rights Hotline and Michael Nordstrom of Iraq Veterans Against the War. 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

SCIENCE OF NATURE Call to register for this conference that explores the relationship between humans and nature. Everything from the honeybee colony collapse to a meditative approach for entering the elemental world will be covered. Fri.-Sun., Jan. 16-18. Austin Waldorf School, 8702 South View, 585-7402. \$90.

TEXAS CLASSIC DOG SHOW Root for your favorite breed, and then meet the pooches and their trainers after the show. Leave your own pets at home, no matter how show-worthy you think they are. Fri.-Sun., Jan. 16-18. Triple Crown Dog Academy, 200 CR 197, Hutto, 269/343-9020. Free. www.ukcdogs.com.

THANK GOODNESS I'M BI is the ambisexualerous happy hour that gathers on the first and third Fridays of every month. Look for room directly across from the dartboards. 7pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 370-9573. www.main.org/binetaustin.

BOAT SHOW (See Thursday, 1/15.)

WONDERDOG (See Thursday, 1/15.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)
Latino Comedy Project: Bye-Bye Bush
The Hideout Theatre

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Flatted Press

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Richard Garriott's Space Mission + "Space Station 3-D" @ IMAX Theatre, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Scott Weiland La Zona Rosa
North Mississippi Allstars Antone's
See. Hear. Speak. 4 Aftershow Club de Ville
Richie Havens One World Theatre

CHRISTMAS TREE MULCH PICKUP Come to the Zilker polo fields, and get your mulch courtesy of all the recycled Christmas trees. Bring your own shovels, bags, or other mulch-retrieving implements early because it's first-come first-served, and they usually run out within 42 hours. The fresh mulch should be composted for a few months before spreading. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free.

AUSTIN IN SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA Speakers at this rally include priests, professors, and politicians raising their voices for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Here's to hoping they hear us. 2pm. Texas state Capitol, 1100 Congress, 305-8400. www.solidaritywithgaza.com.

BIODIESEL 101 Register online for this seminar on making and using a variety of biodiesel fuels. The class is hands-on, so come prepared to get dirty. 10am-4pm. Hubbert's Peak Renewable Energies School, 4704 E. Cesar Chavez. \$80. www.hubbertspeak.org/classes.html.

BURNS SUPPER Speeches, toasts, and entertainment with a Scottish bent accompany the four-course meal. E-mail for tickets. Not suitable for the young'uns. 7-11pm. Clarion Inn & Suites, 2200 S. I-35, 263-9574. \$35. acmars@austin.rr.com.

CAMP BOW WOW ADOPTION EVENT Games, prizes, and a pet-photo studio make adoptions (facilitated by the Austin SPCA) all the more enticing at the grand opening of this new animal boarding facility. 10am-3pm. Camp Bow Wow, 13900 I-35, 670-2275. Free. www.campbowwow.com/austin.

DIVINE LOVE IN DAILY LIFE The Austin Eckankar Center (223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206) helps you find it. 2pm. 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

EMMA VIRJAN throws one for Nacho the Party Puppy. 11am. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

| L - R: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (SEE MONDAY) | 'PLAYING THROUGH' (SPORTS, P.64) | 'A GRAND AFFAIR' (ARTS, P.70)

MONDAY 19

FUNKY FORMAL DANCE Don your most outrageous duds, and prepare to dance the night away to the classic rock sounds of Mary's Distraction. 9:30pm-2am. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$4.

GREENGIRLS BREAKFAST Meet with other women of the earth, and learn what you can do to preserve the planet. *Every third Saturday of the month, 10am.* *Austin Java Cafe & Bar*, 1608 Barton Springs Rd., 482-9450. www.greengirls.net.

HEALTHY INDIAN CUISINE Learn about the macrobiotic healing of food from India. 9am. *The Natural Epicurean Academy of Culinary Arts*, 1701 Toomey, 476-2276. \$45. www.naturalepicurean.com.

HISPANIC FUTURES CONFERENCE Students and their parents are invited to this conference featuring speakers, exhibits, info, and materials intended to advance academic achievement. 9:30am. *LBJ High School*, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr., 414-0884.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON'S STEM ACADEMY High schoolers are eligible to apply for this Saturday class series for students interested in forensic science and mathematics. *Every other Saturday, 9am-noon.* 900 Chicon, 505-3163. Free. ablofters@htu.edu, www.htu.edu.

JOHN EVERSON draws blood in his novel *Covenant*, winner of the Bram Stoker award. 7pm. *Barnes & Noble Arboretum*, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

MATERNAL IS POLITICAL INAUGURATION CELEBRATION See box on p.62.

MLK COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROJECT Sign up online to volunteer, and learn what it means to make a positive impact on the community. Four different outdoor locations will have different projects to benefit Austin. Go online to sign up and do your civic duty in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. 9am-3pm. 452-4800. Free. www.collegeforward.org.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL GALA See box on p.62.

PREMARITAL WORKSHOPS This eight-hour, secular workshop won't just save you \$60 on your wedding license but will also give you the tools to maintain a healthy, communicative relationship. 9am. *Ronald McDonald House*, 403 E. 15th, 454-4611. Free. www.lsss.org.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION SERVICES FAIR Children of low-income families who are students at a school that has been rated "needs improvement" two years in a row are eligible for free supplemental education services. See which tutoring options best suit your family's needs. 9am-noon. *Reagan High School*, 7104 Berkman, 414-2523. Free. www.austiniscd.org/academics/ses.

TEA TIME FOR YOU It is Lewis Carroll's birthday, so let's read *Tea for Ruby* along with other delightfully sugary tales all about tea and/or crumpets to salute the national drink of Wonderland. 11:30am. *BookPeople*, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY Get to know the different types of bamboo that thrive in Austin, and groom some bamboo yourself in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden. Hand clippers, loppers, a saw, and gloves

are recommended. 10am. *Zilker Botanical Garden*, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 929-9565. Free. www.bamboocentral.net.

TIME EXCHANGE MONTHLY POTLUCK Share your skills (and some food) with like-minded people. Who needs money when you have helpful friends like this? 6pm. *Soma Vida*, 1210 Rosewood, 207-0598. Free. www.austintimeexchange.org.

BOAT SHOW (See Thursday, 1/15.)

CUSTOM CAR & HOT ROD SHOW (See Friday.)

PRACTIQUEMOS ESPAÑOL (See Thursday, 1/15.)

SCIENCE OF NATURE (See Friday.)

TEXAS CLASSIC DOG SHOW (See Friday.)

WONDERDOG (See Thursday, 1/15.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Art on 5th, Lora Reynolds Gallery, Okay Mountain Gallery, Austin Museum of Art, Studio2Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Greetings @ Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7, 9pm

The Godfather @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

The Rocky Horror Picture Show

@ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

North Mississippi Allstars *Antone's Business Deal Band* *Lotto CD Release* *Emo's Daniel Francis Doyle* *Bearland Sand Rubies* *Club de Ville*

SUNDAY 18

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Join Tim Hayles, the singing humanist. 10am. *Laguna Gloria*, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

FELLATIO 101 It should go without saying that this instructional meeting is not kid friendly. RSVP online. 6pm. *Forbidden Fruit*, 108 E. North Loop, 453-8090. \$25 (\$20, advance). www.forbiddenfruit.com/workshops.htm.

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.flyingtheatermachine.com.

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY SPEAKER SERIES Professional luthier John Koehler discusses the history of German string-instrument making over the past 350 years. 3pm. *German Free School*, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. Free. www.germantexans.org.

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

NONDUAL SPIRITUAL PRACTICE A talk from Michael D. Morrow, author of *Non-Dualism: A New Experiment in Living*. 1pm. *Casa de Luz*, 1701 Toomey, 858-0149. Free.

OCTAVITAS CELEBRATION Puerto Ricans celebrate Christmas right. Starting just after Thanksgiving and extending until today, Octavitas, Chanukah has nothing on this extended holiday. Bring an instrument, and sing along to the Xmas tunes led by the Parranderos de Austin. 2-5pm. *Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Culture Center*, 507-B Pressler. Free. www.prdance.org.

SIX-WEEK PROGRESSIVE SALSA CLASS Leads, follows, and everybody in-between: Here's your LGBT-friendly classes, in a series of six Sundays, beginning tonight. Special salsa dance party on the last night of class. *Sundays, through Feb. 22, 6-7pm.* *Go Dance*, 2525 W. Anderson, 339-9391. \$65. taletha.j@godancestudio.com, www.austinoutdancing.com.

THAI MASSAGE FOR BEGINNERS Noon-3pm. *Human Potential Center*, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

WEEKLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM Attorney Mary Ellen Felps discusses the death penalty process which she witnessed firsthand. *Sundays, 11:30am.* *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

WINTER BIRD WALK Expert birder Kathy McCormack shows you the avian-spotting ropes at this suburban lake. Call or go online to sign up, and get specific directions to the meeting point. 3:30pm. *Meadow Lake, Settlement Drive, Round Rock*, 512/698-9880. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

BOAT SHOW (See Thursday, 1/15.)

CUSTOM CAR & HOT ROD SHOW (See Friday.)

SCIENCE OF NATURE (See Friday.)

TEXAS CLASSIC DOG SHOW (See Friday.)

WONDERDOG (See Thursday, 1/15.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Crawford @ Austin Moose Lodge, 7pm

Street Fight @ Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm

Wizards @ Alamo Ritz, 7:50pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Public Offenders *The Parish*

Christopher Cross *One World Theatre*

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER

gayplace

BURNING FOR CHANGE With a big, cleansing sigh of relief, we approach 2009, and it has the fresh-as-a-daisy feel of clean undies and socks. No more Bush as of this Tuesday! Jan. 20 is more than an **Obama-rama**, it's a chance at real dignity for all folks in this crazy united batch of states we call home. (And not "homeland," you freaking fascists.) Our own Gay Place blogger **Dacia Saenz** will be live-blogging from the inauguration in D.C., and we have a few more tricks

up our blog sleeve this week, so please do check in regularly at austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog. Lezzie comedian **Kate Clinton** will be "sagging" the White House after Shrub takes his leave. And it will be the first in a long time since that place has seen "sage" anything. You can e-mail her at kate@kateclinton.com to get on a special mailing list to see the festivities virtually. We'll also have a blog post up about it this week. Welcome to a new day, friends.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com. Visit austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.



| 'NOTORIOUS' (FILM, P.72) | AMY RAY (MUSIC, P.82)

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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*

The Port Isabel Lighthouse near the southern tip of Texas still offers a commanding view of South Padre Island and Laguna Madre more than

150 years after it was built. Looking like a giant white candlestick at the mainland end of the Queen Isabella Causeway, it is the most accessible lighthouse on the Texas coast.

In the mid-1800s, the federal government embarked on an ambitious plan to build more than 60 lighthouses along the 1,700 miles of coastline between Key West, Fla., and the mouth of the Rio Grande. Of the 16 major lighthouses built along the Texas coast, only six survive, and the Port Isabel tower is the only one at its original location open to the public. (Of the same era, the Halfmoon Reef Lighthouse was moved to a park in Port Lavaca.)

The town of Port Isabel (population 5,000) began as El Fronton in the 1830s. By 1850, the little harbor was exporting tons of cotton and agricultural products from the Lower Rio Grande region. The lighthouse was built in 1852 to guide ships through Brazos Santiago Pass between the southern end of Padre Island and the mainland.

Constructed of brick, the lighthouse tower is 72 feet tall and 82 feet above sea level. When lit, the light was visible from almost 16 miles away. Mercury-vapor lights installed in the 1990s still function as an aid to navigation.

Occupying the site used by the Army during the Mexican-American War, the lighthouse was nearly as valuable to the military as an observation tower as it was to shipping. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate troops occupied the post at different times. Spotters were also stationed there during both World Wars.

By 1905, the light was extinguished. It was made obsolete by improved navigation devices, the railroad, and highways. Over the next five decades, the lighthouse sat vacant. The keeper's house was demolished, and the landmark was on its way to becoming an eyesore when it was donated to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as a historical site in 1950.

The navigation beacon became an instant tourist attraction when it opened in 1952, two years before the first Queen Isabella Causeway connected Port Isabel to the island. For those willing to endure the tight quarters of the spiral staircase to climb the 75 steps to the top, the view is still magnificent.

The Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site is at 421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd. (TX 100). A replica of the lighthouse keeper's house is now a museum and the local Chamber of Commerce. The lighthouse is open for tours seven days a week, 9am to 5pm, during the winter and Sunday-Thursday, 10am to 6pm, and Friday-Saturday, 11am-8pm, during the summer. A nominal fee is charged for entering the lighthouse. For information, call 956/943-2262 or go to

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/portisabellighthouse.

915th 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.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

WINDOWS ON TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL This festival and industry conference presents some of the best emerging talent in Texas, with showcases all weekend long culminating at a big bash featuring Hal Ketchum at Luckenbach Dancehall. *Thu.-Sun., Jan. 15-18. Various locations, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2197. www.texasrebelradio.com.*

O'REILLY WEST TEXAS AREACROSS & FREESTYLE CHAMPIONSHIP Amateur and professional motocross riders compete for prize money and points in an event that includes freestyle jumps. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17. Ector County Coliseum, Odessa, 432/366-3541. \$10-20. www.mapmotorsports.com.*

SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO is the world's original indoor rodeo. Began in 1896, it has become one of the nation's largest and oldest showcases for all kinds of livestock. *Fri., Jan. 16-Sun., Feb. 8. Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth, 817/877-2400. www.fwssr.com.*

HILL COUNTRY GEM & MINERAL SHOW displays all kinds of rocks, plus exhibits, merchandise, demonstrations, and kid-friendly games. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 17-18. Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, Fredericksburg, 830/990-9823. Free. www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org.*

WINTER ANTIQUES FAIR offers a wide variety of exhibitors with antiques, collectibles, and memorabilia from around the world. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 17-18. Big Red Barn, Round Top, 888/273-6426. \$5. www.roundtoptexasantiques.com.*

OPRY NIGHT features a professional stage band providing backup to local talent trying their hand at the country & western classics. *Sat., Jan. 17. American Legion Hall, Smithville, 512/237-2313. \$15. www.smithvilletx.org.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION includes the largest people's march in the nation plus educational and service opportunities at various locations around town. *Mon., Jan. 19. San Antonio, 210/207-7224. www.sanantonio.gov/mlk.*

MLK DAY OF WELLNESS Homeless adults are invited to get checked out. Foot care, HIV testing, eye exams, hygiene kits, and medical care will be available. Bands and beverages will also be provided. Not homeless? Donations can be dropped off at the ARCH building (500 E. Seventh); just tell them it's for AmeriCorps' Day of Wellness. *9:30am-2pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 E. 10th, 305-4138. Free. kdarakhshan@frontsteps.org. www.keepaustinhoused.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.rutamaya.net.*

TROOP HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Come to this information session about the Austin GI Rights Hotline. Help soldiers with discharges, conscientious objection, AWOL problems, sexual harassment, medical issues, and more. *Training starts in February. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 452-6245. bernran@aol.com.*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

American Pop @ Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm
Mission Accomplished: Bush's Last Day @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7pm
The Godfather @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

TUESDAY 20

BIRDS & CONSERVATION Shelia Hargis, past president of Travis Audubon Society, talks about the future of birds in Central Texas. *7pm. REI, 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357.*

BLOOD DRIVE They want to suck your blood. 3-6pm. *Charming Charlie, 1335 E. Whitestone Blvd. Ste. H-400, Cedar Park, 512/259-4262. www.inyourhands.org.*

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.*

HERITAGE/WINDSOR HILLS ZONING MEETING This workshop focuses on how to make these neighborhoods green and sustainable. Fight for your local tree canopy. *6:30pm. Dobie Middle School, 1200 E. Rundberg, second floor. www.cityofaustin.org/zoning/heritage_hills.htm.*

HEY HOMO PRESENTS HEDWIG Get your Barbie-doll crotch on down to the mo' for Hey Homo's latest: an intensely emotional sing-along purging of the John Cameron Mitchell variety. Come on, sing it with us! *"Shag, bivel, bob Dorothy Hamill do,*

sausage curl, chicken wings, it's all because of you!" 7:45pm. Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320.

HILL COUNTRY NUDISTS welcome all to this monthly (clothed) introduction to the nudie lifestyle. *Third Tuesdays, 7pm. Mr. Natural, 2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223. www.hillcountrynudists.com.*

IT'S RAINING GLITTER! Remember when you were in that glam frat in college and Tuesday night was *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* night? And when you weren't tossing off licks (...) you were snogging up boys? No? Well come down to Rain and make those memories. *Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.*

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY MEETING Everything you want to know about Central Texas lichens but were afraid to ask. *7pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 472-1062. Free. www.npsot.org/Austin.*

SILLY STORYTIME! Read *Ducks Don't Wear Socks* and other quacky tales to tickle your funny bone. *10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ACCOUNTANTS MEETING Schmooze, hobnob, and network with other ladies of the numbers. This meeting will focus on the latest version of Microsoft Excel. *6pm. Sicola's, 5416 Parkcrest #700, 424-6506. \$21-35. www.aswaustin.org.*

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.*

TOUR OF MEDITATION PRACTICES convenes regularly to explore a new relaxation or meditation approach at each meeting. *6:15-7pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.*

WONDERDOG (See Thursday, 1/15.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Hedwig and the Angry Inch @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Hi, Mom! @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Amy Ray Stubb's
Inauguration Party Antone's
Combichrist Elysium

inauguration

MATERNAL IS POLITICAL INAUGURATION CELEBRATION Shari MacDonald Strong, editor of *The Maternal Is Political*, hosts this evening in celebration of Obama's inauguration and Bush's departure. *Sat., Jan. 17, 7-9pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.*

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL GALA RSVP online, and brush off your semiformal attire for Austin's celebration of change in the White House. Grupo Fantasma ensures that your feet are as happy as your soul on this historic occasion. *Sat., Jan. 17, 8pm. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 465-2162. \$100. www.actblue.com/page/gala.*

INAUGURATION WATCH PARTY Travis County Democrats host this morning soiree in celebration of the swearing in of Obama. Watch as "change" becomes more than a slogan. *Tue., Jan. 20, 10am. Scholz Bier Garten, 1700 San Jacinto.*

OBAMANAUIGATION LUAU PARTY Hawaiian music, hula dancers, and live drumming by the Tahiti Revue provide the backdrop for your Obama cheering section and celebration. *Tue., Jan. 20, 6-10pm. Austin Crowne Plaza, 6121 N. I-35, 440-7171. \$30 (\$25, advance).*

PARTY LIKE A BARACK STAR All 13 TVs will be tuned in to the inauguration all day, but as evening rolls around, the party gets going as you're invited to dress as your favorite historical figure on this historic night. *Tue., Jan. 20, 6pm-12mid. Cuatro's, 1004 24th, 243-6361. Free. www.cuatroaustin.com.*

DIVERSEARTS: THE ROAD TO HOPE New East Gallery commemorates the inauguration of Barack Obama with the opening of this new show, subtitled "A Photographic Glimpse of African-American Life, 1850-1960," including a number of rarely seen images from some of the 20th century's most celebrated documentary photographers. *Reception: Tue., Jan. 20, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 28. New East Arts Gallery, 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org.*



sports

BY MARK FAGAN listings

BY THOMAS HACKETT *playingthrough*

There's the thrill of holing out from the rough. There's the satisfaction of putting in a long run before most people are out of bed. There's the bracing metabolic kick of a plunge into Barton Springs on a cold winter day. But the older I get, the more it seems that what excites me most is exactly what had me agog as a little kid: going fast.

I think it's a midlife crisis thing.

Other than getting on an airplane, I'm pretty sure there's no place in Austin where you can go as fast, safely, as you can at the spread that **Bill Dollahite** has carved out of the brambly bottomlands along the Colorado River, east of Highway 183. The place is called the Driveway Austin Motorsports Academy and Retreat, which struck me as a rather hifalutin name for what I had expected would be a half-assed operation, where a bunch of good ol' boys drive souped-up Chevy's around a rutted dirt track. Taking a high-speed spin around the 1.7-mile Grand Prix track in a tricked-out Mazda Miata, I admitted as much to Dollahite.

"We've kept it very low profile by design," he said. "We want to get it right, to make sure it's at a world-class level. I spent two years searching for this site, and it's perfect. But every corner, every elevation change, every straightaway has been carefully designed." Designed, that is, to evoke if not replicate features of famous Grand Prix tracks around the world, from Ferrari's test track in Italy to Laguna Seca's swooping corkscrew turn in California. In other words, Driveway Austin is not some boring banked oval NASCAR track. After breaking ground only a year ago, the facility is on a fast track to becoming the best road-racing training facility in the country, rivaling the best in Europe. And it's aficionado of European motor sports who have been drawn to the place – i.e., people with some serious money.

Please write Mr. Hackett at playingthrough@austinchronicle.com.

"It's not all Dellionaires, though," says Dollahite's son Scott, who turned down an offer to join a Formula 3 team in Italy, taking an academic scholarship at Kansas State instead. No, maybe not all, but with a pit stop full of Porsches and Lotuses and Vipers, not to mention a few privately owned Formula 1 cars, I sensed that the sport may be a little rich for my blood. Like, if I had a hundred grand to spare Even so, I felt a definite affinity with these guys. I didn't have their money or their rides, but I could see it just as plainly in their eyes as they could see it in mine – the abiding itch to take a car, any car, even my car, and experience something close to its full potential.

Dollahite surely appreciates the feeling. Even while working in high tech, he raced professionally for some 25 years. But the multilevel training classes at Driveway Austin (starting at \$295 for the all-day foundation course) are not, he insists, about speed. They're about control. "What wins races is not guts," he says. "It's about who plays the best chess game. That's what we teach."



CRAIG STAGGS

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. 30 issue is Monday, Jan. 19. 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:

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

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, Listings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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. Anaheim: *Wed., Jan. 21, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 236-8333. \$8-23.* www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

QUAN COSBY AUTOGRAPH SESSION **Quan Cosby's** winning touchdown catch in the Fiesta Bowl earned him a permanent home in the hearts of Longhorn football fans, who will have a chance to secure his John Hancock at this event. A minimum purchase of \$10 of Longhorn merchandise is required, no outside product will be allowed, and only one autograph per person. *Sat., Jan. 17, 11am-2pm. University Co-op, 2244 Guadalupe, 476-7211.* www.universitycoop.com.

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS WHAMMY AWARDS In its sixth year, the Whammys celebrate the roughest and toughest Texas Roller girls of the year. Go to the website to vote for your fan favorite right now. The theme for this year's party is Then and Now, derby throughout the ages. *Sun., Jan. 18, open to the public at 11pm. Mohawk, 912 Red River. Free.* www.txrollergirls.com.

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Swimming & Diving Vs. McMurry: *Sat., Jan. 17, noon.* southwesternpirates.cstv.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 22, 8pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 22, 5:30pm.* www.stedwards.edu/athletics.

TEXAS STATE Men's Basketball Vs. Sam Houston State: *Wed., Jan. 21, 7pm. Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Central Arkansas: *Sat., Jan. 17, 2pm. Strahan Coliseum.* txstatebobcats.cstv.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Women's Basketball Vs. Colorado: *Sat., Jan. 17, 7pm. Erwin Center, 1701 Red River.* www.texasports.com.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Southwestern Assemblies of God University: *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm.* *300 E. Huntland Dr.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Southwestern Assemblies of God University: *Thu., Jan. 22, 5:30pm.* *300 E. Huntland Dr.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

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

LARRY DIERKER TO SPEAK AT TEXAS STATE Houston Astros legend **Larry Dierker** will be one of three speakers at the Central Texas Mid-Winter Meeting organized by the Rogers Hornsby Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research. Also speaking will be baseball authors **Talmage Boston** and **Milton H. Jamail**. Dierker will speak at 3pm. *Sat., Jan. 17, Old Main, Rm. 320, Texas State University. Free.* billcgilbert@sbcglobal.net.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING GROUP Interested in starting/joining a synchronized swimming group for adult women? This new group is looking for members. For details, e-mail austinsynchro@gmail.com.

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN FITNESS CIRCLE meets every other Saturday to walk laps at Highland Mall. Open to men and women; meet at the food court. *Sat., Jan. 17, 9am. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport.* austincircles@gmail.com.

ACC GOLF LESSONS If you resolved to learn to play golf in '09, here's your chance. Self-paced course with about 18 hours of class for \$82. scottaj1@juno.com, www3.austinc.edu/schedule/wcell/cepr.htm.

TEAM IN TRAINING INFORMATION MEETING The **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's** Team in Training is seeking volunteers to become a part of the world's largest sports training program. Professional coaches will train you to complete the Capital of Texas Triathlon, run or walk a full or half marathon in Seattle or San Diego, cycle 100 miles around Lake Tahoe, or hike the Grand Canyon. Attend a meeting to learn how you can be part of a group while helping to find a cure for blood cancers. *Thu., Jan. 22, 7-8pm at BettySport, 916 W. 12th; Sat., Jan. 24, 10:30-11:30am at REI (Gateway), 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N; Thu., Jan. 29, 6:30-7:30pm at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th. 491-6610. Free.* www.teamintraining.org/ctx.

WAKA KICKBALL STAFF KICKS IT WITH THE YMCA The World Adult Kickball Association and the YMCA will be hosting kickball games for kids 8-12 and will donate the equipment for use in the 2009 YMCA programs. The WAKA staff will also be assisting in painting and building projects at the YMCA East Communities Branch. *Sat., Jan. 17, 10am-12:30pm. YMCA East Communities Branch, 5315 Ed Bluestein, 933-9622.* www.kickball.com.

AUSSIE'S GRILL & BEACHBAR VOLLEYBALL Registration is ongoing for Aussie's Spring I coed league. Fees due at sign-up. Registration continues until all slots are full. www.aussiesbar.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

RIVER ROAD 12-MILE RUN A lovely six-mile out-and-back along the rolling hills of River Road with a party and awards presentation at Camp Huaco following. Late registration and packet pickup starts 7am. *Sat., Jan. 17, 8am. Huaco Springs Campground, 4150 River Rd., New Braunfels, 830/627-8401.* www.seidelproductions.com.

BY NICK BARBARO *soccer watch*

The **Austin Aztex** continue to make big moves. They announced this week that they'll bring in three Major League Soccer teams on consecutive Saturdays for preseason exhibition games: **New England Revolution** Feb. 28, **Houston Dynamo** March 7, and **Columbus Crew** March 14. Said Aztex owner Phil Rawlins in a press release: "We wanted to bring in the best the MLS has to offer. New England has been to the MLS Cup three of the last four seasons. Houston won it two years in a row, and Columbus is the reigning champion." ... The **MLS SuperDraft** is today, Thursday, Jan. 15 (live on ESPN2, 1pm); soon thereafter, expect the Aztex to start announcing some player signings; right now they have three players on their roster, and they play a top MLS team in six weeks. Speaking of which, the Aztex hold their final public tryouts Feb. 7-8 at St. Edward's University; deadline to apply online: *Jan. 19.* www.austinaztex.com.

Marta Vieira da Silva and **Cristiano Ronaldo** were named FIFA World Players of the Year on Monday – Marta for the third straight time. That same day, the **Los Angeles Sol** announced that they had signed Marta to a three-year contract, and the new **Women's Professional Soccer** league had the one player they needed for instant international credibility – to compete with Europe's major women's leagues that have grown up since the days of the Women's United Soccer Association. The seven-team WPS kicks off its inaugural season March 29. See www.womensprosoccer.com.

Potters breakfast: Chelsea-Stoke is live on Fox Soccer Channel, 9am, Saturday, Jan. 17.

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Sick Around the World

PBS Documentary and Discussion

January 22, 2009, Thursday, 7pm-9pm

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HEALTHCARE REFORM is coming. Are you informed on your healthcare options?

- 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 countries.
- Medical bills are responsible for more than half the bankruptcies in the US.

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

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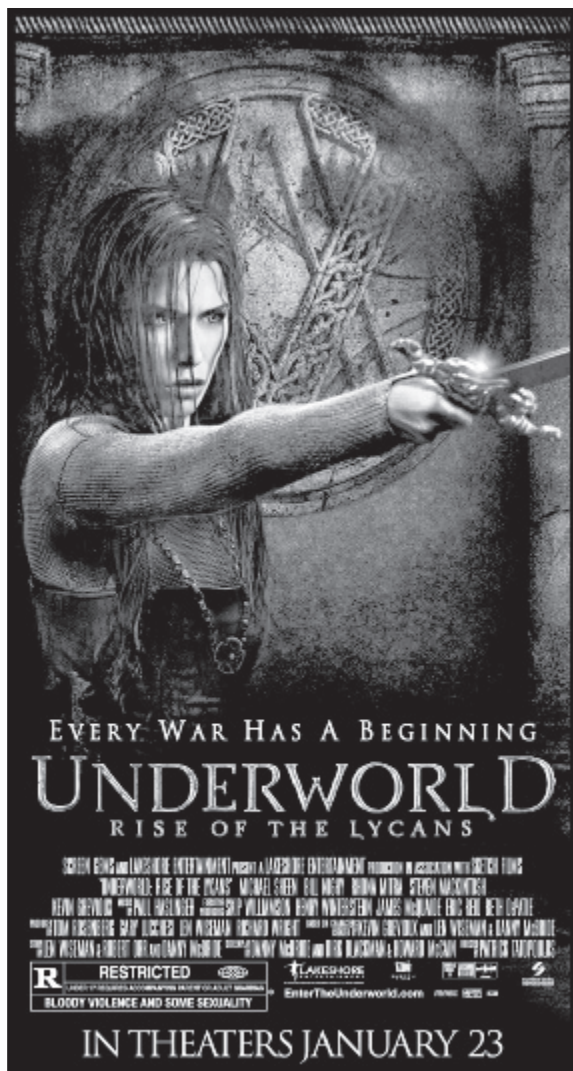


Special **ADVANCE** Screening

Thursday, January 22, 7:30pm

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by Monday, January 19.

No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission.

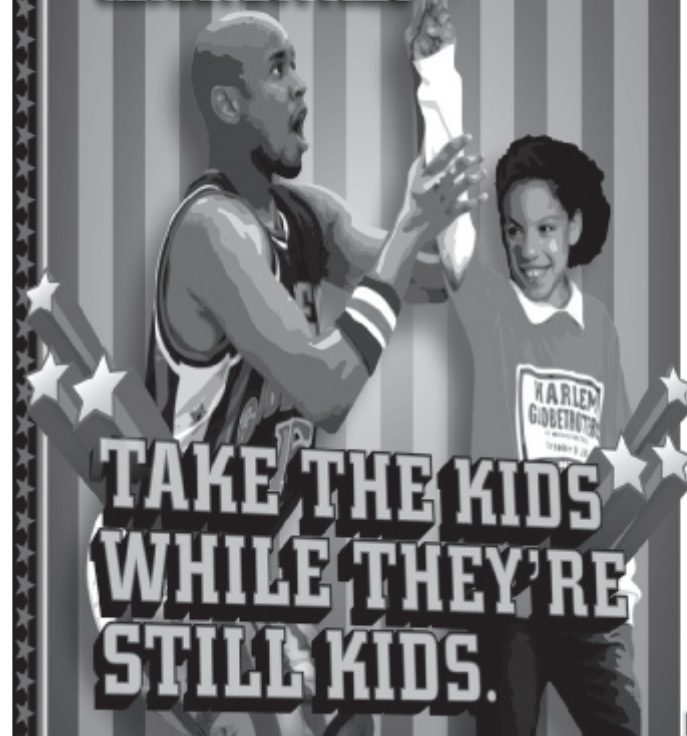


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arts listings



City Theatre, through Feb. 1 | **Miss Witherspoon**
Running time: 1 hr, 40 min

During life, we seek to understand death and, most pressingly, what happens after death. Many take comfort in reincarnation. If you screw up in this life, you can try to do better in the next.

As a worm or a king. But what if you hated life on earth so thoroughly that rather than a second chance, you preferred general anesthesia? If life is living hell, why go back? *Miss Witherspoon* – Christopher Durang’s treatment of reincarnation, suicide, and the netherworld – is at times clever, at times amusing, but it has trouble transcending its own gags in order to achieve the ethereal.

The play centers on the title character, who hated life and killed herself. Thus begins a battle of wills between Miss Witherspoon and her bemused spirit guide, Maryamma. The premise of an earthly woman residing stubbornly in the Bardo and refusing to reincarnate is full of potential. Trouble is, Durang uses it to only shallow ends, creating a series of brief scenes and running jokes. We see essentially the same scene play out over and over: The swirling lights of reincarnation turn on, and Miss Witherspoon grips her chair and shouts defiantly, trying to engage spiritual emergency brakes. Sometimes she succeeds, in which case she continues to discuss her own bad attitude. And when she doesn’t and ends up back in the land of the living, she is miserable and does her best to commit suicide as soon as possible. Of all the different lives that a soul could inhabit, Durang bothered to imagine only three – and all three occur in the same limited American reality.

To stay buoyant, this material needs to be spun quickly, but Different Stages’ production labors the many minor points so that, though this is a short play, the time does not pass quickly. Jennifer Underwood inhabits the title role and is a compelling guide through Durang’s repetitious brainstorm, though at times she seems underwhelmed by her mate-

rial. We see Underwood’s power and depth as a performer not when she is Miss Witherspoon in the Bardo but rather when she is back on earth as a suicidal two-week-old baby or a white-trash teenager or a dog. Underwood also creates a nice transition from a woman who has no hope to a woman who becomes ever so slightly engaged in life. Suzanne Balling draws the character of Maryamma with clear, sharp lines. She and Underwood make a pleasantly odd couple. Camille Latour, Derek Jones, and Patricia Robinson round out the cast and provide a series of caricatures that populate Miss Witherspoon’s journey. Much like the material, the production doesn’t dig too deep. It is amusing and sufficient but rarely surprising or moving.

Miss Witherspoon is an essentially pessimistic piece with some sugarcoatings of humor and optimism. Durang conceives of Jesus Christ (appearing as a black woman in a fantastic hat) and Gandalf (not the fictional character but the sage soul who inspired the fictional character) as distraught at the current state of the world. They plead with Miss Witherspoon to go back and live better. Go re-teach the teachings of Christ. Go heal the political wounds. Miss Witherspoon is predictably unenthused at the prospect of doing good works, but having no choice, she requests not to be sent somewhere awful like Iraq or Syria. Gandalf and Christ relent and allow her to return to an upper-middle-class American life. Durang’s *Miss Witherspoon* acknowledges that life can be a living hell, but it encourages us to be, to the best of our ability, pacifist Christians who work to overcome the tribal nature of modern war. And if we are lucky or stubborn, we can do our good works from a comfortable place like Connecticut. – Hannah Kenah

theatre

OPENING

BEEHIVE Larry Gallagher’s original big-hair Sixties girl group musical is back for a Motowned month of roof-raising, dance-stepping farewell performances under the direction of, yes, Dave “Hard Workin’” Steakley. *Jan. 16-Feb. 22. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org.*

CLOSING

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.” (See review, p.68.) *Thu.-Sat., through Jan. 17, 8pm. E-mail for location. \$10. myopicgirl1@gmail.com.*

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR C’mon, sure you know how to love him. Ted Neeley, that is, reprising his original role in this touring musical classic about that carpenter from Nazareth and all the Roman-era hubbub he wreaks. Rice and Webber at their youngest and best, right? Music and mythology in spectacular union, sure to get your toes a-tapping and your stigmata to manifest themselves again. Recommended. *Thu., Jan. 15, 8pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 482-0800. \$49-69. www.thelongcenter.org/performances.aspx?id=2382.*

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 Johansson as the parallaxed lovers. *Through Jan. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (\$15, students). www.austinplayhouse.com.*

ONGOING

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. Our redoubtable Arts Editor Robert Faires has provided a full schedule in the front of the paper for you (see “Risk Immersion,” p.34), but, following that, we’ll continue to list the basics of the week-by-week events in these printed listings – and also have them online in this section. So keep your thespian eyes peeled hither, we’re suggesting. www.hydeparktheatre.org.

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. (See review, left.) *Through Feb. 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

LOVE, SEX, AND THE I.R.S. Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore’s wild farce – Love! Cheating! False identities! Cross-dressing! – is directed by Matt Gauck for the Palace Theater out in Georgetown. *Through Feb. 1. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$22 (\$20, seniors; \$12, students, military; \$8, age 15 or younger). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

THE TEXCENTRIC SHOW The madcap jesters of Esther’s Follies branch out with this send-up of oldtime radio shows: sketches, skits, live music, and so on, like a sort of locally warped version of *A Prairie Home Companion* to enhance your dining pleasure. With Sand Sheff, Ellana Kelter, and Ted Meredith, directed by Doug Ewart. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Patsy’s Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. Free (for the month of January). www.patsycowgirlcafe.org.*

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. Through Jan. 24. Thu.-Sun., 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.*

DINNER THEATRE

DEADLY HOUSEWIVES is an interactive murder-mystery from Gary Payne’s Capital City Mystery Players. It’s also a parody of everybody’s favorite sexy suburban TV series. Enjoy plenty of pasta and parmigiana and suchlike fare as you help the comedic cast figure out who committed murder in the ever so desperate neighborhood. *Sat., Jan. 17-31, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.*



THE TEXCENTRIC SHOW IS A COUNTRY-FRIED COLLECTION OF SKITS AND SKETCHES, MUSIC AND MERRIMENT EVERY WEDNESDAY AT PATSY’S COWGIRL CAFE.

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. 30 issue is Monday, Jan. 19. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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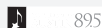
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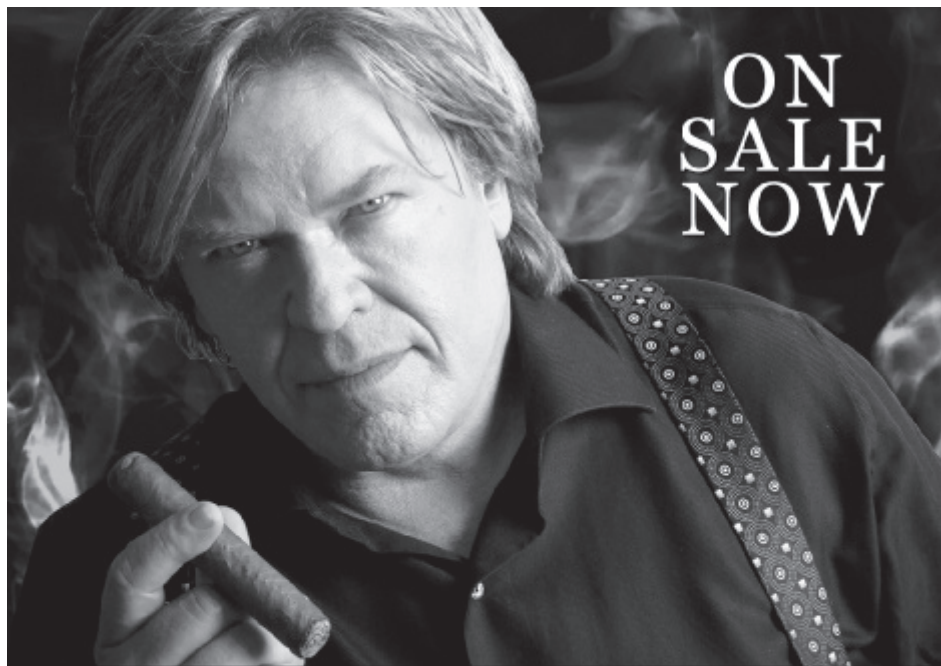
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Opens This Week!

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The Biggest Hit in ZACH's History, on Stage for the Last Time!

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Private location, through Jan. 17 | **Red Light Winter**
Running time: 2 hr, 30 min

Adam Rapp is a nationally recognized and widely produced playwright. His work offers a heady mix of testosterone and vocabulary. There are lots of people who love the tortured, sensitive, intellectual guy characters who populate his works.

Red Light Winter is a script that some will defend, but it has faults that run deep. The production by Displaced Theatre Company (its first in Austin, directed by Sydney Andrews) tries, but if your blueprint is flawed, the building is still a mess.

According to Displaced Theatre's materials, the play is "fearlessly autobiographical." That's hard to believe. Two men in their late 20s, Matt (Mark Scheibmeir) and Davis (Harrison Butler), are visiting Amsterdam so Matt can receive the services of a legal prostitute. Poor Matt: He's a ball of anxious self-disgust and shame, and there's no apparent reason why he would continue to be friends with Davis, whose greatest pleasures come from causing other people pain and discomfort. Davis also stole Matt's last girlfriend more than three years ago, but that hasn't sullied the friendship either.

Then there's Christina (Jenny Connell), the pretty, sensitive, indie prostitute who's read Henry Miller and likes to sing. Dudes: Have you been to the Red Light District? Those ladies ain't pretty, and I'm almost certain they haven't read *Tropic of Cancer*.

All of this culminates in a strenuous mix of misogyny and illogic.

There is also nudity and sex. It is not subtle. The producers sent an e-mail the day before the performance to alert audience members that there would be nudity and that the play would be performed in close quarters. All the same, it is weird, to say the least, to be sitting in a tiny room with two completely naked actors pretending to have bad sex as the audience looks on like spectators at the seventh hole of a golf tournament.

Reviewers of other productions of *Red Light Winter* have dismissed the sex and nudity as incidental, which suggests to me that staging the play in an efficiency apartment was not a good choice. A traditional theatre venue, with its artificial separation between audience and performance, might have provided the space to make those voyeuristic moments something to move the play forward rather than hijack it. Certainly, some will protest that they felt perfectly at ease watching naked actors miming the sex act from eight feet away. Everybody has his or her own threshold for discomfort. *Red Light Winter* requires a high one.

Also, this production is not for the mobility impaired. It is site-specific and requires you to park in one location for act one and walk down a dark hill on a busy street with no sidewalks, stepping over stray wires from stomped fences. Then you drive to act two, whose location I won't betray, but it rhymes with Schmanor, and there are no elevators.

The cast does a pretty good job. They have two huge challenges: Rapp's dialogue wants to be realistic but is so overburdened with intellectual references and hefty vocabulary that it's hard to get a natural reading out. Also, in this production, the audience sits within feet of the actors in an efficiency apartment, creating a filmlike intimacy. But in film, actors get as many takes as they need. Here, staginess occasionally intrudes on three hardworking actors who have to keep it up in the audience's lap for 2½ hours.

The performances each have moments of grace. They are not enough to compensate for the producers' bad choices. — Elizabeth Cobbe

AUDITIONS

FLU SEASON Will "Thom Pain" Eno's play will be produced by the ACC theatre department under the direction of Jodi Jinks in February and March. They're looking for men and women (ages 35 and older). Call for details. *Thu., Jan. 22, 7pm. ACC Gallery Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande. 689-4864.*

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. sharonsparin@gmail.com.*

GREASE That's right, Johnny Boy, it's that doo-wop hair product of a musical, coming to the Georgetown Palace in March and April under the direction of Ron Watson, and they're looking for some cool cats and chicks to perform. Singing, dancing, actorly chops — they're all needed. Check the website for more. Auditions: *Sat., Jan. 17, 2pm; Sun., Jan. 18, 6pm. Palace Theater, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.*

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Another Bushy Bye-Bye So as not to be confused with the LCP show of the same name, see? This one's got farewells to the Crap Artist Formerly Known As President and features Kerry Awn as W, with appearances by Austin's best and brightest stand-up contingent. *Mon., Jan. 19, 8pm. \$3.*

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 Chinamanesque New Year. *Jan 15-17. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

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.*

Joe Rogan The stand-up man who spiced up your idiot box with long stints on *NewsRadio* and *Fear Factor* brings his enduring touring to the Cap City stage for a night of well-honed sharpness, following whoever has the cojones (or ovaries, as the case may be) to open for him. *Jan. 22-24. Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

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

This Week: You're looking for what? No, see, ColdTowne's been the target of a friendly takeover, so you'll find its current schedule in our But Wait — There's More comedy section, as the fourth annual **see. hear. speak.** festival of improvisational japey and more reveals itself to public eyes and ears and mouths this weekend. Get it? Got it? Good.

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.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 their 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: **Ramin Nazer**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

John O'Connell This Austin original's been a professional comic for 25 years and writes himself some damned good material (when he's not busy stoking the furnace for Ron "Tater Salad" White), so you might want to catch him and opens **Doug Connolly** and **Ramin Nazer** this weekend. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

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.*

SEE. HEAR. SPEAK. FOUR. With such a minimalist name for a maximalist burst of comedy excellence, 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 lineup — locals and stars from around the country — and it's all happening at ColdTowne Theater (4803-B Airport, 524-2807, unless a different location is noted). See "See. Hear. Speak.," p.33, or www.seahearspeakfest.com for more.

Thu., Jan. 15: The P! Company, Lovey & Lovey, 8pm. Midnight Society, Murphy, Studio8 (from L.A.) presents YouTube Video Debates, 10pm. Comedy Networking Party, 11pm, but the party's at: *Conjunctured, 1309 E. Seventh.*

Fri., Jan. 16: Chuck Watkins, Pacto Suicidio, Imagine the Band, McDonald's Corporate Workshop, 8pm. Le Sexy, Ghetto Sketch Warlock, Dangerville, the P! Company, 10pm.

Sat., Jan. 17: Pass the Mic with Sean Conroy, Sean Patton, Matt Bearden, Lance Gilstrap, Nick Ramirez, and others, 8pm. Late Night With Midnight Society, 9pm. Two-Sean Spectacular: Sean Conroy and Sean Patton, 10pm.

Sun., Jan. 18: Stool Pigeon's popular format features Ali Farahnakian, Sean Conroy, Jose Gonzalez, ColdTowne, and others, 7:30pm.

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. 17, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy. #114. Free. www.lastgascomedy.com.*

THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN COMEDY TOUR We know: It sounds like a joke itself, right? But seriously, folks, it's three Jewish-Americans and one Palestinian-American, professional funnymen all, bringing their widely acclaimed and much-needed comedy relief to a highly contentious topic. (See "The Israeli/Palestinian Comedy Tour," p.33, for more.) *Sat., Jan. 17, 8pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 735-8000. \$18 (\$15, JCC members; \$12, students, seniors). www.jcaonline.org.*



THE LATINO COMEDY PROJECT WAVES A SNARKY FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF IN THIS WEEKEND'S BYE BYE BUSH SHOW.

LATINO COMEDY PROJECT: BYE-BYE BUSH

The Latino Comedy Project brings its greatest Bush administration hits – righteous salvos of humor against the soft targets of W., Cheney, and their cronies – back to the stage for a final don't-let-the-White-House-door-hit-you-in-the-ass spectacular. Perfectly timed for the weekend before the presidential inauguration ushers in a slightly darker, much brighter leader of the free world, this is also a celebration of 10 years of Adrian Villegas and LCP hijinks. Catch them while they're still local, hey? *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$12 (\$10, students, seniors). www.lcp.org.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects busts the new year wide open with this excellent improv showcase. This week features the kooky-spooky capers of **Haunted** and the hilarious reality-show spectacle known to mortals as **Austin's Next Top Improviser**. *Sat., Jan. 17, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.salvagevanguard.org.*

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.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: OCTAVITAS Traditionally, eight days after the Epiphany comes Octavitas; you're invited to bring your instruments and sing along to joyful Puerto Rican holiday songs led by the Parranderos de Austin. Traditional dance and music performances feature PRFD's professional and junior companies and performing arts students. *Sun., Jan. 18, 2-5pm. Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery. 251-8122. Free. www.prfdance.org.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: AUDITIONS Entry-level adult and youth male and female dancers and actors, who wish to be trained for membership in the company, are needed. Candidates must possess outstanding, raw dance talent and/or natural acting ability and a vibrant stage presence. Previous knowledge of a Latin/folkloric dance style and formal acting skills helpful but not necessary. Call or e-mail for details. *Through January. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

SPANK DANCE COMPANY: DANCE CAROUSEL Ten choreographers offer 40 dances in 40 minutes in this perennial FronteraFest Long Fringe fave! There are few better ways to sample modern dance, and these little morsels range from the absurd to the abstract, making for a feast of dance for first-time viewers or veterans of the form. *Tue., Jan. 20, 7:30pm; Fri., Jan. 23, 7pm; Sun., Jan. 25, 1:45pm; Sat., Jan. 31, 4:15pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.spankdance.com.*

1,001 NIGHTS

MELISSA AMIRA'S CAROUSEL CARAVAN Jeanette hosts this monthly shimmy, featuring a host of hot belly dancers in one of Austin's coolest bars. CDs, DVD, and costumes for sale. *Every third Saturday, 8pm. Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790. Free. www.carouseloungeaustin.com.*

TWO LEFT FEET

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, 7:30-8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 2302 Western Trails. www.staceylizette.net.*

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.*

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.*

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH DRAGON 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.*

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.*

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.*

GO DANCE: DROP IN AND DANCE CLASSES No partner or experience necessary for these easy-to-access classes. *Fridays through January. 7:30-9pm, intro classes; 9-11pm, social dancing. Go Dance Studio, Northcross Mall, 2525 W. Anderson. 339-9391. \$15. www.godancestudio.com.*

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH TWYLA GRACE Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble teaches ongoing classes in belly dance. Call or write 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.*

AUSTIN BODYCHOIR: FREESTYLE DANCE *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 7:45pm; Sundays, 10am. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. www.bodychoir.org.*

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.*

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.*

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.*

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See the website for details. *323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.*

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.*

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.aifd.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.kickbuttcffee.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.austinswing syndicate.org.*

classical music

OPENING

SAINT CECILIA MUSIC SERIES: CHAMBER SOLOISTS OF AUSTIN CSA's Palette of Musical Colors brings together contrasting music, including a Mozart piano sonata, romantic work by Vaughan Williams, and Beethoven's "Archduke Trio," regarded as the greatest of works written for piano trio. Gregory Allen performs it with Elise Winters and Doug Harvey. *Fri., Jan. 16, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 380-0065. \$20 (\$10, seniors, students). www.chambersoloists.com.*

SALON CONCERTS: FLIGHT INTO SPACETIME Soaring chamber works by Boccherini, Haydn, Rebecca Clarke, and Dohnanyi are performed by a host of excellent chamber strings players, with Kathryn Mishell, piano, and Jessica Mathaes, violin and viola. A one-hour excerpted Rush Hour concert is also scheduled. *Sun., Jan. 18, 4:30pm; Mon., Jan. 19, 7:30pm. A private home (directions given with reservation). \$35. Rush Hour concert: Tue., Jan. 20, 6pm. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Free. 989-0539. www.salonconcerts.org.*

NOTES & ENCORES

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.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: MUSICIAN AUDITIONS Professional musicians are invited to audition for PRFD's orchestra. The company is interested in singers and instruments of almost any kind, including acoustic guitars, cuatro and accordion players, large and small percussion, strings, horns, winds, and more. Advanced youth musicians and singers are also sought. As segments of Puerto Rico's traditional music are not in written form, musicians should have a proficiency for playing by ear. Call or e-mail for details. *Through January. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.*

2009 AUSTIN EVENT CALENDAR
www.AustinFunStuff.com

Patsy's COWGIRL Music Line-up CAFE

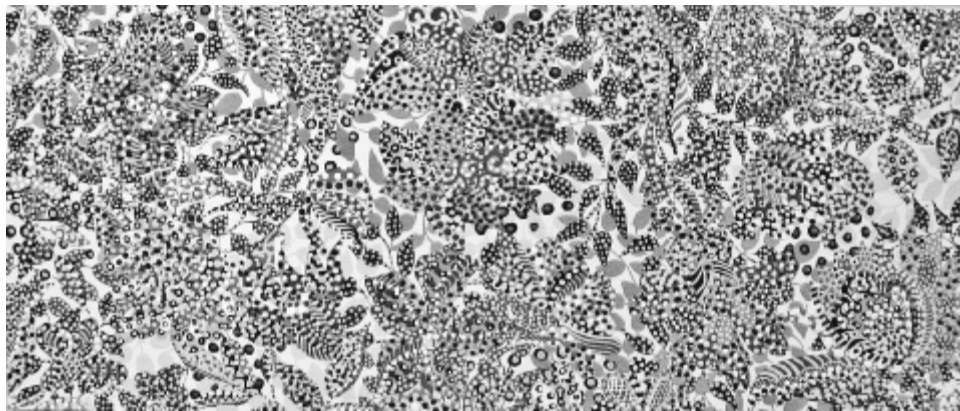
Live Music! Cold Drinks! Hot Food! Good Times!

Tues Chicken Dog (juggling & canines) all ages welcome!

Wed The Texcentric Show (music & comedy)

Fri Eric Hisaw 5001 E. Ben White

Sat Harry Bodine 512-444-2020



Wally Workman Gallery | 'A Grand Affair'
Through Jan. 31

This time of year, I always resolve to go to more art galleries. Ideally, a viewer has a grasp of a gallery's oeuvre, of all the artists it represents throughout the year. Wally Workman has done

us all a favor with her January show, "A Grand Affair," by exhibiting a couple of (or eight) small works by each of 30 artists she represents. It is great to see this sampler of mostly painters, like a mixed chocolate box of visual delights. It gives insight into what shows not to miss as she presents solo shows throughout the upcoming year.

The gallery is focused on art made by über-consistent producers such as Will Klemm, Erin Cone, and Gordon Fowler. Others are respected fixtures of the local scene but have a few more undulations in the limns of their interests, such as Jennifer Balkan, Helmut Barnett, Jan Heaton, Susan Kemner Reed, and Jill Carver. This is to say they paint well, and they like to toss some current events or an experimental piece into their series. Reed exemplified this risky willingness to be "of the times" by painting still lifes of various lovely objects on a table but tucking in a newspaper with a politically charged headline. Balkan painted a cute retro robot that happens to be surrounded by maps of Washington, D.C., adding layered meanings to the work.

Also painting robots this year, Rob Harrell seems to be loosening up in a good way, moving a bit closer to the wet and wide confident strokes of Carol Marine's still lifes. I associate Harrell with backlit full-body images of attrac-

tive women, and many of those will be featured in his February solo show. However, I love this series of vintage toys; it's nostalgic, precious, and not sexy. His color palette is rich, and even though each square is one centered toy, Harrell is able to vary the backgrounds to create a strong depth of field in his compositions.

New to the gallery this show is Erika Pochybova-Johnson. She brings a neon palette and layered tiny polka dots into the mix. Her very fresh, fun work seems to be influenced by Eastern European miniature painting and has some kinship to Faith Gay's crafty flat-pattered modernism. New to me but not the gallery is Fatima Ronquillo, who paints pale women and girls in a classical style. They are dainty, dreamy, and a bit like antique dolls. They have very feminine, lacy clothes that are soothing and cozy, relaxing to the eyes (perhaps like a dose of laudanum).

This exhibit demonstrates the variety and interesting scope of artists in Workman's stable. I think because she shows lots of paintings of still lifes, landscapes, and figures, she often doesn't get the credit she deserves as a contemporary curator. "A Grand Affair" is a good chance to get up to speed on what's ahead here in '09, and every piece for sale is less than a grand. How's that for responding to the recession?
- Rachel Koper

visual arts

EVENTS

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: INSTALLATION ART Ursula Davila-Villa and Gina Tarver will discuss the installations re-created by the artists Luis Camnitzer and Liliana Porter in the context of the "New York Graphic Workshop: 1964-1970" exhibition. *Thu., Jan. 15, 5:30-9pm. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

OPENING

DIVERSEARTS: THE ROAD TO HOPE New East Gallery commemorates the inauguration of Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States of America, with the opening of this new show, subtitled "A Photographic Glimpse of African-American Life, 1850-1960," including a number of rarely seen images from some of the 20th century's most celebrated documentary photographers. Reception: *Tue., Jan. 20, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 28. 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. www.diversearts.org*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: FACULTY ART Reception: *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.*

AUSTIN GREEN ART: FREE PAPER Annette Lawrence's exhibition addresses issues of excess and consumerism, with daily junk mail both the inspiration and material used for the creations on display. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 16, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 6. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.austingreenart.org.*

SEEING SPECIAL THINGS The works of more than 400 Austin Independent School District students explore the question "Where do creative ideas come from?" *Jan. 17-Feb. 1. 823 Congress, 495-9224. Free. www.amoa.org.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ABSTRACT Curated by New York-based Maureen Mahony. Reception with curator's talk: *Sat., Jan. 24, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Jan. 17-Feb. 28. 300 West #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

STUDIO2GALLERY: LOVE'S WRIT New works from a diversity of artists juried by Jacqueline May. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 17, 6:30-9:30pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 14. 1700 S. Lamar #318, 386-9233. www.studio2gallery.com.*

ART ON 5TH presents its first Art Fair. *Jan. 17-24. Mon.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., noon-5pm. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

OKAY MOUNTAIN: WARREN OATES IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008 This multiartist show is themed loosely on deceased character actor Warren Oates (I), because those OK MT folks, they like to mess with the obscurish pop culture in interesting ways, even (or especially) as the economy goes down the crapper. Curated by Dave Bryant. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 17, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 21. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B, 293-5177. free. www.okaymountain.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.eyeccontactart.com.*

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti. *2309 Thornton.*

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. *1219 W. Sixth.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a 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.*

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.pablotaobadastudio.com.*

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. *1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artsspoken.com.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

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. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

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. www.keepaustinweird.com.*

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. *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.*

BUTRIDGE GALLERY: LACEY RICHTER "Paint, Dance, and Dialogues" are the new works by this artist. *Through Jan. 31. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/gallery.htm.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

LBJ WILDFLOWER CENTER: BARRY GEORGE Eleven 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 center's - diverse origins and dimensions and cultural resonance within a broader American community of printmaking. *Through March 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artmuseum.org.*

CITY OF AUSTIN EMPLOYEES ART EXHIBITION Opening reception and awards ceremony: *Thu., Jan. 15, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 14. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 454-9912. Free. www.vsax.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.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: A GRAND AFFAIR New works from the gallery's 50 represented artists, each piece priced less than a grand. Highly recommended. (See review, left.) *Through Jan. 30. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY
Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.
www.decola-eusebi.com.

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexi-boxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CAFFE MEDICI: LANCE ROSENFIELD New photography. 1101 West Lynn, 569-0432.
www.rosenfieldphotography.com.

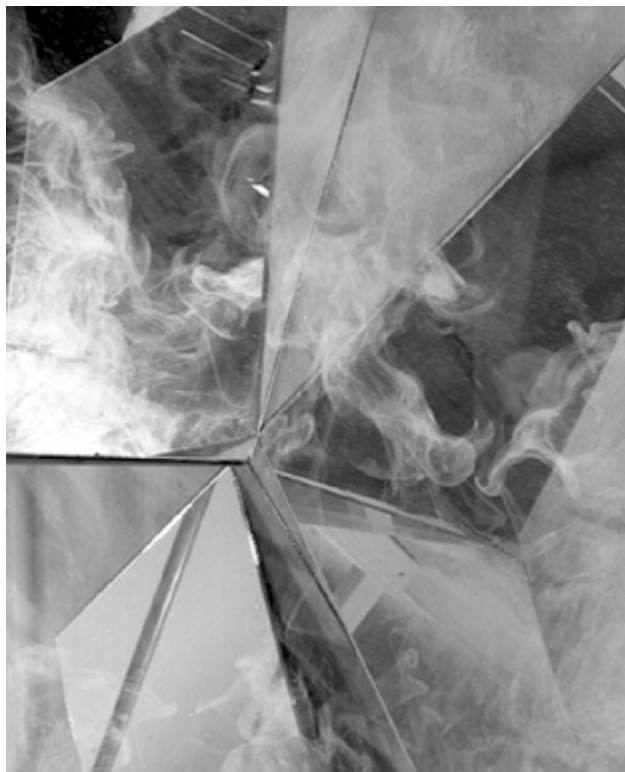
LITTLE CITY: ENTANGLEMENT
Art by J. Lowry Doyle. 916 Congress, 476-2489. Free.
www.jlowrydoyle.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366.
www.roadhouserelics.com.

WESTS Artwork by Dan-Ramone Vivan Chavez, Raquel Reyes, and others. 408 Josephine.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ATELIER 3-D: SEEKING PRESENTERS The studio needs working sculptors who are willing to present their art to a small, highly interested group of local sculptors and artists. *Thursdays, 2-4pm.* 701 Tillery, 385-1115.
www.atelier3-d.com.



EILEEN QUINLAN'S *DEMYSTIFICATION #8* IS PART OF THE 'PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ABSTRACT' EXHIBITION, OPENING AT LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY THIS WEEKEND.



JACQUELINE MAY'S 'THE GOLDEN SPIRAL' IS PART OF THE NEW 'LOVE'S WRIT' SHOW AT STUDIO2GALLERY.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

JAKE SILVERSTEIN The *Texas Monthly* editor presents one of his stories from the Harper's collection *Submersion Journalism*. Yes: Recommended. *Tue., Jan. 20, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.
www.bookpeople.com.

SPEAKING THE SPOKEN: THE ART OF VERSE is hosted by Zell Miller III and features Graffiti Tongue, Austin's premier female hip-hop group, plus Mike Whalen (Neo-Soul coach, Under-21 coach, member of Austin Ego's Slam Team) and members of Xenogia Spoken Word Collective. Open mic follows. *Mon., Jan. 19, 6:30-9pm.* The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$2 (\$1, readers). www.vortexrep.org.

ROBB WALSH One-time sizzling food critic for the *Chronicle* offers his latest word dish, *Sex, Death & Oysters*. Shuck, baby, shuck! Gimme yo Chincoteagues! *Sun., Jan. 18, 3pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

THE MATERNAL IS POLITICAL features writers Shari MacDonald Strong, Marrit Ingman, Kristine Kovach, Liz Belile, and Sonya Feher serving up your preinaugural appetite. *Sat., Jan. 17, 7pm.* BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

BILLY TAYLOR trots out his fantastic novel *Based on the Movie*. Happy endings for everybody. Right. *Sat., Jan. 17, 3pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.
www.bookpeople.com.

JOHN EVERSON skulduggs into small-town suicidal epidemics in his mystery *Covenant*. *Fri., Jan. 16, 7:30pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.
www.bookpeople.com.

ARIELE GENTILES AND BOB CARLTON offer up a book for teens about a man who has the hardest job in the world right now. *Barack Obama: An American Story* hopes to address issues for those who supported and opposed him so that we can all share in recovering from the recent, ahem, difficult period in American history. *Thu., Jan. 15, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

VOX POP Sander Hicks and writer Chic Migeot whip out their national preinauguration speakout tour, *Inaugurate Yourself!* Anarchy is the only freedom worth imagining. *Thu., Jan. 15, 7pm.* Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503.
www.bravenewbookstore.com.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

LUDICROUS SPEED BOOK CLUB leads us into the canals of *Red Mars* by Kim Stanley Robinson. *Mon., Jan. 19, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.
www.bookpeople.com.

THE INTIMACIES GROUP *Good Life* columnist Karen Kreps leads this free discussion on love, sex, and relationships. *Wed., Jan. 21, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

GRAPHIC NOVELS GROUP covers up in *Blankets* by Craig Thompson. *Wed., Jan. 21, 7pm.* Halcyon, 218 W. Fourth, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

MANCHACA CLUB tastes *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck. *Wed., Jan. 21, 6:30pm.* Manchaca Library, 5500 Manchaca Rd.

PLEASANT HILL MYSTERY CLUB courts the *Last King of Texas* by Rick Riordan. *Tue., Jan. 20, 7-8:30pm.* Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-3940.

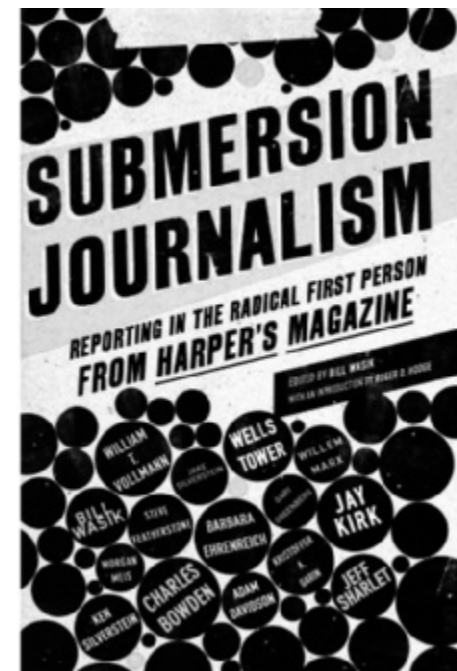
UNIVERSITY HILLS SPANISH CLUB learns *Arráncame la Vida* by Angeles Mastretta. *Wed., Jan. 21, 7:30-8:30pm.* University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

POETRY WORKSHOP AT THE ARBORETUM Hosted this month by John Berry and Herman Nelson. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress for friendly critiquing. *Thu., Jan. 15, 7:30pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

OPEN MICS

GENUINE JOE All acts welcome. No cover songs. *Thursdays, 7:30-10pm.* Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.



'TEXAS MONTHLY' EDITOR JAKE SILVERSTEIN PRESENTS HIS BRIGHT SEGMENT OF 'SUBMERSION JOURNALISM' AT BOOKPEOPLE.

THE HIDEOUT is hosted by Thom the World Poet. Paul Joiner promises to build a better poem. 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.kickbuttcffee.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas. No cover. Uncensored. Hosted by David Bates. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm.* 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, pmo 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 loneliness of photographs a road a field a river a body leaping or her face (does it matter — eyes cast up or if she crosses them — her nose twisted & her hair pink his head nuzzling her clownish or the stage raining red umbrellas) an empty chair the last thing falling from her hand silence is not a metaphor nor the breath of an old woman the bone white bark of a birch in winter or her milk white fingers heaven papered in canyons of photographs & the angels blind with light.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

once I heard of Buddha on the road, unnoticed
no one stepped aside, today the swords are drawn
heads will roll across pulpit myth into the midst
of downtown flight
when i am gone the Buffalo grass will remain
as Buddha smiles through those softly closed eyes

— Connie Williams, from "Hard Mondays"

film listings



Timecrimes

D: Nacho Vigalondo; with Vigalondo, Karra Elejalde, Candela Fernández, Bárbara Goenaga, Juan Inciarte. (R, 89 min., subtitled)

Timecrimes is a tremendously entertaining bit of Kafka that whirlpools down into *The Twilight Zone*. Spanish director Vigalondo's first feature film is an enigmatic, interlocked series

of increasingly inevitable torments for its protagonist and one helluva blast to watch. Predicated on the same sort of trippy, circular logic beloved by conspiracy theorists and collegiate stoners alike, it's a time-travel head-trip of a film, and it succeeds in messing with your mind almost as much as it does with those of its own characters. Fair warning, hippie: Do not drop acid before seeing this film. Similar in tone to Shane Carruth's too-smart-for-its-own-good *Primer* (in which a pair of Dallas engineers inadvertently whips up a time machine in their suburban garage) but far more engaging, *Timecrimes* has nabbed a spate of awards, among them the Next Wave award at 2007's Fantastic Fest. It's easy to see why: Vigalondo's triple command of surreal compositions, nerve-raping suspense, and the ability to draw out scarily emotional performances from a cast that includes, in a major role, himself is unassailable. (Director of photography Flavio Martínez Labiano, working on a shoestring budget and filling

odd corners of the frame with all manner of important information, is no slouch either.) As so often happens in films about the male self, it all begins with a girl, before beginning again and again and again. Paunchy Héctor (Elejalde, in a breakthrough role) is moving into his new rural, woods-enveloped home with his wife, Clara (Fernández). Stretched out on his lawn with a drink in one hand, Héctor spies a bit of color in the otherwise dense foliage that borders his property. It turns out to be a nude woman (Goenaga), posing as if she were some sylvan wood nymph, and Héctor is immediately and understandably curious. His investigation, however, leads him nowhere – and everywhere – fast. It's impossible, or maybe just unwise, to reveal any more of *Timecrimes'* plotting here. Suffice it to say that while you may think you know what's going on in Vigalondo's world, you don't, not really. It's a trip, after all, and getting there is all the fun. – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

Chandni Chowk to China (PG-13)

Defiance (R)

Hotel for Dogs (PG)

Last Chance Harvey (PG-13)

My Bloody Valentine 3D (R)

Notorious (R)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG)

Timecrimes (R)

new reviews

BRIDE WARS D: Gary Winick; with Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Candice Bergen, Kristen Johnston. (PG, 87 min.)

We have great affection for Anne Hathaway, who has aged gracefully out of the Disney wish-fulfillment fantasies of her youth (*The Princess Diaries*) into a lovely and savvy young woman who's done some very good work lately (*Brokeback Mountain*, *Rachel Getting Married*). Yes, there was that recent, unfortunate tabloid business about an embezzling Italian boyfriend, but it's not like she got caught by the paparazzi flashing her bits. She's all class, that Hathaway kid – so what in good God is she doing in the slummy *Bride Wars*? She proved with *The Devil Wears Prada* that she has an eye for smart commercial fare – less so with *Get Smart*, but then I'd gladly guest in an Alpo commercial to get to work with Steve Carell. But one wonders what could have possibly recommended the mean-spirited, laughless *Bride Wars* to her. Surely not Kate Hudson, whose effect on critics (and increasingly the box office) is not unlike that of a roach motel on its six-legged guests. Actually, I suppose some credit should be given to Hudson for playing against type here; putting aside her usual squishy bunny-rabbit roles, she plays the alpha dog Liv, a Manhattan lawyer who has subtly bullied her best friend, Emma (Hathaway), for years. Both women have harbored since childhood the desire to marry at the Plaza Hotel in June, which is exactly the plan, until a scheduling snafu places their two weddings on the same day. Neither woman wants to set a new date, so the situation quickly escalates from awkward fumbling to passive-aggressiveness, and then on to all-out guerrilla tactics. If you've seen the trailer, you already know the wages of war – the blue-hair sabotage, the tanning-salon incident, the wedding-aisle throwdown – and if you've seen the trailer, you've already seen *Bride Wars* as good as it's going to get. Which is not good. Not good at all. In fact, I'd be hard-pressed to name another recent film so deeply noxious, soul-sick, and unfunny. – Kimberley Jones

● Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

CHANDNI CHOWK TO CHINA

D: Nikhil Advani; with Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Ranvir Shorey, Gordon Liu. (PG-13, 154 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. This Bollywood action comedy was picked up for stateside release by Warner Bros. The U.S. company liked this Indian film enough to distribute but, apparently, not enough to screen in advance for critics. A mistaken identity takes a humble cook on a journey from India to China, an adventure marked by all sorts of crazy run-ins. – Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

DEFIANCE D: Edward Zwick; with Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber, Jamie Bell, Alexa Davalos, Allan Corduner, Mark Feuerstein, Tomas Arana, Jodhi May. (R, 137 min.)

There's a quote from Voltaire you may have heard – "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him." Then there's a quote from a slightly lesser-known writer you probably haven't heard (because I haven't written it yet) but that's nearly as punchy – "If World War II had never happened, Hollywood would have come up with it in a story meeting." It may lack the Frenchman's poetry, but I think the sentiment is sound: World War II is the fertile crescent of the film industry, a bottomless well of cinematic possibilities. In the past few months alone, no fewer than six movies about the "good war" have been released, including stories about concentration camp guards (*The Reader*), an internal plot against Hitler (*Valkyrie*), black soldiers fighting in Italy (*Miracle at St. Anna*), and a boy in striped pajamas (*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*). For producers looking for a green light and a little awards consideration, World War II is the gift that keeps on giving. And giving. And still it keeps giving with *Defiance*, the true story of the Bielski family, three Jewish brothers who, in 1941, escaped into the forest of their native Belarus to elude capture by the Nazis, set up a small ad hoc village, and ended up saving more than 1,200 Jewish lives through daring rescue raids and armed resistance. The story, in other words, is pure Hollywood gold, full of opportunities for stirring speeches, ethical quandaries, lessons about tolerance and humanity, and violence against Nazis. And who better to mine that gold than Zwick (*Glory*, *Blood Diamond*), a true expert at squeezing inspiration out of despair and intimacy out of historical catastrophe?

Zwick may be the definition of a modern blockbuster filmmaker, but he's also spent his entire career struggling to find the balance between opposing impulses – the sentimentalist's desire for emotional-historical heft and the artist's fascination with conflicted humanity – a struggle that's all over *Defiance*. Standing in for the first impulse is composer James Newton Howard, who never met a tender moment he didn't want to choke to death and who nearly drowns *Defiance* in symphonic syrup, but representing the second, thankfully, are Craig and Schreiber, who are more interested in psychological ambivalence than unblemished heroism. Howard may want to see brothers Tuvia and Zus Bielski as Moses and Aaron resurrected, but Craig and Schreiber are clever enough to play them as two warring sides of the same coin, humanists and murderers in different proportions, torn between the desire to help their fellow Jews and exact bloody revenge on their tormentors. And Zwick is smart enough to let them play it that way. – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

openings & ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

● La bomba

HOTEL FOR DOGS

D: Thor Freudenthal; with Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin, Lisa Kudrow, Kevin Dillon, Don Cheadle, Johnny Simmons, Troy Gentile, Robinne Lee. (PG, 100 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The cast is full of cuties, and dogs are always adorable onscreen. So what's not to like in this live-action story about a couple of kids who house some dogs in an abandoned hotel? With any luck, this film, which was not screened for press, will coincide with the conclusion of the national search for the Obamas' first pooch. — *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

LAST CHANCE HARVEY

D: Joel Hopkins; with Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin, Richard Schiff. (PG-13, 99 min.)

Harvey (Hoffman) has lost his zest for his job, which is in jeopardy, plus he's experiencing difficulties with his estranged family. Kate (Thompson) has a job that no one could like, plus her cell phone rings constantly with superfluous calls from her mother (Atkins). There's about a 20-year age difference between Harvey and Kate, and he's a Yank, and she's a Brit, but otherwise, they are solidly middle-aged characters who meet and enjoy each other's company over the course of a day and then mutually grab on to what seems to each like a last chance for love. With its thin plot and its title character an American abroad in London, *Last Chance Harvey* comes across as something like a *Before Sunrise* for the less-than-nubile set. Were that writer/director Hopkins' dialogue and visualization as scintillating as Richard Linklater's is in his *Sunrise/Sunset* romances. Of course, the combined acting brilliance of Hoffman and Thompson could elevate the hoariest of clichés and turn almost anything they touch golden — and that is most often the case with *Last Chance Harvey*. But no one's skills can transcend the kooky banality of a trying-on-dresses montage or burnish the somewhat creepy way in which Harvey first comes on to Kate. Still, these two prove a pleasure to watch, and their conversations are realistic troves of give and take. In this they are complemented by an outstanding cast of players, who also do more than their share of elevating the material. *Last Chance Harvey* is so much an "actors' film"



that the hand of the director seems hidden until it bursts into view with something clunky like the aforementioned montage. As his daughter whose nuptials Harry is in London to attend, Balaban exudes a lovely naturalism that straddles fondness and insensitivity as she explains to Harvey that she has asked her stepfather to give her away. Brolin is that stepfather who is married to Harvey's ex-wife (Baker), a pair who easily convey a sense of everything Harvey is not. And as Kate's incessantly interrupting mom, Atkins adds a spark of levity to the story. Middle-aged romances are, sadly, hard to find on the silver screen, so it's with some hesitation I pronounce *Last Chance Harvey* not up to snuff. Yet if we are to see any more romances starring characters old enough to have witnessed both Hoffman and Thompson winning Oscars, it's our responsibility to go out and support this one. 'Snuff said. — *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

MY BLOODY VALENTINE

3D D: Patrick Lussier; with Jensen Ackles, Jaime King, Kerr Smith, Edi Gathegi, Kevin Tighe. (R, 101 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Following up on the 1981 slasher original, this 3-D version updates the tale with a 10th-anniversary revisiting to the scene of the mass murders. Check the *Chronicle's* Showtimes, p.74, regarding screenings, because the film is being shown in both 2-D and 3-D, sometimes even at the same theatre.

— *Marjorie Baumgarten*

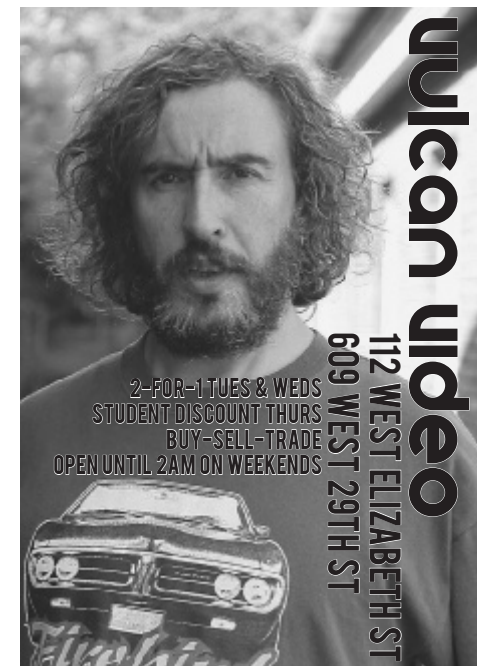
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

NOT EASILY BROKEN

D: Bill Duke; with Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson, Maeve Quinlan, Kevin Hart, Wood Harris, Eddie Cibrian, Jenifer Lewis, Niecy Nash. (PG-13, 99 min.)

In its opening scene, *Not Easily Broken*, based on a novel by megachurch pastor T.D. Jakes, threatens to be a message film, with the overtly religious theme spoken by the minister at the wedding of Dave (Chestnut) and Clarice (Henson): God, says the clergyman, must be the third partner in a marriage. What this means as the movie plays out, however, places more emphasis on humanist decency than theology: Do good for your community; take care of each other; don't be too materialistic. Struggling contractor Dave and high-end real estate agent Clarice's marriage grows increasingly troubled, which is demonstrated by Clarice's growing unpleasantness — mostly yelling and unfairly blaming Dave in the face of his good deeds, such as mentoring the boys he coaches for baseball. At one point when Dave suggests having children, Clarice rolls her eyes, just as we do in the face of such a stereotype of the hard, career-driven woman. With thin plotting and events pulled from everyday fare, the film feels like an acquaintance taking a little too long to tell you about the problems in his life. A car wreck seems to exist solely to heighten the portrayal of women as capable of offhanded cruelty. As Clarice heads into surgery, her mother (Lewis) arrives at the hospital and confronts the blameless Dave with the mystifying

accusation that his Little League duties caused the accident. Later, when physical therapist Julie (Quinlan) arrives, Clarice greets her with nasty retorts and more eye-rolling. When the film gets past these tiresome scenes, it loosens up into something pleasant. Sweet humor permeates the camaraderie between Dave and his buddies (Cibrian and Hart), and Clarice becomes human when gabbing with her friend Michelle (Nash). The mostly black cast rises above the script's clunky passages, with fine work as a former drug dealer by Harris, who was terrific on HBO's *The Wire*. Mostly, *Not Easily Broken* is a pat portrayal of a marriage, neither overly dull nor especially engaging — except during Dave's sporadic voiceovers. Each made me sit up and go, "Huh?" In one paternalistic monologue, he mulls over how men's roles as strong caretakers have diminished. "Men forgot how to be heroic, or women didn't need to be protected anymore," he laments, perversely offering this rubbish while watching Clarice, her mother, and Julie successfully work together. It's fascinating how an innocuous film can suddenly flare up into offensive claptrap. — *Theresa Everline*
★ Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North



K E V I N J A M E S



PAUL BLART MALL COP

DON'T MESS WITH HIS MALL

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A HAPPY MADISON PRODUCTION "PAUL BLART: MALL COP" STARRING KEVIN JAMES
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JEFF SUSSMAN PRODUCED BY KEVIN JAMES & NICK BAKAY WRITTEN BY ADAM SANDLER JACK GIARRAPUTO TODD GARNER KEVIN JAMES BARRY BERNARDI
DIRECTED BY WADDY WACHTEL
PAULBLARTMallCop.com
CASTING BY STEVE CARR
COLUMBIA PICTURES
HAPPY MADISON
PG-13 PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
SOME VIOLENCE, MILD CRUDE AND SUGGESTIVE HUMOR AND LANGUAGE

STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES
SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

Richard Garriott's Space Mission + "Space Station 3-D"



Richard Garriott's Space Mission + "Space Station 3-D" (2009) Garriott, famed video-game developer and Austinite, recently followed in his father Owen Garriott's footsteps into space as he boarded a Russian Soyuz spacecraft and spent 12 historic days at the International Space Station. Garriott is the first second-generation American in space and the sixth private astronaut client of Space Adventures. Garriott will share his own first-hand space-travel experiences, including photos and video, and answer questions after his presentation. Prior to his talk, the 46-minute IMAX film "Space Station 3-D" (2002), narrated by Tom Cruise, will screen. The film employs footage shot by astronauts and cosmonauts that virtually places the viewer inside the International Space Station. @IMAX Theatre, Friday, 7pm.

ends with Oldman, as a rabbi, performing an exorcism of such stupefying ridiculousness that it qualifies as the best extended comedy bit of 2009 (I know it's early in the year, but this one is going to be tremendously hard to top). In between the devil dog and Oldman's fearless depiction of annoying rabbinic schmuckery is the story of Yustman's Casey Beldon, a willowy college student haunted by the suicide of her mother years before and, currently, the specter of a hollow-eyed little boy who turns up, uninvited, in her dreams, her mirrors, and, strangely, her medicine cabinet. Judging from the latter locale, this restless moppet is in dire need of some kabbalah Ritalin, but Casey's search sends her not to the psychiatric couch but instead to what looks an awful lot like Dario Argento's Rest Home for Aged Actors – an old-folks rookery replete with vivid crimson curtains, spiraling staircases, and florid art direction that would do any Argento *giallo* proud. It's here she meets Auschwitz survivor Sofi Kozma (Alexander, in fright wig and German accent), who hips Casey to the fact that she's been targeted for creepification by a dybbuk, a type of ancient Jewish demon. The *il alter cocker's* entrance into this world was initially facilitated by no less than Dr. Josef Mengele, the Nazis' eugenically minded pediatrician from hell. Once this shocking revelation comes to light, well, obviously the only safe place is near Oldman or someone very much like him. Calling *The Unborn* a dull, plodding, exposition-crammed slog through a twilight of barely maintained tedium is like calling *Valkyrie* a yawn. It's too easy. But Goyer, who scores minor points for deploying a Star of David as an edged weapon, can't maintain the film's initially promising sense of menace, despite lifts from the likes of Mario Bava and Jack Clayton's *The Innocents*. Crib death? Not always a bad thing. – Marc Savlov

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Wizards

Wizards (1977)
D: Ralph Bakshi; with the voices of Bob Holt, Jesse Welles, Richard Romanus, Mark Hamill. (PG, 82 min.) **Ralph Bakshi Live.** Kid-friendly animated film about a postapocalyptic future ruled by an evil wizard. Ralph Bakshi will be in attendance. Double-bill ticket sales available for *Wizards* and *Street Fight*. @Alamo Ritz, Sunday, 7:50pm.



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

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, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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

★★★ Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON D: David Fincher; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Julia Ormond, Taraji 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 creek 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, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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 Award-winning 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 princi-

pal 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

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

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 his long career as an actor. 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 fail him on occasion. Eastwood also finds the humorous aspects of the character – heard often in the instinctive growl the character directs toward all annoyances, be they his own money-grubbing family members, gangbangers,



Defiance

Boyz N the Hood

Boyz N the Hood (1991) D: John Singleton; with Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr., Morris Chestnut, Larry Fishburne. (R, 107 min.) **John Singleton Movies.** Singleton's 1991 movie about three black boys growing to manhood in the combat zones of L.A.'s South Central remains a searing cultural indictment. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Wednesday-Thursday (1/22), 7:30pm; \$8.50.



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 *Gran Torino*. (01/09/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

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 Savlov

★★★ 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 semi-closeted 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, Westgate

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-eyed, 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, Dobie

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 Savlov

★★★★ Arbor

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 would 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. The film then cuts to a half-decade later: The Wheelers are expert brawlers by now, both of them chafing at the expectations of their gender roles. There's an airlessness to Mendes' picture 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, who steals the whole picture in two short, shattering scenes. (01/09/2009) - Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Arbor

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/contri-

tion 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, Gateway, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North

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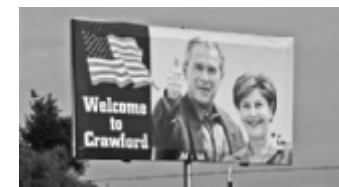
Hi, Mom!

Hi, Mom! (1970) D: Brian De Palma; with Robert De Niro, Charles Durning, Allen Garfield, Paul Bartel. (NR, 87 min.) **Austin Film Society: First Blood – The Early Films of Brian De Palma.** De Niro plays the same unsuccessful draft-dodger he did in *Greetings*, though he's now back from Vietnam and seeking to break into filmmaking. He's under the unwilling tutelage of a porno director played by Garfield, and he also explores the avant-garde theatre scene in New York. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$4, AFS members free; reserve tickets online at www.austinfilm.org.



Crawford

Crawford (2008) D: David Modigliani. (NR, 74 min.) **B Side Entertainment: Host Your Own Farewell to W.** This documentary, which premiered at this year's SXSW Film Festival, records what happened in the sleepy Texas town of Crawford once the Bushes moved to town. (This screening is the flagship event of B Side's 50-State Screening Party during which the Austin-based company's alternative distribution model will allow anyone to screen the film for a small fee.) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, Thursday (1/15), 7pm; @ Austin Moose Lodge, Sunday, 7pm.



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

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 G rating 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 laddles out platitudes by the heaping spoonful. (12/19/2008) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ CM Round Rock, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

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
★★ CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

VALKYRIE

D: Bryan Singer; with Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, Terence Stamp, Carice van Houten, Thomas Kretschmann, Eddie Izzard. (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, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, 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.)

In the latest from Aronofsky, 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). 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. 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. 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, whenever the risk of cliché arises, Aronofsky takes us back into the ring. (01/09/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Arbor

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 life-changing 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 good-hearted 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 set-pieces. (12/19/2008) – Theresa Everline

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

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THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

EAGLE EYE

★★★ Movies 8

FOUR CHRISTMASSES

★★ Movies 8

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 3: SENIOR YEAR

★★★ Movies 8

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA

★★★ Movies 8

QUANTUM OF SOLACE

★★★★ Movies 8

ROLE MODELS

★★★ Movies 8

The Godfather

The Godfather (1972)

D: Francis Ford Coppola; with Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan, Richard Castellano, John Cazale, Diane Keaton, Talia Shire, Robert Duvall. (R, 175 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** On the big screen, it's an offer you can't refuse. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Monday and Wednesday, 7pm.



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SATURDAY JANUARY 24
7:50 pm SOMEBODY TO RUN WITH
9:30 pm EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC

SUNDAY JANUARY 25
12:00 pm NOODLE
2:30 pm PRAYING WITH LIZOR
6:00 pm MAKE HENOKY & ME
8:30 pm STRANGERS with MOOSH & DANCING ALFONSO

MONDAY JANUARY 26
12:00 pm STRANGERS with MOOSH & DANCING ALFONSO
4:30 pm NOODLE
7:50 pm OFFSHORE with WOMAN FROM THE ISLE
9:50 pm VILLA JASMIN

TUESDAY JANUARY 27
12:00 pm BAD FAITH
4:00 pm OFFSHORE with MURIEL & YOU NEVER KNOW-SHLOMO CARLFRACK
7:00 pm THE SECRETS
7:00 pm AWAY MY LOVE
9:00 pm SOMETHING SWEET
9:30 pm DANGEROUS ACTS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28
12:00 pm LOVE COMES LATELY
4:30 pm THE SECRETS
7:00 pm MY MEXICAN SHIVA
9:30 pm THE STRANGERS

THURSDAY JANUARY 29
12:00 pm BIGHAD THIRST with PRAYING IN HER OWN VOICE
4:00 pm THE POWER OF GOOD
7:00 pm PRAISE MY with CIRCUMCISE ME
9:00 pm THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION

FRIDAY JANUARY 30
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music

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listings



Amy Ray

Stubb's, Tuesday 20
Jennifer O'Connor opens.

"If we're all birds of a feather, why can't we migrate? Or just be friends?"

So asks Amy Ray on the opening track to her third solo studio LP *Didn't It Feel Kinder* (Daemon). "Birds of a Feather" calls for reconciliation between individuals, communities, and ideologies and is particularly poignant in this post-Proposition 8 moment.

"That's a really personal song I wrote originally just to a friend who I was struggling to stay connected to," explains the Indigo Girl. "Then I started looking at it from a community level: How can we feel safe being vulnerable to each other and knowing we're so much better doing good together regardless of our differences?"

That heart-on-your-sleeve activism permeates *Didn't It Feel Kinder*, which finds Ray reunited with supporting players Kaia Wilson (guitar) and Melissa York (drums) of the Butchies. Wilson and York

previously worked and toured with Ray in support of her first solo album, 2001's *Stag*.

"I just love them, so I love being on the road with them," muses Ray. "Now we have a lot of memories and a lot of context, and it feels very comfortable."

That working relationship is apparent, too, whether on the boogie-inspiring funk rhythm line of "Bus Bus" or the tender touches of "Rabbit Foot." Bassist Greg Griffith, who produced much of the Butchies' work, lent *Kinder* its more mainstream sound, but not without a little resistance from Ray.

"He would start going in one direction, and I'd say, 'But that's not what I feel,'" explains Ray. "I had no intention of crossing boundaries to appeal to more people, because I'm not going to alienate people if I just be myself." — Melanie Haupt

SEE. HEAR. SPEAK. FOUR AFTERSHOW Club de Ville, Friday 18

ColdTowne Theater's fourth See. Hear. Speak. comedy festival has a barrel of monkeys to unload over four nights (see "See. Hear. Speak.," the Arts, p.33). Friday cups the "Hear." portion of the show as it migrates to Red River for Party Ends' afterparty. ColdTowne member Chris Trew doubles up on dweeb as hip-hop alter ego Terp 2 It, No Wave nihilists Automusik stir up the schadenfreude, Baby Got Bacteria wipes down the junk in the trunk, and Imagine the Band asks you to do just that. A battle rap tournament is also scheduled. Spontaneous choreographed dance sequence, anyone? — Audra Schroeder

NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS

Antone's, Friday 16 & Saturday 17

Behind the release of *Do It Like We Used to Do*, a 2-CD career retrospective with DVD, the North Mississippi Allstars settle in for two nights of mountainous blues rock ruckus-raising at Antone's. With side project the Hill Country Revue opening, it'll be a weekend of electric blues on the edge and inventive jams galore, all finely honed over the past decade-plus. — Jim Caligiuri

SAND RUBIES Club de Ville, Saturday 17

Austin ain't the only Southwestern music scene with early indie heroes such as the Reivers/Zeitgeist coming back older and wiser. Tucson, Ariz.'s Sidewinders, led by singer/guitarist tandem David Slutes and Rich Hopkins, put out debut *iCuacha!* in 1988, then made two discs for RCA before having to change their name to the Sand Rubies. Under that moniker they return with *Mas Cuacha* and what was once known as New Sincerity here in Austin: no chickenshit roots rock. The Summer Wardrobe opens. — Raoul Hernandez

PUBLIC OFFENDERS The Parish, Sunday 18

Nothing wrong with pushing a little peace through the struggle. Local hip-hop quintet Public Offenders take it to heart, promoting domestic nonviolence and the eradication of sexism for the Call to Men organization. This double feature of MC consciousness with ATX's Blacklisted Individuals serves as the Offenders' album release party for *Drop Jewels*. You better believe there's gonna be some love in this building. — Chase Hoffberger

INAUGURATION PARTY

Antone's, Tuesday 20

Change begins at home, so following the afternoon's D.C. ceremonies, a new reign of hope begins at Antone's with three local luminaries. The Heartless Bastards rock to the top of *The Mountain*, the upcoming third LP avalanching behind Erika Wennerstrom's *Fat Possum* vox. Guy Forsyth opens, unloading his gritty *Unrepentant Schizophrenic Americana*, along with the Texas country song-craft of Austin's 2008 breakout sensation Hayes Carll. Benefits the Travis County Democratic Party. — Doug Freeman

AL DI MEOLA One World Theatre, Thursday 22

Last May's Return to Forever reunion tour kickoff at the Paramount Theatre found Jersey shredder Al Di Meola closely monitoring mentor/bandleader Chick Corea for cues, unleashing electric torrents given the nod, particularly the second night. One World hosts another return, with acoustic quartet World Sinfonia playing the "Mediterranean Sundance" of *Live in Milano*, along with a program stretching from tango master Astor Piazzolla to Ennio Morricone. 7 & 9:30pm. — Raoul Hernandez

LOS BAD APPLES The Parish, Thursday 22

Eden's apple was surely tempting but not as seductive as the sultry vocals of Anita Benner, Los Bad Apples' trilingual chanteuse. Pair her pipes with banging hip-hop beats, Spanish guitar, and Austin's most prolific wordsmith, Zeale (now proficient in Spanglish), and "Don't Stop, Muevelo!" becomes club law. The blues rock of brotherly trio Amplified Heat gets things sizzling, and Chicken George's jazzy electronica maintains a slow burn. Yayo opens. — Thomas Fawcett

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER *soundcheck*

RICHIE HAVENS

One World Theatre, Friday 16
Freedom folk and blues.

SCOTT WEILAND

La Zona Rosa, Friday 16
Put down the Velvet Revolver, Scott.

BUSINESS DEAL BAND LOTTO CD RELEASE

Emo's, Saturday 17
The local label's latest compilation has the luck of the draw. Pataphysics, the Cari & Jason Band, Gayle Gold, and Preston Dukes switch up instruments.

DANIEL FRANCIS DOYLE

Beerland, Saturday 17
DIY drummer readies a new disc for spring. Baltimore's metric thrashers Yukon and locals Dikes of Holland, Seth Sherman, and Woodgrain spit and shine.

CHRISTOPHER CROSS

One World Theatre, Sunday 18
Sailing the seas of smooth fo' life.

COMBICHRIST

Elysium, Tuesday 20
Get yer Inauguration Day ya-yas out with industrial strength.

DUSTIN WELCH CD RELEASE

Continental Club, Wednesday 21
Southern gothic version 2.0, with Reckless Kelly and papa Kevin opening.

CASPER & THE HOUSE OF DAVID

Flamingo Cantina, Wednesday 21
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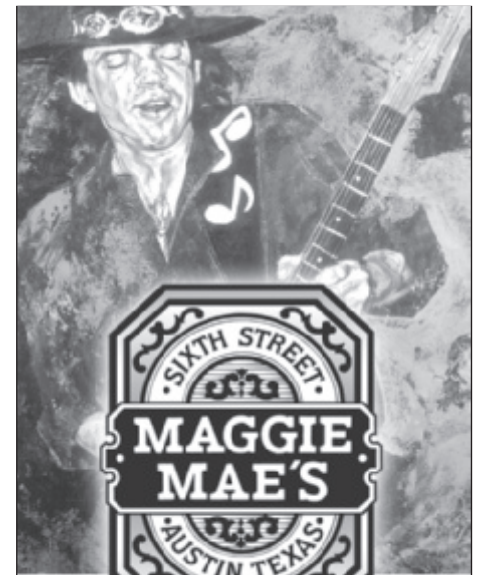


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CHAPARRAL
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HAPPY HOUR
DAVID GARZA
GUY FORSYTH

THURSDAY JAN 22
HAPPY HOUR
KEVIN WELCH
FEATURING RECKLESS KELLEY
10PM

FRIDAY JAN 23
HAPPY HOUR
THUNDERCHIEFS
EDDIE ANGEL
3 BALLS OF FIRE

SATURDAY JAN 24
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
H. H. THE LEGENDARY
Charanga Cakewalk

SATURDAY JAN 17
MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT
7-11:30PM *Dice* MAGAZINE ISSUE 24 RELEASE PARTY
DJ DANNY G•DYKES ON BIKES
THE BLACK TIBETANS

12AM
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS

12AM
THE FIGS

12AM
DENNY FREEMAN

12AM
BRAMHALL AND A GUY NAMED JIM

12AM
HEYBALE W/ REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL

12AM
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS

10PM
JAMES INTVELD

10PM
TOPAZ & MUDPHONIC
W/ GARY CLARK JR, ANTHONY FARRELL & EPHRAIM OWENS

10PM
T-BIRD & THE BREAKS & GREYHOUNDS

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JANUARY 23**
LA ZONA ROSA

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DEVOTCHKA with Crooked Fingers	107.1 KGSR	FEB 08
ADELE	107.1 KGSR	MAR 12

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DANNY BARNES
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CHARLIE ROBISON
SPECIAL GUEST • CHRIS BRECHT

SAT • JAN 17 • 6PM & 8:30PM
TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA
6PM KIDS SHOW • 8:30PM ADULT SHOW
GUEST STAR • BETTY SOO • 8:30PM

TUE • JAN 20 • 8:30PM • FREE SHOW!
RAY BONNEVILLE
WED • JAN 21 • 8PM • FREE SHOW!
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JOANNA BARBERA

THUR • JAN 22 • 8PM
GUITAR MASTERS
ADRIAN LEGG
PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO

FRI • JAN 23 • 9PM
FLOUNDERS WITHOUT EYES

SAT • JAN 24 • 8:30PM
BUTTERCUP WITH
ATHENS & SPARTA
CD RELEASE

WED • JAN 28 • 8:30PM
STEVE POLTZ

THUR & FRI • JAN 29 & 30 • 8:30PM
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TOM RUSSELL

SAT • FEB 7 • 8:30PM
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JOEL GUZMAN
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1.26	WHEATFIELD	2.9	ANDY McKEE
1.27	LIBBY KIRKPATRICK	2.11	FRED EAGLESMITH
	DANNY SCHMIDT	2.12-13	ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
2.3	MOLLY VENTOR	2.14	TERRI HENDRIX ♥
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2.4	DAVID GARZA	2.20	CHRIS SMITHER

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SOUNDSYSTEM
SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 9PM
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MONDAY, JAN. 19, 8PM
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BIG SCREEN PROJECTION
DRINK SPECIALS ALL
NIGHT LONG
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 8PM
AUSTIN POETRY SLAM
THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 9PM
SALTY GRAVY
JWW & THE PROSPECTORS
FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 9PM
SLAMDANCE FILM VS. MUSIC TOUR
THE WOES (NY)
PSEUDO SLANG (NY)
SATURDAY, JAN. 24, 9PM
SONS OF HERCULES
THE HEX DISPENSERS
FLASH BOYS
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club listings

THU 15

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)
THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Stephen Fryrear (9:00)
ANTONE'S Vendetta, Slickfist, Big Balls (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Paula Held (7:30)
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)
BOTTICELLI'S Leeann Atherton, Kevin Carroll (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmaw
CACTUS CAFE Sawdust Boogers, Danny Barnes (8:30)
CANNOLI JOE'S Rich Harney & Alex Coke (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Roger Creager (9:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz
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 Airoidi's Gypsy Jazz, Thomas Heflin/Ron Westray Project
EMO'S Chandeliers, Magnolia Sons, Quiet Company
EVANGELINE CAFE George Enslé (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Raspas, Radio la Chusma (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Matt Mason, Doug Warriner & His Only Band (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow & the Rogues (9:00)

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. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music 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 Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

HEADHUNTERS Hookah Rental, Neiliyo, Unicorn Basement, Chartreuse
HOLE IN THE WALL Leo Rondeau, Roger Wallace, Brennen Leigh (10:00)
HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus, Brian Kalinec, Bob Cheevers, Tim Henderson (8:00)
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

roadshows

january

THU 15

Sievert, Beerland
Danny Barnes, Sawdust Boogers, Cactus Cafe
Magnolia Sons, Chandeliers, Emo's
Radio la Chusma, Flamingo Cantina
Matt Mason, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Bob Cheevers, Java Lounge at Austin Java
Yo Majesty, Floetry, Mohawk
Whitey Morgan & the .78's, Dick Wiggler & the Cattle Guards, Room 710
Proteus, Ruta Maya

FRI 16

North Mississippi Allstars, Hill Country Revue, Antone's
Shit City High, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Enemy of the State, Beerland
Imagine the Band, Club de Ville
The Figs, Continental Club
Seabound, Devision, Iris, Elysium
Brass Bed, Emo's
Royal City Riot, Flamingo Cantina
Trashy & the Kid, Headhunters
Scott Weiland, La Zona Rosa
Li'l Keke, Monarch Event Center
Richie Havens, One World Theatre
Eleven Hundred Springs, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

SAT 17

North Mississippi Allstars, Hill Country Revue, Antone's
Yukon, Seth Sherman, Beerland
Trout Fishing in America, Cactus Cafe
Sand Rivers, Club de Ville
Doyle Bramhall, Continental Club
Nanosmash, Creekside Lounge
Awol One, Mine + Us, DJ Hoppa, Emo's
Pato Banton, Mystic Roots, Flamingo Cantina
Razorblade Dolls, Headhunters
Combat Shock, the Parlor
Harry Bodine, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
The Figs, Roadhouse Rags
Blood of the Sun, Room 710
Twilight Broadcast, Stubb's
Zenith Fuzzbomb, Trophy's

SUN 18

Man Plus Building, Carousel Lounge
Von Iva, Semi-Precious Weapons, Nico Vega, Emo's
Christopher Cross, One World Theatre
Kinsmen Redeemer, Bonnie Blue, Myth & Legend, Legacy Falls, Room 710
Gospel Silvertones, Stubb's

MON 19

Contrabandits, Headhunters
Proteus, Momo's

TUE 20

Billy Joe Shaver, Aces Lounge
Carley Wolf, Botticelli's
Nanosmash, Carousel Lounge
Combichrist, Elysium
Paul Wesley, Momo's
Shurman, Saxon Pub
Amy Ray, Jennifer O'Connor, Stubb's

WED 21

Kevin Welch, Continental Club
Casper & the House of David, Idiginis, Flamingo Cantina
Jess Klein, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Matt Wilson, Key Bar

THU 22

The Juan Maclean, Beauty Bar
Something Fierce, the Persimmons, Beerland
Adrian Legg, Pepinno D'Agastino, Cactus Cafe
Eddie Angel, Continental Club
Rook, Creekside Lounge
Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley, Darius Rucker, Frank Erwin Center
Arizona, Mohawk
Al Di Meola, One World Theatre
Chris Botti, Paramount Theatre
Claire Lynch Duo, Jim Hurst, Stubb's

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FRI FEB 6

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SAT FEB 14

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VALENTINE'S DAY

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FRI FEB 27

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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 15 — DOORS 9PM
TUEN WITH TOAST
FUNKOTRON AND THE EL GUAPOS

FRI JAN 16 — DOORS 9PM
SPINALLEY
CD RELEASE WITH DRIVER DOWNSID AND ZLAM DUNK

SAT JAN 17 — DOORS 9PM
TWILIGHT BROADCAST
WITH JEREMY NAIL AND THE INCIDENTS AND COURRIER

SUN JAN 18

SAT FEB 28

5th Annual Countdown to St. Patrick's Day
FLOGGING MOLLY
GREEN 17 TOUR

WITH THE AGGROLITES

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SUN MAR 1

PRETENDERS
BREAK UP CONCRETE

WITH AMERICAN BANG

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FRI MAR 6

CUT // COPY
WITH MATT & KIM

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GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH THE GOSPEL SILVERTONES
- HOLY -
DOORS 9PM

TUE JAN 20 — DOORS 9PM

AMY RAY
OF THE INDIGO GIRLS WITH HER ROCK BAND FEATURING KAI AWILSON AND MELISSA YORK OF THE BUTCHIES WITH JENNIFER O'CONNOR

THU JAN 22 — DOORS 9PM

CLAIRE LYNCH DUO WITH JIM HURST

FRI JAN 23 — DOORS 9PM
PAPAGROWS FUNK

WED JAN 28 — DOORS 9PM
PINK NASTY
WITH CAROLINE SMITH & THE GOODNIGHT SLEEPS AND THE LOVELY SPARROWS

THU JAN 29 — DOORS 9PM
GRIFFIN HOUSE
WITH CHARLIE MARS

FRI JAN 30 — DOORS 9PM

ONE EYED DOLL
WITH SHE CRAVES 6 PACK DEEP AND DENTED

SAT MAR 7

BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS

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SAT APR 4

Slightly Stoopid

TIX ON SALE SAT 1/17 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI APR 24

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Black Label Society
SEVEN DUST
CIRCLE UP PAIN

TIX ON SALE SAT 1/17 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

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PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

WED, JAN 14 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **BO PORTER**

THU, JAN 15 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, JAN 16 **JAKE HOOKER**
SAT, JAN 17 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9PM **DERAILERS**

TUE, JAN 20 **HARDCORE COUNTRY NO COVER**
ALVIN CROW & JAMES M. WHITE

Transmission Entertainment - Transmit Socially

912 RED RIVER

THU 1/15 @ 9PM
YO MAJESTY & FLOETRY // FREE afterparty w/ DJ JESTER THE FLIPINO FIST (late, inside)

FRI 1/16 @ 7PM
Early Show **PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK**
7-9PM // **RAVEN TREE** w/ Goodnight Goddess, Chartreuse, The Raggedy Anns @10PM

SAT 1/17 @ 9PM
Early Show **PAUL GREEN SCHOOL OF ROCK**
7-9PM // **BROTHERS AND SISTERS** w/ Leatherbag, The Diagonals

SUN 1/18
TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS' 6TH ANNUAL WHAMMY AWARDS (Open to the Public at 11pm)

TUE 1/20
OBAMA INAUGURATION DANCE w/ DJs The Matador and PopNoir Sound System, Recession-Proof Happy Hour featuring the Obamahawk

WED 1/21 @ 10PM
THE UPPER ECHELON w/ Dana Falconberry, Hello Lovers, Aimee Bobruk

THU 1/22 @ 10PM
NASTY CLAN w/ The Alice Rose, Arizona, The Little Gentlemen

SAT 1/24 @ 9PM
KRS ONE w/ Cali Zack, Dubb Sicks, Crew54, Brooks City, Zeale // **UME CD RELEASE** w/ Many Birthdays, Transography (late, inside)

FRI 1/23 @ 10PM
THIS WILL DESTROY YOU w/ Balmorhea, Chief Rival

900 RED RIVER

FRI 1/16 @ 10PM
Coldtowne Theater & PartyEnds.com presents:
SEE.HEAR.SPEAK. Comedy Festival Afterparty w/ Baby Got Bacteria, Terp 2 It, Imagine the Band, Battle Rap Championship Tournament, Automusik - (outside) **MOONLIGHT TOWERS** w/ The Low Lows - 11pm (inside)

SAT 1/24 @ 9PM
BUILT BY SNOW MEGA CD RELEASE w/ Hollywood Gossip, The Bubbles, The McKenzies (outside) **HARLEM** - 10pm (inside)

FRI 1/30 @ 9PM
THE FRONTIER BROTHERS CD RELEASE w/ Black Tie Dynasty, Eastern Sea

611 E. 7TH

THU 1/15 @ 9PM

OUTLAW ORDER (eyehategod) w/ Mammoth Grinder, Ratking, Cure the Heavens // + FREE in the lounge: Punk/HC Classics w/ Johio & Graham DJing (Graham's BDay)

FRI 1/16 @ 9PM
CRUISERWEIGHT w/ Say Hello to Angels, FREE for 21+ - 9PM // + FREE in the lounge: punk classics w/ DJ Clean Bobby

SAT 1/17 @ 8PM
CARBIDE w/ Killing in Apathy, Bangladesh, Victims of Life, Barry Whitesnake, Chaos Calling, Nocturnal Sun - 9pm // + FREE in the lounge: punk/RnR karaoke w/ Karaoke Apocalypse and djs

SUN 1/18 @ 9PM
VESPARIAN SORROW w/ Deadnight, Death Rites, 666, Ayasoltec

TUE 1/20 @ 9PM
MECHANICAL BOY w/ Consider the Source, Thee Armada, Asteria, Callahan Loves You // + FREE in the lounge: DJ Giant Steps

WED 1/21 @ 9PM
EARLY SHOW: **FALSETTA** w/ No Truce, For Glory, Ordet @ 5PM 101x No Control - **LIONS OF TSAVO** w/ The High Cost of Living, The Roller @ 9PM // + FREE in the lounge: old school hip hop w/ \$get money brothaz\$ (Mike Weibe & Jeremy) @ 9PM

401 WEST 2ND

THU 1/15

JITTERBUG VIPERS @ 7PM *LOW CASH THURSDAYS* with DJ FUCKIN' A @ 10:30PM

FRI 1/16
SUZANNA CHOFFEL w/ Drew Smith's Lonely Choir @ 10:30

SUN 1/18
JAZZ NIGHT with Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, & Red Young @ 7PM

TUE 1/20
JITTERBUG VIPERS @ 7PM

WED 1/21
MOONHANGERS @ 7PM

THU 1/22
LEEMORK @ 7PM
LOW CASH THURSDAYS with DJ Prince Klassen @ 10:30PM

FRI 1/23
AUSTIN GIVES BACK: A FUNDRAISING EVENT WITH DJ MELODIC w/ DJ Mel, Chicken George, Second Line Social and Hobo D @ 10:30PM

SAT 1/24
FICTION w/ My Education, My Empty Phantom @ 10:30PM

upcoming shows

1/29 - Cattle Decapitation (Red 7), 1/30 - Shearwater (Mohawk), 1/31 - TSOL (Red 7), 2/1 - MW & EE (Mohawk), 2/5 - Will Johnson (Centro-matic) (Mohawk), 2/6 - Fashion Freak Out 2 (Mohawk), 2/6 - AU (Mohawk), 2/6 - Monotonic (Red 7), 2/7 - Applesed Cast (Mohawk), 2/7 - The Vandals (Red 7), 2/8 - Don Caballero (Red 7), 2/10 - Music Tapes (Mohawk), 2/13 - DJ Spooky (Mohawk), 2/13 - Agnostic Front (Red 7), 2/16 - Greg Ginn (Red 7), 2/19 - Bright Black Morning Light (Mohawk), 2/20 - Mispriest Beard & Moustache Competition (Mohawk), 2/21 - Pop Unknown Reunion Show (Mohawk), 2/27 - Wednesday 13 (Red 7), 3/3 - Thank You (Mohawk), 3/5 - Kool Keith (Dr. doom v Dr. Octagon) (Mohawk)

www.transmissionentertainment.com



CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00), DJ Fuckin' A (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

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 LC Rocks

MOHAWK Floetry, Yo Majesty; Later: DJ Jester (10:00)

MOMO'S Chris Parreira, Gina Chavez, Nakia & His Southern Cousins, LZ Love (5:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Rick Hornyak (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Basil's Rude Neighbors

ONE 2 ONE BAR Noble Dog (10:00)

THE PARLOR Foot Foot, Shootin' Pains (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Open Mic (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Michael Ballew (8:00)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Mike Ethan Messick

ROOM 710 Dick Wiggler & the Cattle Guards, In & Outlaws, Zero Skills, Whitey Morgan & the .78's

RUTA MAYA Proteus, Fever Dreams, Opposite Day (8:00)

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 RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Ember

SPEAKEASY James Kinney (9:30)

STUBB'S The El Guapos, Funk-o-Tron, Toast, Tuen

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Trio del Rio, Smoke & Feathers, Leprechaun Theory, A Mind Divided

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE LAUGHTER LANE The Jems

Z'TEJAS Lucky Strikes

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Shawn Irwin, Rich & the Obits Dance Party, CD Release (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Walt Wilkins

CLUB DE VILLE See. Hear. Speak. Four Aftershow w/ Baby Got Bacteria, Imagine the Band, Automusik, Terp 2 It

CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30), the Figs, White Ghost Shivers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Dysfunkshun Junkshun

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Candi & the Cavities, Baby Dick, Down Syndrome Army

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet

ELEPHANT ROOM Nevada Newman & Jive Five, Jeff Lofton Quintet (6:00)

ELYSIUM Iris, Devision, Seabound (9:30)

EMO'S Brass Bed, Paul Banks, the Mercers, the Last Gasp CD Release

EVANGELINE CAFE Hans Frank (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Benny vs. the Beast, Royal City Riot (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE The Flo (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Beautiful Fools, the Lost Pines (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Scott Wayne (5:00)

GRUENE HALL Shawn Pittman (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Jamie Thomas, Trashy & the Kid, Snakeskin Prison, Butcherwhite

HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN Marker 10: Haydn Vitera (5:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Tom Gilliam, Austin Homegrown (5:30)

FRI 16

THE AMSTERDAM Joey Lavallee, Kent Mayhew (9:00)

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Andrea Marie & Magnolia

ANTONE'S Hill Country Revue, North Mississippi Allstars

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Studebakers (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Venson & Lee

BEERLAND Enemy of the State, Blower, Zenith Fuzzbomb, Shit City High

BOTTICELLI'S Graham Wilkinson

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Jake Hooker

CACTUS CAFE Chris Brecht, Charlie Robison (9:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

MONARCH EVENT CENTER

JAN 16 **LIL KEKE**
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MONARCH BOX OFFICE AND GetTix

TEXANS FOR OBAMA INAUGURATION GALA
"A DREAM REALIZED"
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JAN 20, 2009 - 7 PM
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THU 1/15 **MIKE ETHAN MESSICK**

FRI 1/16 **BO PORTER**

SAT 1/17 **ANDREA MARIE & THE MAGNOLIA BAND**

SUN 1/18 **OPEN MIC WITH GLENN ALLEN**

MON 1/19 **TIM BRUTON & FOREST WAYNE ALLEN**

TUE 1/20 **BEVERLY HENSLEY & PAUL EASON**

WED 1/21 **JORDAN MINOR & THE BOTTOM DOLLAR BAND**

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SUNDAY JANUARY 18

A NIGHT FOR **AMANDA**
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THE WARTIME SOCIAL
THE CRAZY IVANS

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THURSDAY JANUARY 15

PATRICE PIKE & JOY DAVIS 8:00 \$8
UNCLE LUCIUS SHURMAN 10:00 \$8
12:30 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **JAMES HAND**

FRIDAY JANUARY 16

OMAR
& THE HOWLERS
9:00 SHOW \$10 COVER
THE SALINGERS 11:30 \$5
DIME STORE POETS 12:45 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour at 6:00 **THE REGULARS**

SATURDAY JANUARY 17

WARREN HOOD 10:30 \$10
PORTER DAVIS 8:00 \$10
MAMA SWEET 12:30 \$8
JODI ADAIR 3-5 pm No Cover

SUNDAY JANUARY 18

BOBBY WHITLOCK & COCO CARMEL 10:15 \$10
THE RESENTMENTS 7:30 \$7
THE SALINGERS 12:00 \$5

MONDAY JANUARY 19

BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELY LAND 8:30 \$10
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN 7:00 \$10
ANGEL FERRER 11:00 \$5
TOM GILLAM 12:30 \$5

TUESDAY JANUARY 20

BRUCE HUGHES & THE ALL-NUDE ARMY 10:00 \$5
SHURMAN 12:00 \$5

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21

MONTE MONTGOMERY 8:00 \$10
MEAGAN TUBB & SHADY PEOPLE 12:00 \$5
TAMECA JONES 10:00 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 **BO PORTER**

JAN 23 - RAY WYLIE HUBBARD
JAN 24 - STEPHEN BRUTON AND W.C. CLARK

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

MONDAY JANUARY 19

ANTONES' **BLUE MONDAY** BAND
FEAT. **NICK CURRAN**

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21

AARON CUADRA'S CIRCLE OF SONGS
JEFF PLANKENHORN
CARSON ALEXANDER
TODD SAPIO "LANGUAGE ROOM"
BRIAN MEYERDIRK "UNDERDRIVEN"
JENNIFER APPELQUIST & MANY MORE

TUESDAY JANUARY 20

PRESIDENT **OBAMA** INAUGURATION PARTY & BUSH RETIREMENT PARTY
HEARTLESS BASTARDS
GUY FORSYTH
JIM DUNNAM & THE BAD PRECEDENTS
WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST **HAYES CARLL**

EARLY • FRIDAY JANUARY 23

A SPECIAL SOLO SHOW
BOB SCHNEIDER 6 PM EARLY SHOW
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

LATER • FRIDAY JANUARY 23

TEXAS GUITAR WOMEN
with **SUE FOLEY**
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
THE BLUEBONNETS
ROSIE FLORES
CINDY CASHDOLLAR
SARAH BROWN • ERIN JAIMES
LISA PANKRATZ & MANY MORE
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

wideawake
"SOMETHING THAT WE CAN'T LET GO"
CD RELEASE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST **SCARLET FADE**
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SUN JAN 25 6:30
FREE LAURIE FREELOVE

FEATURING THE AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS
SARA HICKMAN • JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
GREEZY WHEELS • CAROLYN WONDERLAND
GRETCHEN PHILLIPS • KATHY MCCARTY • MADY KAYE
PAUL PERCY • EAST SIDE FLASH • BLUESQUEEZEBOX

FRIDAY JANUARY 30TH

THE GOURDS
"HAYMAKER" CD RELEASE!

SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST

APPEARING LIVE!
JJ GREY & MOFRO
ORANGE BLOSSOMS TOUR
WITH **JONATHAN TYLER** & THE NORTHERN LIGHTS
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FEBRUARY 3RD

RUTHIE FOSTER
CD RELEASE
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JANUARY 24

GARY CLARK JR
10:30 PM
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

STATE RADIO & REBELUTION
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY FEB. 7 EARLY

RAY BENSON & ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY FEB. 7 • 10PM

BOB SCHNEIDER
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

KEVIN COSTNER & MODERN WEST
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

MARCIA BALL'S BIG BIRTHDAY BASH!
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THURSDAY FEB 19

LYKKE LI
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

MISSY HIGGINS AND **JUSTIN NOZUKA**
WITH SPECIAL GUEST **LENKA**
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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10TH

COREY SMITH
W/ SHANE HINES & THE TRANCE
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WED 25 FEB

SON VOLT
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI 27 FEB

KELLER WILLIAMS
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

OPEN CALL for 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

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Scott Weiland
LAMBERTS Suzanna Choffel, Drew Smith's Lonely Choir (10:30)
LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Uncle Bruno, DJ Diamond Tip (9:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MOHAWK Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00), In the Greenroom, Popnoir Soundsystem (10:00)
MOMO'S Will Evans Project, Level Hill, the Belleville Outfit, the Raggedy Anns (8:00)
MONARCH EVENT CENTER Li' Keke
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Karaoke
ONE 2 ONE BAR Sarah Temple, Brannen Temple Quartet (8:30)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Richie Havens (7:00, 9:30)
THE PARLOR We'll Go Machete, Monuments (9:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Eric Hisaw (8:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bruce Smith, Eleven Hundred Springs
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Bo Porter
ROOM 710 Wolf Dog, Me vs. Everybody, Thunderosa, High Watt Crucifixers
RUTA MAYA DJ Orion, Muse Oasis (9:30)
SÃO PAULO'S Three Jazz Collective (7:30)
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Miss Bree & Rusty (7:30)
SAXON BISTRO & BAR The Regulars (6:00), Omar & the Howlers, Smokin' Joe Kubek (9:00)
SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Proper Villain Soundsystem, Double Barrel Soundsystem, the Bandulus (9:00)
SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Philip's Songwriter Roundtable (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Max
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Third Steele (9:00)
STARDUST CLUB Sam Bentley
STUBB'S Zlam Dunk, Downsidd, Driver F, Spin Alley

SAT 17

- ACES LOUNGE** Rock Burlesque w/ Suicide Kings
THE AMSTERDAM Les & the Funk Mob (9:00)
ANTONE'S Hill Country Revue, North Mississippi Allstars
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sieker Band
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer
BEERLAND Woodgrain, Seth Sherman, Dikes of Holland, Yukon, Daniel Francis Doyle
BOTTICELLI'S The Just Desserts
'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Derailers
THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau
CACTUS CAFE Trout Fishing in America (6:00, 8:30)
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Brandon Rhyder (9:00)
CLUB 21 Sam Bentley
CLUB DE VILLE The Summer Wardrobe, Sand Rubies (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Redd Volkaert (3:00), DJ Danny G, Dykes on Bykes, Black Tibetans (7:00), Denny Freeman, Doyle Bramhall, A Guy Named Jim (12mid)
COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice
COTTON CLUB Johnny Lyon (9:00)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Nanosmash, Masonic
DONN'S DEPOT Nash Hernandez Orchestra
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson
ELEPHANT ROOM The Brew (9:30)
EMO'S Inside: DJ Hoppa, Mine + Us, AWOL One; Outside: Et Al, Preston Dukes, Gayle Gold, the Cari & Jason Band
EVANGELINE CAFE Songwriters Showcase w/ Danny Britt, Chris Wall, Marvin Dykhuis (8:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Subrosa Union, Mystic Roots, Pato Banton (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Fingerpistol (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Datri Bean, Ukemi (8:00)
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Mark Hendricks (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Glenn Collins
GRUENE HALL Charlie Shafter (1:00), Jimmy LaFave (9:00)
HEADHUNTERS Shriner Threat, Unravel Mars, Scary Cherry Bang Bang, Razorblade Dolls
HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN Marker 10: Gina Chavez (5:00)
JOVITA'S The Late Joys, Melancholy Ramblers, Who Do (6:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LOUIE'S 106 Kenny Luna (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Matt White, DJ Protege (9:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Django Walker (8:00)
MOHAWK Paul Green School of Rock Music All-Stars (7:00), Diagonals, Leatherbag, Brothers and Sisters (10:00)
MOMO'S Will Taylor & Strings Attached (8:30, 10:30)
MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Al Monti
ONE 2 ONE BAR Paul Renna (8:00), Mike Milligan & the Altar Boyz (10:00)
THE PARLOR Combat Shock, Los Bones, Flesh Gorging Zombies (9:00)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Harry Bodine (8:00)
PLUSH Table Manners w/ DJ Chicken George (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Marshall Ford Swing Band, Johnny Gimble
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Andrea Marie & Magnolia
ROADHOUSE RAGS Kevin Sekhani & the Associates, Aimee Bobruk, the Figs (6:00)
ROOM 710 Slo' Poke, Jacket Walker, Blood of the Sun, Splithoof
RUTA MAYA Funky Formal w/ Mary's Distraction (9:30)



THURS 1/15 PROTEUS CD RELEASE
"FAR FROM HERE"
THE FEVER DREAMS AND OPPOSITE DAY
8PM-1AM

FRI 1/16 PERFORMING WITH
MUSE DJ ORION
OASIS 9:30PM-2AM

SAT 1/17 FABULOUS
FUNKY FORMAL
W/MARY'S DISTRACTION
9:30PM-2AM

www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends
3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin,
(Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

Ruta Maya

FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY
SUN 1/18
7 PM Cafe Con Letras
Spanish Music & Poetry

MON 1/19
7 PM DJ Dub Transistor
Chill Night \$2 Pint Night
FREE! No Cover!!

TUE 1/20
TUESDAY OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
6 PM Poetry - 9 PM Music
Happy Hour All Night Long!

WED 1/21
CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

Hanovers

- THURSDAY 8pm-12am
KARAOKE
SUNDAY
Poker League 5:30-8:30pm
FRIDAY Live Music (1/16) \$5 Cover
UNCHAINED Van Halen
Tribute Band
STONE FREE Jimmy Hendrix
Tribute Band
SATURDAY Live Music (1/17)
NO COVER STONE RAVERS
Rolling Stone Tribute Band
FRIDAY Live Music (1/23) \$10 Cover
SKYROCKET!! 80s Nite
SATURDAY Live Music (1/24)
NO COVER WELDON HANSON
Honky Tonk
FRIDAY Live Music (1/30) NO COVER
CHEAP SUNGLASSES
ZZ Top Tribute Band
SATURDAY Live Music (1/31)
NO COVER THIRD STEEL Classic Rock
FRIDAY Live Music (2/6) NO COVER
RELENTLESS JONES
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 MUST RSVP TO GAIN ENTRY at www.scion.com/houseparty
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WITH THE RASPAS

FRIDAY JAN 16 *SKA/REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
ROYAL CITY RIOT
BENNY VERSUS THE BEAST

SATURDAY JAN 17 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
PATO BANTON
WITH MYSTIC ROOTS & SUBROSA UNION

WEDNESDAY JAN 21 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00
CASPER & THE HOUSE OF DAVID
FEAT. LEROY 'HORSEMOUTH' WALLACE ON DRUMS
WITH IDIGINIS

UPCOMING SHOWS

01.23: BOMBASTA WITH EL TULE
01.24: THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
01.28: THE DARBY DRIVERS
01.29: HAPS, MSG CREW, HOPS KOTCH

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH & SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST
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MICHAEL BALLEW

Friday, Jan. 16
ELEVEN HUNDRED SPRINGS
BRUCE SMITH BAND OPENER

Saturday, Jan. 17
JOHNNY GIMBLE
W/ THE MARSHALL FORD SWING BAND

Thursday, Jan. 22
BOOMER CASTLEMAN & LOIS HESS

Friday, Jan. 23
WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS
DOG HOUSE OPENER

Saturday, Jan. 24
MARY CUTRUFELLO
AUSTIN SPACE HEATERS OPENER

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

SUN 18

SAXON PUB Porter Davis, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Mama Sweet (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN Prince Klassen, DJ Orion, DJ Select (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Albanie Faleta, Tony Airoldi (8:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Max

SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30)

STUBB'S Jeremy Nail & the Incidents, Twilight Broadcast

TRIPLE CROWN Cactus Peach, Earth Eater, Newlywed Clubs

TROPHY'S Bad People, Shotgun Hustler, Killa Dilla, Zenith Fuzzbomb

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE AT THE GROVE Luke LeGrange

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN Rick Steinberg & the Stonecastle Family Band

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Bert Rivera (6:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Suicide City w/ DJ Ben Blackout

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (8:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Circle Birds, Man Plus Building (7:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cody Lawson, Brett Crenshaw (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Kevin Lovejoy (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Nico Vega, Semi-Precious Weapons, Von Iva

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Jackie Bristow (8:00)

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00)

GARRISON PARK HARBOR Patterson Barrett, Jimi Lee

GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL The Hudsons (12:30), Tom Gilliam (4:00)

HEADHUNTERS Horse Opera, the Original Mexican Bob

HOLE IN THE WALL Maria Mabra, That Damned Band, la Tampiquena (9:00)

JOVITA'S The Brew (7:00)

LAMBERTS Ephraim Owens, Brannen Temple, Red Young (7:00)

LATITUDE 30 Luke Jackson (9:00)

MANUELS Tim Nolan (11:30am)

MEAN-EYED CAT Austin Homegrown (8:00)

MOHAWK Rollergirls Whammy Awards (6:00)

MOMO'S Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers, Matt Powell, Allen Daniels (8:00)

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Open Mic w/ Chris Davis (4:00)

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WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
6:30 - 9 PM
SUNDAY
12:30 - 3 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA
irish, appalachian mountain music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
EL TULE
latin

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
SUSANNA SHARP
brazilian

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
CIENFUEGOS
cuban

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
JIMI LEE BAND
blues

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
MANTECA BEAT
jazz, blues, latin

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
BOXCAR PREACHERS
bluegrass, americana

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
JEAN SYNODINOS
singer songwriter

upcoming at central park:

JAN 24 - ERIK HOKKANEN
JAN 25 - SENOR GATO
JAN 30 - PORTERDAVIS
JAN 31 - TROY CAMPBELL
FEB 1 - JUST DESSERTS
FEB 6 - TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS

upcoming at westgate:

JAN 25 - AARON'S LACK'S STEEL PAN TRIO
JAN 28 - CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES
JAN 29 - SHINYRIBS
FEB 1 - CIENFUEGOS
FEB 4 - LOST & NAMELESS ORCHESTRA

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Monday, January 26th, 6:00-9:00pm
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

INSIDE: **QUIET COMPANY**
 MAGNOLIA SONS • CHANDELIER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

INSIDE: **THE LAST GASP** CD RELEASE
 THE MERCERS • PAUL BANKS • BRASS BED

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

OUTSIDE FLOOR:
 BUSINESS DEAL RECORDS
 COMPILATION RELEASE SHOW
JASON & CARI BAND (OF BELAIRE)
 PATAPHYSICS • GAYLE GOLD
 PRESTON DUKES, ET AL
 INSIDE: **AWOL ONE** • MINE & US
 DJ HOPPA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

INSIDE: **THE HELL ON HEELS TOUR**
 VON IVA • SEMI PRECIOUS WEAPONS • NICO VEGA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

INSIDE: **TIA CARRERA** • INSECT SEX ACT
 THE SNAKE TRAP • MEGAZILLA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

INSIDE: **REVEREND DEADEYE**
 OUTSIDE:
TINY TINY HEARTS • SILVER PINES
 SILENT LAND TIME MACHINE
 INDIAN QUEEN MEDLEY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

INSIDE: **LIONS** • SCORPION CHILD
 PJ AND THE BEAR
 CD RELEASE PARTY

OUTSIDE:
AMEBIX • SEVERED HEAD OF STATE
 SUB OSLO • DESKONOCIDOS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

OUTSIDE: **101X PRESENTS**

SUBLINE
BADFISH
 a tribute to
SUBLIME

WITH SCOTTY DON'T
 FULL SERVICE • GRIMY STYLES

INSIDE:
KILLOLA • THE ACTION DESIGN

**BUY TICKETS IN ADVANCE*
 SHOWS ARE SELLING OUT**

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

INSIDE: **THE YOUNG • XYX**
 (MONTERREY, MEX)
 DIAMONDHEAD • GLASSES • CRUDDY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

BENEFIT FOR CUTLER MOORE
 2 STAGES, 1 COVER

OUTSIDE:
PICKLED PUNKS • SUMMER OF BLOOD
 NAW DUDE • SPITTING BULLETS • EXILE

INSIDE:
THE GOLDEN BOYS • BLOOD ROYALE
 YOU PEOPLE • ME VS. EVERYBODY
 COMBAT SHOCK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

THE RETURN OF
IGNITOR AND COURSE OF RUIN

OUTSIDE: **IGNITOR**
COURSE OF RUIN
 BANGLADESH • STIR THE SILENCE
 DEAD EARTH POLITICS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

INSIDE: **FUCKED UP**
ANNIHILATION TIME
 IRON AGE • A.N.S.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

INSIDE: **PASSAFIRE**
ELEVEN FINGERED CHARLIE
 TBA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**THE LEGENDARY
 SHACK SHAKERS**
 (FEATURING DUANE DENISON
 OF THE JESUS LIZARD)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

INSIDE: **SUNGLASSES & MUSHROOMS**
AL SHIRE & THE HENCHMEN
 THIRTY YARD STARE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

INSIDE: **SHAPES HAVE FANGS**
CAVEDWELLER
 (SPLIT 7" RELEASE PARTY)
DIAGONALS • PILLOW QUEENS

OUTSIDE:
THE PRETTY THINGS PEEPSHOW
 A VINTAGE BURLESQUE SIDESHOW
 7PM & 10:30PM

• 2/18 HANK III & ASSJACK (OUTSIDE) • 2/20 GIL MANTERA'S PARTY DREAM (INSIDE)/DISTANT SECONDS, MIDGETMEN, DAFF EARS, SAD ACCORDIONS (OUTSIDE FLOOR)
 • 2/21 A.A. BONDY (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/25 BUILT BY SNOW W/ THE AUTHORS, THE DIVING CAPTAIN (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) • 2/27 FUJIYA & MIYAGI, PROJECT
 JENNY, PROJECT JAN (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 2/28 101X PRESENTS DELTA SPIRIT, OTHER LIVES, DAWES (INSIDE, ON SALE NOW) • 3/5 THE WHITE TIE AFFAIR (INSIDE,
 ONSALE SAT 1/17) • 3/7 TAKE ACTION TOUR W/ CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR, BREATHE CAROLINA, MEG & DIA, EVERY AVENUE, ANARBOR (OUTSIDE, ON SALE NOW)
 • 3/8 LUDO W/ SING IT LOUD, THIS PROVIDENCE, AND THE MORNING LIGHT (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) • 4/12 A SKYLIT DRIVE, DANCE GAVIN DANCE, ATTACK ATTACK!, LOWER DEF-
 INITION, IN FEAR AND FAITH (ONSALE SAT 1/17) • 4/17 THAT 1 GUY (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW) • 4/25 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE W/ SONIC SUICIDE SQUAD (INSIDE, ONSALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT emosoatx.com, Waterloo Records, End of an Ear records & Sound on Sound records

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

OUTSIDE: **Z-RO KING OF THE GHETTO**
 PLUS K-RINO • POINT BLANK
 KRIMINALS • C.O.D. • PIMPIN PEN

INSIDE:
NEILIYO • DJ JAUNTY & GAL PAL
 HYPE HEADZ DJ MARKUS IN BETWEEN SETS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

INSIDE: **THE ARCHIBALDS**
THE SOUR NOTES • THE BUBBLES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

OUTSIDE:
STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO
 AWS • THE SWELLERS • THE STITCH UP

INSIDE:
VALENCIA • HOUSTON CALLS
 ARTIST VS. POET • CHANDELIER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

INSIDE: **REVEREND PEYTONS**
BIG DAMN BAND
 POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES
 TOM VANDENAVOND

OUTSIDE FLOOR:
SILVER PINES • JC & CO
DJ REMY MAC (RAMESH FROM VOXTROT)
 INTERNATIONAL WATERS
 DANS LA LUNE • WINE & REVOLUTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

OUTFLOOR:
HIGH TENSION WIRES
THE GOLDEN BOYS
 CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE • THE GOSPEL TRUTH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

INSIDE:



MILLIONAIRES • CASH CASH
 I SET MY FRIENDS ON FIRE
 WATCH OUT! THERE'S GHOSTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

INSIDE, DOORS AT 6PM:
MYCHILDREN MYBRIDE
THE GHOST INSIDE • FOR TODAY
 BROADCAST THE NIGHTMARE • TBA

Hole in the Wall
 ARCADE RESTAURANT
 34 YEARS OF ROCKING AUSTIN
 2538 GUADALUPE

... THURSDAY January 15. . .

LEO RONDEAU
 Roger Wallace
 Brennan Leigh
 10pm
 Happy Hour: Derrik Morris 6:30pm
 outside: Salty Gravy 8pm & "NEEDLES
 and PINS Record Party" hosted by
 Angel von Ripper 11pm

... FRIDAY January 16th. . .

S3Cover: **Rockland**
Eagles
 American People
 Churchwood 10pm
 Happy Hour: The Spooley Show 6pm
 on the patio: SLOWTRAIN's friday Waltz

... SATURDAY January 17th.

S3 cover Reid Wilson and
 his so called friends,
 Beamonts, Flatcar
 Rattler 10pm

... SUNDAY January 18th. . .

La Tampiquena
 That Damned Band, &
 The Maria Madra Show
 9pm

... MONDAY January 19th. . .

Leo Rondeau, Eddie Biebel,
 Deep River 9pm
 Happy Hour: The McKay Brothers, Brennen
 Leigh, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers
 6-9pm
 Outside: Malorie Valentine 8-11

... TUESDAY January 20th. . .

Clyde and Clem's Whiskey
 Business, & Horse Opera do
 "Born in the USA" 10pm, & Roger
 Wallace 9pm Happy Hour: The Mystic
 Knights of the Sea 6pm

... WEDNESDAY January 21st

Billy Dave Wammo and more...
 10pm
 ON THE PATIO: Izzy Cox 6pm
 the ROB JEWETT TRIO 8pm

... THURSDAY January 22nd..

PRAYER FOR ANIMALS
 Boonesboro 10pm
 ON THE PATIO: Sick's Pack 9-11pm

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THE Parish

GLASNOST
RICHARD GEAR
JOSHUA DISTANCE
KING LOUIE
THU 15 JAN

DREMNT THE END
FRI 16 JAN
MURDER, MY SWEET & LANGUAGE ROOM

ORCHARD LOUNGE
DJ GOBOT
SAT 17 JAN

TUE 20 JAN
DEADMAN
+ NETWORKING, MUSIC, & ART - LINKAUSTIN.NET

THU 22 JAN
PLANETA EN RITMO PRESENTS:
LOS BAD APPLES
& DJ CHICKEN GEORGE
AMPLIFIED HEAT, YAYO

FRI 23 JAN
VIBESQUAD
ANA SIA, NOSAJ THING

SUN 18 JAN
PUBLIC OFFENDERS
BLACKLISTED INDIVIDUALS,
DJ NOTION, DJ ASPECT

JON MCLAUGHLIN
MON 19 JAN
WITH: LEE SIMMONS
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SUN 25 JAN
BROWNOUT
KITTY KITTY BANG BANG
DJ CHORIZO FUNK

THU 29 JAN
101X/NEXT BIG THING & AUSTINIST PRESENT:
TAPES N TAPES
WILD LIGHT, HARLEM

FRI 30 JAN
101X PRESENTS:
LOS CAMPESINOS!
TITUS ANDRONICUS

UPCOMING SHOWS:

1/31: Saturday Night Dance Party w/ DJ Mel 2/4, 2/11, & 2/18: Fastest Bartender Contest 2/11: The Blue Hit w/ Sub Oslo, & Snarky Puppy 2/6: Deejer w/ Ember 2/7: Ring the Alarm w/ Jah Mighty, DJ Baby G, & Jr. Vibes 2/9: Joshua Radin w/ Meiko & Jesse Harris 2/13: 101X Next Big Thing Presents: Annuals w/ Jessica Lea Mayfield & What Laura Says 2/14: D-Madness CD Release w/ Brannen Temple Quartet, DJ Rapid Ric feat. Bavu Blakes 2/20: Matt Wertz w/ The Alternate Routes 2/21: Rock the Casbah w/ DJ MEL 2/28: Pnuma Duo

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SHOWS AND TO BOOK YOUR BAND'S LIVE RECORDING SESSION- GO TO: THEPARISHROOM.COM

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ALSO, SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST & WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO AN UPCOMING SHOW!

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)
ONE WORLD THEATRE Christopher Cross (6:00, 8:30)
THE PARISH Public Offenders
THE PARLOR 7-Inch Stitch, Abigail und Hansel (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 Jenny & the Corn Ponies, Li'l Mikey & the Soda Jerks (5:00)
ROOM 710 Legacy Falls, Myth & Legend, Bonnie Blue, Kinsmen Redeemer, Oak Is Keeping, Muchos Backflips!
RUTA MAYA Cafe con Letras (7:00)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Salingers (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
STUBB'S Gospel Silvertones (11:00am)
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 Trés (6:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Marshall Ford Swing Band (6:30), Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (10:00)
CORK & CO. Open Mic w/ Rocking G. (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Silvie Rider & Red Young, Jazz Jam w/ Freddie Mendoza (6:00)
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)
HEADHUNTERS Nematoads, Contrabandits
HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY MLK Community & Cultural Festival w/ DeDe Priest, All U Need, Les & the Funk Mob (3:00)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LUCKY LOUNGE The Other Dude, the Spoiled (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)
MOMO'S Jesse Sublett, Freedy Johnston, Nathan Hubble, the Unreal, Proteus (7:00)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Briana Bagwell (7:30)
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers
MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Acoustic Odyssey (8:00)
THE PARISH Lee Simmons, Jon McLaughlin (8:00)
THE PARLOR Get to da Chopper! (9:00)
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 Transistor w/ Dreadbeard & Gypsyzen (7:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Stormy Monday Open Blues Jam w/ Breck (8:00)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, Angel Ferrer, Tom Gilliam (7:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Wood
SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell
TRIPLE CROWN Bob King, Triple Tronica

MON 19

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
BOTTICELLI'S Bobby LaRoche & David Perales
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

ACES LOUNGE Billy Joe Shaver (8:00)
ANTONE'S Travis County Democratic Party Benefit w/ Hayes Carll, Guy Forsyth, Heartless Bastards
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)
AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Nick Krauss & His Austin Torpedoes, Lonesome Dave Fisher, Li'l Mikey & the Soda Jerks (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BOTTICELLI'S Carley Wolf
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ A.J. Kline (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White
CACTUS CAFE Ray Bonneville (8:30)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE David Reed, Nanosmash (7:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Park (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB David Garza (10:00)
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), Brannen Temple Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Combichrist, '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher, Greg Anderson (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Ariel Abshire (8:00), 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)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)
HEADHUNTERS Bill Davis, Marshall Dylan, Scary Mondelos
HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice
JOVITA'S Paul Logan (7:00)
KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)
LA PALAPA Baby Dallas
LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Segovia

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Full Bar & Live Music

THU 1/15, 8P
ZEEROCK, DALE SPALDING

FRI 1/16, 8-10P
PHILLIP'S SONGWRITER
ROUNDTABLE

SAT 1/17, 8P
TONY AIROLDI &
ALBANIE FALETA

EVERY SUNDAY
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TUE 1/20, 8P
THE SWINGSTERS

WED 1/21, 8P
JESSE LEE
MILLER BAND

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HEB SIDE

BREAKFAST
MON-SAT 7:30AM

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FRI JAN. 16, 9PM
SAT JAN. 17, 10PM
MON JAN. 19, 10PM



THROWDOWN
THURSDAYS
FEATURING
THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRY BAND &
MC OVERLORD



UNCLE
BRUNO
DJ DIAMOND TIP SPINS 'TIL 2AM



MATT
WHITE
DJ PROTEGE SPINS 'TIL 2AM



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ALL NIGHT
LONG



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ALL STAR ACOUSTIC JAM



THROWDOWN
THURSDAYS
FEATURING
THE EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRY BAND &
MC OVERLORD

THU JAN. 22, 10PM

209A West 5th St. 479-7700

Call us to book your private party!

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WATERLOO Ice House

THIS WEEK

6TH & LAMAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 6:30-9:30PM

THE HUDSONS

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

JON BUCKLAND

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

THE STONE CASTLE FAMILY BAND

38TH & MEDICAL

TUESDAY, JAN. 20, 7PM

WILL DUNLAP

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21, 7PM

PTARMIGAN

9600 ESCARPMENT

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

THE JEANS

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

BOBBY KENNEDY

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 10PM

KARAOKE!!!!!!

FRIDAY, JAN. 16, 10PM

WYNN TAYLOR

SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 10PM

LUKE L&GARANGE

SUNDAY, JAN. 18, 10PM

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SUNDAYS W/ THE JUKEBOX HEROES

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EARACHE'S GIRLIE ACTION
REMINISCES ON MEETING
THE LATE MANNY CASTILLO:

"Truthfully, I was eavesdropping because a **hot Chicano man** was conversing knowl-
edgeably about San Antonio's music scene, but
when Manny and I **finally shook hands**, we were old friends, kindred spirits
from neighboring scenes."

- Margaret Moser

austinchronicle.com/chronic

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

SKYROCKET

FORMERLY KTEL HIT MACHINE
FRIDAY 9:30

RADIO STAR
SATURDAY 9:30

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

BIG BAND
SUNDAY 7PM

HAPPY HOUR 6-8 HEADLINERS 9:30

THU	15	BRYAN ANDREW LEE	suede
FRI	16	TRENT & DAVE	SKY ROCKET
SAT	17		RADIOSTAR
SUN	18	REPUBLIC OF TEXAS BIG BAND	ROMAN HOLIDAY
MON	19	IN THESE SHOES	UNNAMED BAND
TUE	20	LIZ MORPHIS	THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
WED	21	GRAND HOTEL	SPAZMATICS



208 W.4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

- CLUB** LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY
- LUCKY LOUNGE** DJ Rapid Ric, Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)
- MEAN-EYED CAT** Texaco
- MOHAWK** Saturday Night Matador, Popnoir Soundsystem (10:00)
- MOMO'S** Paul Wesley, the Lennings, Brian Kremer, Goldcure, Fifty-Dollar Dynasty (5:00)
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** In the Round w/ Wayne Sutton (8:00), Karl Morgan (10:30)
- THE PARLOR** Shy One Horse, Raised by Pandas (9:00)
- PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Chicken Dog (6:00)
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos
- RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:00)
- ROOM 710** Black-Eyed Vermillion, Scott H. Biram
- RUTA MAYA** Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
- 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 RESTAURANT** The Swingsters (8:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** Five Ways From Sunday
- STUBB'S** Jennifer O'Connor, Amy Ray
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Paul
- TRIPLE CROWN** Scott Wood, Our Favorite Colors, Earle Brown
- TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Sunny Fairly
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET** Will Dunlap (7:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Hosea Hargrove
- BEERLAND** Sexy Robots, Rage Ranger, Wicked Pro Wrestler
- BOTTICELLI'S** P.J. Herrington
- BROKEN SPOKE** Tony Harrison, Lucky Tomblin
- CACTUS CAFE** Joanna Barbera CD Release, Ray Bonneville (8:30)
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** World Racketeering Squad
- 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** Guy Forsyth (6:30), Kevin Welch, Reckless Kelly, Dustin Welch (10:00)
- CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** Bill Jerram, Wailing Walls, Craig Marshall
- 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 Pharaohs (6:00), Monster Big Band (9:30)
- EMO'S** Megazilla, the Snake Trap, Insect Sex Act, Tia Carrera
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Cleve & Sweet Mary (7:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Idiginis, Casper & the House of David (9:00)
- FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE** Greezy Wheels (8:00)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Jess Klein (8:00)
- 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** Matt's Open Mic, Chris Beirne & the Lost & Found, Jade Day
- JOVITA'S** M.J. Torrance, Flatcar Rattlers (6:00)
- KEY BAR** Matt Wilson (8:00)
- LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN** Open Mic, Musicians Contest (7:00)
- 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)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem (9:00)
- MEAN-EYED CAT** Sons of the Revolution (8:00)
- MOHAWK** Aimee Bobruk, Hello, Lovers, Dana Falconberry, the Upper Echelon (10:00)
- MOMO'S** Mike McGeeney, Ben Mallot, David Rice, Dan Dyer, Derrick Davis (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)
- THE PARLOR** HalleyAnna, Pastor Cory Cross & the Good Ole' Band (9:00)
- PARMER LANE TAVERN** Pete Benz (9:00)
- PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE** Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)
- PLUSH** Weight w/ the Herd
- REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
- ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D.
- RUTA MAYA** Salsa Lessons, Cienfuegos (7:30)
- SAXON PUB** Bo Porter (6:00), Monte Montgomery, Tameca Jones, Meagan Tubb (8:00)
- SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN** Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)
- SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT** Jessie Lee Miller (8:00)
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL** The Space Rockers
- SHINER'S SALOON** Jeremy Steding (10:30)
- SPEAKEASY** Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)

WED 21

- THE AMSTERDAM** Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King (7:30)
- AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** CHARLES THIBODEAUX
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 • 7PM
CLEVE & SWEET MARY HATTERSLEY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 • 7PM
GEORGE ENSLE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 • 10PM • \$5
HANS FRANK
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 • 10PM • \$5
SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE
W/ DANNY BRITT, CHRIS WALL & MARVIN DYKHUIS



8106 BRODIE LANE
282-2586

MONDAY, JANUARY 19 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
KEVIN GALLAUGHER & GREG ANDERSON 8PM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 • 7PM
CLEVE & SWEET MARY HATTERSLEY

DRAUGHT HOUSE

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SATURDAY, JAN. 17 **LC ROCKS**

MONDAY, JAN. 19 **S.I.N. JONATHAN TERRELL**

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21 **THE BREW**
SALSA LESSONS @ 9PM

THURSDAY, JAN. 22 **JAMES KINNEY**

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(HONORABLE MENTION)

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LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, 1/15

NO COVER!

CORNELL HURD BAND 8pm



FRIDAY, 1/16

NO COVER!

GIRL GUITAR 6-7pm



TOM GILLIAM 7:30-9pm



AUSTIN HOMETOWN 9:30-11:30pm

SATURDAY, 1/17

NO COVER!

THE LATE JOYS 5-6:30pm

MELANCHOLY RAMBLERS 7-8:30PM



THE WHODO 9-11pm

SUNDAY, 1/18

DANCE! \$5 COVER

THE BREW 7-10pm



MONDAY, 1/19

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, 1/21

NO COVER!

MJ TORRANCE 6pm

FLATCAR RATTLERS 8pm



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THURSDAY JANUARY 15

NAKIA & HIS SOUTHERN COUSINS 10
LZ LOVE 11:45
RYAN HARKRIDER 8:45
GINA CHAVEZ 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR **CHRIS PARREIRA** 5:15

FRIDAY JANUARY 16

THE BELLEVILLE OUTFIT 10

THE RAGGEDY ANNS 12:30
LEVEL HILL 9
THE WILL EVANS PROJECT 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 17

WILL TAYLOR & STRINGS ATTACHED

PRESENTS THE MUSIC OF PATTI GRIFFIN, GUY FORSYTH, TISH HINOJOSA & DAR WILLIAMS w/ KAREN MAL & MARC UTTER 8:30 & 10:30 / \$15

SUNDAY JANUARY 18

SHAWN NELSON & THE RAMBLERS 8
MATT POWELL TRIO 9:30
ALLEN DANIELS 12:15

MONDAY DECEMBER 19

FREEDY JOHNSTON 8:30

THE UNREAL 11:15
NATHAN HUBBLE 9:45
JESSE SUBLETT 7

TUESDAY JANUARY 20

NO SHOW PONIES 11:45
FIFTY DOLLAR DYNASTY 10:30
GOLDCURE 9:30
MARMALAKES 8:15
THE LENNINGS 7

NO COVER HAPPY HR **PAUL WESLEY** 5:45

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21

DAN DYER 9:45

DERRICK DAVIS 12
DAVID RICE 8:30
BEN MALLOT 7
NO COVER HAPPY HR **MIKE McGEENEY** 5:15

UPCOMING SHOWS

WARREN HOOD 01/24

PATRICE PIKE & CAROLYN WONDERLAND 01/30

SKYROCKET 01/31

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM WEDNESDAY

T.C.'S LOUNGE Soul Track Mind (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Shawn Nelson, the Gougers

TROPHY'S Lost July, Half Nelson, Daggars & Royalists

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Woodsboss (6:30), 3 Balls of Fire, Thunderchiefs, Eddie Angel (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Rook

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Liz Morphis, Bruce Saunders (6:00)

EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Tessa Torrance, Jade Day (8:00)

FRANK ERWIN CENTER Darius Rucker, Dierks Bentley, Brad Paisley (7:30)

GIBSON GUITAR SHOWROOM Grounded in Music Fundraiser w/ Patty Griffin (6:30)

GIDDI UPS Mike Morgan (5:30), Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow & the Rogues (9:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee (6:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS Leemork (7:00), Prince Klassen (10:30)

LATITUDE 30 Jordan Tanner (9:00)

THE LOADING DOCK Open Mic w/ Blue Rail (7:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Eagle Pritchard Murray, MC Overlord (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Gunhands (8:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC Rocks

MOHAWK Little Gentlemen, Arizona, the Alice Rose, Nasty Clan (10:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Chicken Strut (10:00)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Al Di Meola (7:30, 9:30)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Chris Botti (8:00)

THE PARISH DJ Chicken George, Amplified Heat, Los Bad Apples (9:00)

THE PARLOR Twangzilla (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Open Mic (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Lois Hess, Boomer Castleman (8:00)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

ROOM 710 Transsexuals, Abby Birds, Black Irish

SÃO PAULO'S Mike Longoria (7:00)

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Uncle Lucius, Bruce Smith (8:00)

SCOOT INN & BIER GARTEN JWW & the Prospectors, Salty Gravy (9:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Zee Rock, Dale Spaulding (7:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL 11th Hour

SPEAKEASY James Kinney (9:30)

STUBB'S Jim Hurst, Claire Lynch Duo

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Smith, BB Aeroplane, Blowing Trees, Three Leaf

TROPHY'S Two Hoots & a Holler

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Tameca Jones (6:00)

THU 22

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew, Stephen Fryrear CD Release (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Butch Morgan

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Human Milk, Bob & Barbara, School Police (8:00)

B.D. RESSY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEAUTY BAR Ian Orth, Still Going, the Juan Maclean (10:00)

BEERLAND The Persimmons, Deadly Companions, Something Fierce, the Ape Shits

THE BELMONT Mandy Lauderdale (9:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR DJ Gmau

CACTUS CAFE Pepinno D'Agastino, Adrian Legg (8:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE David Lazaroff, Psycho Blues Band

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Jean Synodinos (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jason Boland (9:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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- Fr 16 Bill Jerram 6pm
Mark Jungers 9pm
- Sa 17 Newlywed, Clubs, Earth Eater, Cactus Peach 9pm
- Su 18 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm
- Mo 19 Bob King 6pm
Triple Tronica w/ Jon Dishon 9pm
- Tu 20 Scott Wood 6pm
Earle Brown, our favorite colors 9pm
- We 21 Shawn Nelson 6pm Gouger Trio 9pm

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HH til 9pm & All night Thr

CREEKSIDE LIVE

THR JAN 1/15
10PM Follow that Bird Canopy, Literature

FRI JAN 1/16
10PM Down Syndrome Army BabyDick, Candi & the Cavaties

SAT JAN 1/17
10PM Masonic, Nano-Smash

WED JAN 1/18
10PM Craig Marshall Wailing Walls, Bill Jerram Band

UPCOMING SHOWS
1/22 Rook, 1/23 Prison Folk Rock, 1/24 Like Dogs

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1/16 **PRINCE KLASSEN**
MANO SECRETO/THE AUTHORS
/BLACK TIE DYNASTY

1/17 **CAR STEREO (WARS)**
NEILYO'S CD RELEASE PARTY

1/21 **DUEL OF THE DUO'S**
& **CHILLI COOK OFF**
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1/15(T)-CHARTRUSE, MC/LV, UNICORN BASEMENT, NEILYO, HOOKAH RENTAL(P)
1/16(F)-BUTCHERWHITE BAND, SNAKESKIN PRISON, TRASHY AND THE KID, (HH)JAMIE THOMAS
1/17(S)-RAZORBLADE DOLLS, SCARY CHERRY BANG, UNRAVEL MARS, SHRINER THREAT
1/18(S)-ATOMIC HONKY TONK: THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN BOB, HORSE OPERA, NFL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS 2-9PM
1/19(M)-MELLOW SIN MONDAYS-KONTRABANDITS, NEMATOADS, MOVIE LOUNGE(P)
1/20(T)-SCARY MONDELOS, MARSHALL DYLAN, BILL DAVIS SINGER/SONGWRITERS(P)
1/21(W)-JADE DAY, CHRIS BEINE, LOST & FOUND, MATT'S OPEN MIC(P)

ROOM 710

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Lounge Side + Stage Side = Frigging Original

Thu 1-15
WHITEY MORGAN at the 78s
THE IN & OUTLAWS
ZERO SKILLS
DICK WIGGLER & the CATTLE GUARDS

Fri 1-16
OKLAHOMAS
HIGH WATT CRUCIFIXERS
THUNDEROSA
8pm: Wolfdog ME VS. EVERYBODY

Sat 1-17
SPLIT HOOF
BLOOD OF THE SUN
JACKET WALKER
SLO' POKE

Sun 1-18
MUCHOS BACKFLIPS!
OAK IS KEEPING

Mon 1-19
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 1-20
SCOTT H. BIRAM
BLACK EYED VERMILLION

Wed 1-21
LET ME START WITH THE GOOD NEWS
RETURNING EMPTY HANDED

UPCOMING SHOWS
1.22 The Black Irish, Ripe, Abby Birds 1.23 Friends of Houston:
Special Guest, Renee Em, 13th Victim 1.24 Rancid Vlt. The Bulemics

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th 15 8-BITMANIA:
LO-TEK, Mysterious N, Band-Ana
Nicole Smith, Sievert, plus
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video game tournaments

fr 16 Shit City High, Blower, Zenith
Fuzzbomb, Enemy of the State

sa 17 Daniel Francis Doyle, Yukon,
Dikes of Holland, Seth Sherman,
Woodgrain

su 18 DJ Ben Blackout's SUICIDE CITY

mo 19 Beerland's legendary
Rock n Roll Karaoke

tu 20 closed

we 21 Wicked Pro Wrestler, Rage
Ranger, Sexy Robots

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THURSDAY - JANUARY 15
HAMMER
AGE OF FIRE
WE THE GRANADA
SLAIN MONARCH

FRIDAY - JANUARY 16
CD RELEASE SHOW
RENEGADES OF DISASTER CITY
THE BANNER YEAR
UNDER THE GUN
KILLER CHICKS OF DEATH
FAR BEYOND PLUTO

SATURDAY - JANUARY 14
SIXES & EIGHTS
THE TOMAWAGS
MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL FIVE
COMPANY OF STRANGERS

SUNDAY - JANUARY 18
UNSPEAKABLE THINGS
PITCH BLACK SOULS
HARD LINE FACE
FROM SILENCE TO SLEEP

MONDAY - JANUARY 19
FREE SHOW
PURE LUCK MONDAYS
MUSIC STARTS AT 9PM
\$2 LONE STAR \$3 JIM BEAM

TUESDAY - JANUARY 20
VIOLENT SKIES
DESTINATION DELROY
RAY OF PIGS
I WAIT FOR TOMORROW
MENSON'S EKKIES

WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 21
33 OVERDOSE
CASTRO'S BEARD
MOSLEY
JAMES & THE DOUCHEBAGS

THURSDAY - JANUARY 22
THE CEO'S
SLICK DICKINS
LIFE ON LOAN
THE DRY SEASON

FRIDAY - JANUARY 23
PREY FOR SLEEP
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY
YEARS OF COLD
SOUTHERN FRONT
MEADENBUSHEN

SATURDAY - JANUARY 24
BEXAR
COUNTY BASTARDS
TOUR KICKOFF
SHOW

UPCOMING SHOWS
01/20 - EVILENO, SNAKE SKIN PRISON, VOLCANO'S ANVIL, SEDIUM
01/21 - SOUNDFIELD, MOSTLY DEAD, FIVE DOLLAR FRIEND
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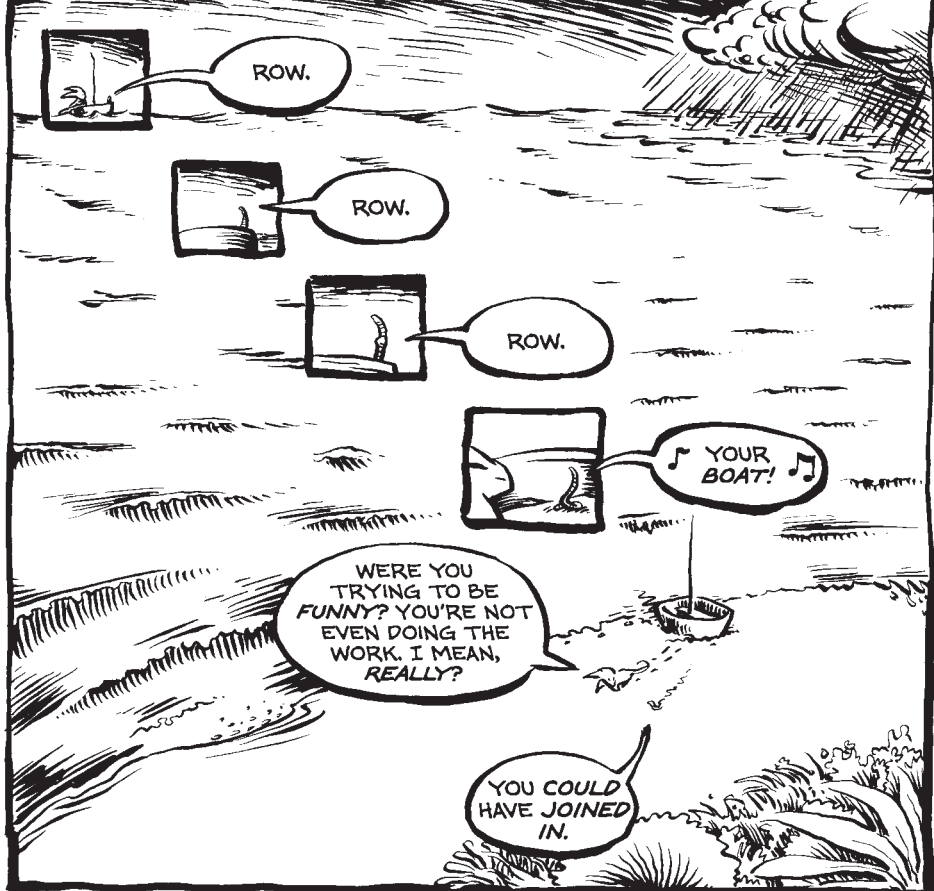
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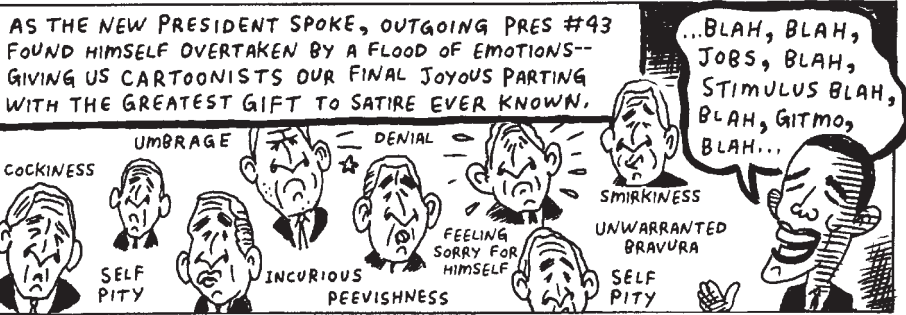
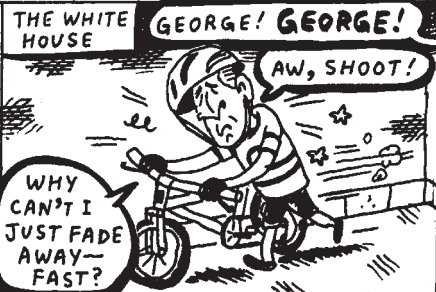
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According to one historian, Jan. 24, 1935, was the day the first canned beers hit the shelves. Krueger's Finest Beer and Cream Ale were put on sale in Richmond, Va., that day. Pabst seems to have started its canning later the same year.

Beethoven learned to add and subtract but never learned to multiply.

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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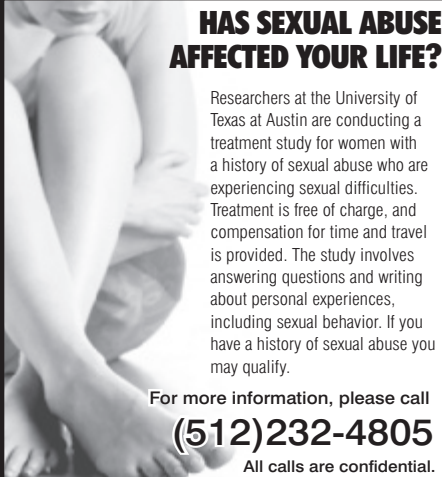
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allowances. For information and an application visit <http://altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

180 TECHNICAL

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NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON THURMAN BEND ROAD IN PRECINCT THREE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposal action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing.

Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is 9:30am Feb. 5, 2009. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash at the time of auction. Cleanup and removal deposit may be required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale or not accept any bidder. Property will be sold in entire contents of each individual storage unit. Property includes contents of spaces of following tenants: Carl D. Leblanc, Patrick Y. Davis, Richard A. McGhie, Demetrious Y. Thomas, Esequiel Quinines R. Reyes, Chris R. Martin, Mary E. Lucio, Algje Buntun, and Brett Murgage. Property being sold includes the following: clothing, toys, exercise equipment, video games, furniture, small electronics, TV's, fishing gear, bicycles, shotgun, tires, misc. computer parts and holiday decoration items. Contact Lockaway Storage 9910 Slaughter Creek Dr., Austin, TX, 78748. 512-282-7807

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. Deposit for removal and cleanup may be temporarily required. 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 Dodge Van

P058 Austin Stanphill - 1966 Ford car

P060 Austin Stanphill - 1966 Ford car

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Of the property to satisfy landlord's lien. **Sale is 3:00 pm, January 24, 2008 at 1905 E William Cannon Dr. Austin, Texas.** Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash. Clean up and removal is required. Seller reserved the right to remove property from sale. Property included contents of space of the following tenants: Olga Olascoaga-fridge, magic chef oven, washer or dryer, a C unit, air purifier, table, TV,

weed eater, lawn mower. Ray Sepeda Jr. - weights, mirror, lawn mower, fridge, vacuum, dresser, loveseat, recliner, sporting goods, camping gear, ice chest, DVD Player. Beatrice Castillo- mini bikes, bikes, ladder, washer & dryer, table, beds, lawn. Dean Calhoun- step ladder, TV, weight bench, tent, iron board, kids toys. Cristobal Salinas- Nintendo, X-Mas Décor, microwave, vacuum, mini fridge, tools, small dresser. Armando Merjil-bed, picture frames, large trash can filled with shoes, dresser, books. Edith Celino-Manikins, speaker boxes and speaker system, misc. tubs. Tamara Thompson- Dresser, drums, computer monitors, vacuum, bench set, end tables, box with toys. Yolanda Reyes- two 1 door fridges, industrial dolly, boxes, clothes. Contact Gracie or David Jackson, 512-443-8800 at American Mini Storage 1905 E William Cannon, Austin, Texas

NOTICE OF SALE

Minuteman Ministorage hereby publishes 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 between the hours of 9 am and 11 am.**

Minuteman Ministorage at 11703 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Tx 78753. 512-491-9001 (Anticipated start time: 9:00 am)

#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 BYRON P. KOCCEN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 08-0639-CP4, styled Estate of Byron P. Koccen, Deceased (the "Estate"), pending in the County Court at Law Number 4 of Williamson County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 7, 2009, to Mary N. Koccen.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the Independent Executor of the estate in care of his attorneys at the following address:

c/o LAW OFFICE OF DAVID GOODMAN

114 W. 7th Street, Suite 900 Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 8th day of January, 2009.

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID GOODMAN

114 W. 7th Street, Suite 900 Austin, Texas 78701

Tel. No. (512)457-5009
Fax No. (512)322-0168

By: /s/ David Goodman

State Bar Number: 08151850

ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HAROLD WOOD SMITH, DECEASED

NOTICE is given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of HAROLD WOOD SMITH, DECEASED, were granted to TERESA LYNN SMITH FARMER on January 13, 2009, by Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. 89,828.

All persons having claims against said estate must present same within the time prescribed by law, and be-

fore said estate is closed, in care of ATTORNEY RICHARD W. CHOTE, 3305 Northland Drive #500, Austin, Texas 78731.

TERESA LYNN SMITH FARMER Independent Executor Estate of HAROLD WOOD SMITH, DECEASED

By: RICHARD W. CHOTE Attorney at Law

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRANKLIN A. ARNOLD, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 89359, styled Estate of Franklin A. Arnold, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on October 9, 2008, to Nancy C. Arnold.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:

c/o GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation Attn: Julie Frey P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200 Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 9th day of January, 2009.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY, A Professional Corporation

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200 Austin, Texas 78767-0098

512.480.5776 Telephone

512.480.5876 Fax

By: /s/ Julie Frey

State Bar ID No.: 00792283

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of Lydia Sullivan, a/k/a Lydia Albina Sullivan, Deceased, were issued on January 8, 2009 in Cause No. 89,795, pending in Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to Josephine Jurecka, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against said Estate are required to present them to Richard Thormann, Attorney at Law, 805 West 10th Street, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78701 within the time prescribed by law.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Darla Wenzel, Deceased, were issued to Doreen Shrivastava on January 12, 2009, under Cause No. 08-0593-CP4, pending in the County Court of Law No. 4 of Williamson County, Texas.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: The Smith Firm PLLC

1011 W. 31st St. No. 504 Austin, Texas 78705

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 13, 2009.

The Smith Firm PLLC

By: Travis M. Smith Attorney for Doreen Shrivastava

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Nora Sue Fuqua Wilson, Deceased, were issued to Misty Dawn Wilson Chaffin on January 8, 2009, in Cause No. 89,814, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, as follows:

Misty Dawn Wilson Chaffin c/o Edsam M. Ingram

1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520 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 this 9th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram

ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF STEPHEN RAY WOOD, deceased, were issued on January 13, 2009, in Cause Number 89830, ESTATE OF STEPHEN RAY WOOD, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to VICKI B. WOOD, Independent Executor. The address is: VICKI B. WOOD, Independent Executor

c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Re-

search Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Texas 78750-1832. 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 13, 2009.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Ruby A.

Resides, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2009, in Cause No. 89,768, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Mike Roberts.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address: c/o Barnes Lipscomb & Stewart, PLLC

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 7th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Barbara J. Lipscomb Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patti N. Crain, Deceased were issued on the 10th day of December, 2008, in Cause No. 89641, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Helen C. Crain and Mark Porter.

Claims may be presented in care of the Co-Executors of the Estate as follows:

c/o Steven P. Boney

Estate of Patti N. Crain, Deceased

1201 W. 24th St. Ste. 105

Austin, TX 78705

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 9th day of January, 2009.

By: /s/ Steven P. Boney

Attorney for the Independent Co-Executors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given pur-

suant to section 294 of the Texas Probate Code that original letters testamentary for the ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. HARMACEK, deceased, were issued on December 30, 2008, in Cause Number 89,575, ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. HARMACEK, deceased, pending in Probate Court Number One Sitting In Matters Probate, Travis County, Texas, to DALE F. HARMACEK, Independent Administrator with Will Annexed Without Bond out Bond. The address is: DALE F. HARMACEK, Independent Administrator with Will Annexed Without Bond c/o Rob V. Robertson, Attorney at Law, 13740 Research Blvd., Suite J5, Austin, Williamson County, Texas 78750. 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 Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Evelyn J. Kay, Deceased, were issued on the 11th day of December, 2008, under Docket No. 08-566-CP4, pending in the Probate

Court of Williamson County, Texas, to Sharon Marie Kay. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate addressed as follows: Sharon Marie Kay, Administrator, Estate of Evelyn J. Kay, Deceased c/o Mr. Christopher B. Keller Attorney at Law

8235 Shoal Creek Blvd. Austin, Texas 78757

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, 2009.

By: /s/ Christopher B. Keller

Attorney for Sharon Marie Kay

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RUBY JEWEL NESBY, Deceased, were issued on January 6, 2009, Cause No. 89255, Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas to: DONALD RAY NESBY.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS



Travis County is seeking candidates to serve on the Board of Managers (The Board) of the Travis County Healthcare District. The Healthcare District was created by an affirmative vote of Travis County voters

on May 15, 2004. Four positions are appointed by Travis County, four by the City of Austin, and a consensus candidate is jointly appointed by the Commissioners Court and Austin City Council.

These nine appointees serve as the Board of Managers and organize, plan, and supervise the Travis County Healthcare District (TCHD).

The Travis County Commissioners Court seeks individual(s) to represent all the stakeholders of the County to achieve geographic, gender, and constituent diversity on the Board in order to reflect the overall diversity of the County. The board must provide exceptional vision, possess excellent business and administrative skills, and be active in community affairs.

More detailed information, the Application, and Disclosure forms are available through the "Call for Nominations" link on the Travis County web site at www.co.travis.tx.us.

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 PM, JANUARY 30, 2009.

Submit application packets by mail to: Sherri E. Fleming, Executive Manager Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

P.O. Box 1748 Austin, TX 78767

By e-mail to: sherri.fleming@co.travis.tx.us.

Hand-delivered to: Sherri E. Fleming, Executive Manager

Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

100 N. I.H. 35 Austin, TX, 78701

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.

PARTNERSHIP OR CORPORATION?

My friend and I plan to start a business selling products online. We are looking into options to create a formal business entity but are not sure whether partnership or corporation is the way to go. Any ideas?

You are smart to give serious consideration to the structure of your new business early in the process of getting it off the ground. This is not, however, a "one size fits all" problem. Every new venture has special and unique circumstances which will dictate the best way to structure the new business.

Partnerships and corporations each offer their own specific benefits and drawbacks. For example, general partnerships are often preferred because they are easy to form. While a written partnership agreement is generally preferable, in some cases a verbal agreement or even just acting as though you both are in a partnership may be enough to establish that a partnership exists under Texas law. The partnership itself is not taxed; instead, the general partners typically report the business profits or losses on their personal tax returns. One huge drawback to a partnership is that the general partners are personally liable for the debts and obligations of the partnership. Simply put, you can be sued and found personally liable in your role as a general partner.

Alternatively, a major benefit to a corporation is the liability protection it can provide. Like other states, Texas recognizes a corporation as a separate legal entity liable for its own debts and obligations. In some cases, the personal liability protection is outweighed by the difficulty in forming a corporation, which requires compliance with various Texas corporate statutes. The structure of a corporation – usually including officers, directors, and shareholders – can be complex. Also, unlike general partnerships, corporations are typically taxed directly, which can create a lengthy list of tax issues that may or may not be favorable.

Check out the Texas secretary of state's website (www.sos.state.tx.us) for other business structure options, and read next week's "Common Law" to learn about limited liability companies, which combine the best features of partnerships and corporations. Be sure to talk to a lawyer and accountant to learn what specific option is best for your new business!

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

C/O Vivian Mahlab
1911 McCall Rd.
Austin, TX 78703
DATED January 6, 2009
/s/ Vivian Mahlab
Attorney for DONALD RAY NESBY
State Bar No.: 12836650
1911 McCall Rd
Austin, Texas 78703
Telephone: (512) 477-9400
Facsimile: (512) 477-9422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of William Dale Sowell, Deceased, were issued to Cynthia Sally Ann Griggs on January 6, 2009, in Cause No. 89,799, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas. Claims may be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, as follows: Cynthia Sally Ann Griggs
c/o Edsam M. Ingram
1601 Rio Grande, Suite 520
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 this 6th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Edsam M. Ingram
ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Victor Garcia Luna, Deceased, were issued on December 9, 2008, in Cause No. 89514, pending

in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Delia Luna.

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: W. Michael Murray
Attorney at Law
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750

DATED the 9th day of January, 2009.

/s/ W. Michael Murray
Attorney for Delia Luna
State Bar No.: 14729600
13740 N. Highway 183
Building L, Suite 1
Austin, TX 78750
Telephone: (512)336-9994
Facsimile: (512)336-9996

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Beatrice Marie Brillhart, Deceased, were issued on December 30, 2008, in Cause No. 89759, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Mervyn C. Brillhart.

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: Michelle Williams, Attorney at Law, 2301 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg. J-102, Austin, TX 78746.
Dated the 16th day of January, 2009.

/s/ Michelle Williams, Attorney for Mervyn C. Brillhart, State Bar No. 00794859, 2301 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Bldg. J-102, Austin, TX 78746, Telephone: (512) 328-3911, Facsimile: (512) 328-3991.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF JESSE

ZAPATA Notice is hereby given that the Letters of Independent Administration under notice provisions of the Texas Probate Code for the Estate of Jesse Zapata, Deceased, were issued to Rachel Zapata Helsingsten as Independent Administrator. Probate of Decedent's Estate is pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, in Cause No. 88,384.

The address for said Independent Administrator is 2003 E. 2nd Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78702. All persons or entities having claims against the Estate of Jesse Zapata, Deceased are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to said Rachel Zapata Helsingsten.

STOR SELF STORAGE In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at Stor 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.

Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan Street, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, 512-990-1100, February 5, 2009, 11:00 AM
Nestor Rocha, 1604 W. Braker Lane, Austin, Texas, 78758, Unit 00115, 5 x 10, #0912430

Entertainment center, dresser, Queen Mattress set, table, misc. clothes.

Areesha Davis, 19600 Heatherwilde Blvd, #906, Pflugerville, Texas 78660, Unit

00147, 10 x 15, #0912429
Queen Mattress set, Full Mattress set (kids bed), Couch, Chair Dresser, end table and mirror bed room set.

Jessica Rios, 12329 Granton Cove, Manor, Texas 78653, Unit 00236, 5 x 15, #0912414
Metal Bed Frame, Roto-tiller, 20 misc. boxes, 2 plastic totes, 10 large plastic bags.

Mesha Franklin, 15212 Sweet Caddies Drive, Austin, Texas 78660, Unit 00317, 10 x 10, #0912421

Wooden Entertainment Center, Misc. clothing, 15" Television, Plastic Toy Box, Children's Toys, VHS Player.

Norman Nunn, 3167 Spaulding Avenue, #201, Pueblo, Colorado 81008, Unit 00733, 5 x 10, #0912432

12" Television, 9" Television, Dell Computer, Vacuum Cleaner, Set of Dumbbells, Misc. Toys, Misc. Clothing.

Stor Self Storage 7728 Bee Caves Road, Austin, Texas 78746, 512-306-0776, February 5, 2009, 11:00 AM

Dana Woodson, 300 Riverside Drive, #234, Austin, Texas 78704, Unit 352, 10 x 5, #999042

Futon Mattress, Cat box & litter, Suitcase, Plastic Table, Back Pillow, Misc. clothes and shoes.

X96-04978
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT 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. Thomason, 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 plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 7, 1998.

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 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 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 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 WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER

INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-05282
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT 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 X96-05282, 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 favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **\$3,042.88** 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.

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 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 described 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 **\$3,042.88** 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, 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 INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-11326
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of December, 2008 in a certain cause numbered X96-11326, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services 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 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 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:

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, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the 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,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY
ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

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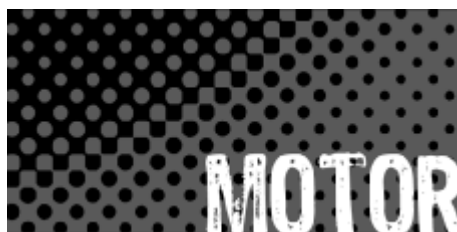
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car talk

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

POST-CRASH CAR CHECKUP IS A GOOD IDEA, EVEN IF NOTHING SEEMS WRONG

Dear Tom and Ray:

I live in India and have a question about my father's car (he lives in Dubai). He bought a new Peugeot 307 in May. It's a lovely car, but about a month ago we had an accident. A car came up from behind and hit our car in the left rear corner. We were going around 60 mph at the time. The impact was quite hard, and our car spun around. In the spin, the right rear wheel hit the curb. Apart from a small dent and some scratching on the rim, there does not appear to be any damage. There is no noise coming from the wheel that hit the curb, no vibration, and the alignment looks fine. It's as if nothing had happened. So we decided not to take the car to the shop for repairs. My question is: Could there be any damage that has no symptoms? Should we go to the repair shop even if nothing seems wrong?

— Aniket

TOM: It's a good question, Aniket. In a sense, you're right. If you're experiencing no symptoms at all, it's unlikely that anything major is going to fall off. But the answer to your general question is: Yes, there could be damage that you can't detect.

RAY: Right. I mean, look at my brother. He looks perfectly normal. Well, not really. OK, I withdraw that analogy, Aniket.

TOM: You say that the alignment looks fine. But if the alignment were off by a little bit, there's no way you'd be able to tell that with the naked eye. You wouldn't know the alignment was off until you noticed that your right rear tire was all chewed up or was wearing out irregularly in a couple thousand miles.

RAY: Right. It's possible that a control arm or trailing arm or some other rear suspension component got bent a little bit in the impact, and that's something you'd want to know before you ruined your tires or needed to make another emergency maneuver.

TOM: So I would take it to a mechanic, tell him what happened, and ask him to have a look. You'll want him to inspect the tire itself to make sure it wasn't damaged, check the alignment on the machine, and have a look under the car in the area of impact just to be sure nothing looks out of place. And if he says everything looks fine, then you can forget all about it. Good luck, Aniket.

* * *

Changing your oil regularly is the cheapest insurance you can buy for your car, but how often should you change it? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

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EASY STREET



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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. **MsSpontaneous**, 37, ☑, #128825

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 positions. **lovely**, 26, ☑, #128592

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, ☑, #126130

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, ☑, #124473

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. **austinpartygirl1985**, 23, ☑, #119045

DP INTEREST

She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and wanting to chat/mingle with people. **loadedlara**, 32, ☑, #128950

SENSUAL AND SEXUAL

We are a married couple that is looking to play with others. We like to spice it up a bit. **green**, 38, ☑, #128660

HOT MARRIED CHICK

Hi! We're a couple looking for hot guys, pretty women and good looking couples to have fun and games with. roleplay, domination, submission, "cheating" and more. No strings allowed, thanx. **anya**, 33, ☑, #128804

HOT CPL4LADY

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, ☑, #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, discreet,playful not pushy. I'm bi, he's straight. **TexasSugar**, 34, ☑, #128373

DIRTY DADDY'S GURL

We are a hot, young, lustfull couple looking to play. We are adventurous, uninhibited, and occasionally a little dirty. Both enjoy games of the mind and body. **srcn4fun**, 32, ☑, #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, ☑, #127995

B OR PLAYMATE

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Just sex, and more sex. **newbies**, 36, ☑, #127079

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 females only. **080764**, 44, ☑, #124403

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experiencing with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 49, ☑, #123217

WANT TO SHARE

We have an awesome relationship and sex life- and we wanna include you in it! Looking for a third to join us and make things more adventurous... **iris_and_jack**, 35, ☑, #122165

COUPLE INTO FUN!

We're happy couple that is into new encounters with others. He straight, She bi, open minded and ready! **Up4fun**, 45, ☑, #120283

READY FOR FUN!

Just looking for fun...can you deliver? **freak69ntxxx**, 40, ☑, #119240

THREE'S NOTTA CROWD

We are a very happily married 30-year-old couple that thoroughly enjoys sex. We are looking for a female (or couple) that is height nweight proportionate (few extra pounds is good). **damonhunkins**, 33, ☑, #116307

BI-SWINGING CPL. DOM/SUB/ ROLEPLAYING

She bi. 46, 5'4", 110 #'s., Dom. Mistress w males, switch/females. He bi., 48, 5'8", 190 #'s., Sub w women, switch/males. **BiCplnAustinTx**, 49, ☑, #115767

BEAUTIFUL DOMINATE REDHEAD

Dominate red head, who is bi, attractive and LOTS of fun. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, blue eyes, perky boobs, nice ass and VERY KINKY. I have male partner to join. **MistressDarlan**, 37, ☑, #127653

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, ☑, #121712

GOOD KARMA GIRL

I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art from. **vron**, 42, ☑, #128575

SUBMISSIVE FOR MASTER

My master will control and teach me. He should be successful caring and giving yet firm. I will give my loyalty and treat him as my king. **Jean42DDD**, 37, ☑, #127400

WETLIPS

im a wild sex kittin with wet lips and a soft skin, email me for sexy e-mails, ill talk dirty! **highheels23**, 22, ☑, #126858

SHAVED STILETTO STUD

W/M,shaved in stockings and stiletto seeks 3 similar males for 4-some who crave studs in erotic feminine attire while empowering true inner femininity and enjoying our exotic & erotic experiences. **SexyStillettoStud**, 51, ☑, #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 encounters/email. I think I am bi-sexual. **Old**, 61, ☑, #128430

UP FOR ANYTHING

48,gwm,6',180#,blk/brn,moderately hairy,partnered but play. looking for men hairy or smooth, uncut preferably, for occasional playtime. seeking all types of experiences. **oscar**, 48, ☑, #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

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger.46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 44, ☑, #118402

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #115688

CURIOUS FUNSEEKER

I am looking for someone who is also curious and willing to try different things to have discreet encounters or exchange e-mails; no strings attached. **Pugio**, 28, ☑, #128472

HORNDOG, DEVIANT, DORK

just here looking for some discreet fun open to try new things never say never I always say! **church700**, 25, ☑, #128258

SEEKING STRAP-ON PLEASURE

White male seeking women or couples for discreet fun. I am submissive and would like to meet all others willing to explore. I also am seeking photographers for some pics. **Firecat55**, 55, ☑, #127887

SOMETIMES A SISSY

5'10", long blonde, babyblues, love lingerie, makeup and heels. Looking to explore my feminine feelings and desires with one caring woman, must respect limits. Help me be me, pretty, please. **bilypilgrim** 4montana, 43, ☑, #127369

HOT, CLOSET CD

looking for a good looking, 30 to 40's y.o. woman who would like to dominate me sexually, be (snuggle after sex!)friends. I'm reasonably intelligent,sensitive, artistic person. **shelley**, 55, ☑, #124543

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

BLONDE SHEMALE

Sexy T-Girl Top. Seeking NSA hot Fun encounters at night. I prefer Hot Jock Boys. Im Blonde and Hot and Curvey and Talented at having FUN. **BlondeHottie**, 34, ☑, #101055

NEED TWO WOMEN!

I simply need more than one woman to satisfy my sexual prowess... not bragging, just really bored with one on one sex, so if you've got a friend and what to have some fun look me up! **Slaine**, 33, ☑, #128937

CLEAN, STRONG, WARM.

Looking for lively, curious, clean, honest adventurous women or couple. Never judge others. I'm leaving town soon, so let's get together. I'll be away.. Happy New Year!XOXOXOX. **Dutch**, 40, ☑, #128908

SMARTASS SEEKS ACCOMPLICE

I'm a single, professional male.I'd like to meet somebody that is intelligent, funny. I like curvy and voluptuous girls. Somebody that can be them self and doesn't have many hangups. **NerdyGuy**, 34, ☑, #115800

"HUNG" "LIKE" "HORSE"

Just new to town and thought it would be fun to try this out. **covana**, 23, ☑, #128898

SEX MACHINE

New to Austin, here to meet some highly sexual woman for some no strings attached play. **cboy86**, 23, ☑, #128934

BURLYQ GIRL

SASSY THING NEEDING DOMINATION

I'm a laid back girl that has my wild side. I keep very busy and have been lacking my release outside of daily life. Some say I can be stubborn. I'm looking for someone that's not afraid to dominate and is open for outside the bedroom role playing.

read the rest of **BURLYQ GIRL'S** profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Bye Bye Bush • Sat., Jan. 17, 8pm

The Hideout Theatre , 617 Congress , www.lcp.org

It's very likely that sometime around 3am on Jan. 20, a fleet of black helicopters will descend on the White House lawn, their speakers blaring the Star Wars Evil Empire theme, and Bush and Cheney will begin their sad, dark perp walk into the annals of infamy. The only thing left for historians to squabble over is whether Bush was some sort of Machiavellian supervillain or just a nitwitted, bungling simpleton like Barney Fife. If only Clinton, à la Andy Griffith, had been wise enough to drop a single bullet into George Jr.'s shirt pocket at the beginning of his term with the admonition: "Use this only in case of an emergency." The most likely scenario is Bush shooting a hole in the floor of Air Force One. Worst-case scenario involves a Kenedy County quail-hunting trip with Deadeye Dick. Then again, there are those who will say that beneath Bush's aw shucksy faux country boy persona is a criminal mastermind – the type of pure evil who pronounces "nuclear" as "nucular" on purpose. That way, he can honestly say that he never said that Saddam had nuclear weapons. Saddam might have been hiding WMDs, but our WMD (Word Mispronouncing Doofus) was right out in the open for everyone to see, and it took us eight years to get rid of him. Maybe Clinton should have given Cheney the bullet, although Clinton is smart enough to know that such a close encounter with Cheney is probably something like the scene in *Poltergeist* where the little girl touches the TV and is sucked into an evil netherworld. That's probably not really the case. After all, Cheney lives in Jackson Hole, Wyo. J-Hole is wicked cold in the winter, but it could hardly be called a netherworld. It isn't particularly scary either, except for the fact that the town square features four arches made from thousands of Elk antlers. One is left to guess how many contributors met their fate at the business end of Cheney's quail gun. Would it be that much of a stretch to discover that the entrance to Cheney's ranch was an arch made out of the bleached bones of dead Iraqis? When you're the shadow vice president and former CEO of Halliburton, pretty much anything is possible. That's why even at 3am on the morning of Bama's inauguration, Bush and Cheney will still be living like kings, even though their lives will feel a bit more like a deposed dictatorship. Don't worry, Bush won't be carting off White House memorabilia, unless maybe it's tapes of his cabinet meetings. Keep your fingers crossed. With any luck, when those black choppers take off from the White House lawn, they'll drag all the darkness, cynicism, and secrecy away with them. We won't have King George II to kick around anymore either. Bush's departure might actually be the "death of sarcasm" that all the Republican pundits were flapping their jaws about after 9/11. With all the hope and optimism in the air, will anyone even want to make snide comments about Eagle One? Only time will tell. Until then we can look only back at what a fertile time the last eight years have been for political criticism. You can get started on that this Saturday at the Hideout when the Latino Comedy Project revives its popular Bye Bye Bush, a revue of sketch comedy, videos, and music that pays tribute to our nearly departed 43rd president. Go ahead. Bury the hatchet one more time.


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women SEEKING men

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #128885

CHEAPBEER AND A 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, ☑, #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, ☑, #128833

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, ☑, #128822

DARE-TO-BE GREAT SITUATION
Intelligent, sarcastic, passionate, single mom, liberal activist. No one can possibly do themselves justice in 30 words, so look me up online if you want to know more. **sundoll**, 27, ☑, #128815

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, ☑, #128717

GUCCIGIRL
I 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. **Guccigirl**, 42, ☑, #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, hard working man who can make me laugh. **TexasKas**, 31, ☑, #128652

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, ☑, #123920

THAT GIRL
I am for sure atypical in a variety of ways, fun interesting and curious!
loveleatxgirl, 33, ☑, #128362

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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, ☑, #115972

ICONCLASTIC, PASSIONATE, CIRCUMSPECT
Austin native. **misspeacock**, 33, ☑, #128711

TENT
Just hoping to find emotionally stable company of a good guy with similarities and common goals. low maintenance kind of girl with an eye towards staying fit and happy. **legalangel**, 54, ☑, #125192

PECAN WAFFLES
looking for someone with an interest in anything artistic and who can laugh when its most inappropriate. **tanknee**, 24, ☑, #128845

SINCERE, ATTORNEY, CONHIPPIE-METAL MAMA
Live music, all kinds. The wilderness. Zombie flicks and dark humor. Other people in general. Dogs! Like all of these things. Give me a shout. **HerDudeness**, 26, ☑, #128609

BAWDY BOOKREADING BABE
Seeking simple, single, soulful, sinful, scintillating, spiritual, serene specimen for active symbiosis. Grab a dictionary and apply if you dare...
Bahira, 44, ☑, #128583

men SEEKING women

BOOTS, GOURMET FOOD
green belt, rock climbing, own business, scuba diving, this american life, music, t-shirts, jeans, vintage boots, gourmet food well really good food, dressing up 4 the paramount, gelato. **loyola38**, 38, ☑, #128997

NERDY NICE GUY
Ehh, what the hell, lets see what happens. **CS1979**, 29, ☑, #128991

THOUGHT TO SHARE
I am a well intentioned misanthrope. I love people who are different, eccentric, a little off, and happy to be so. I am looking for a friend first. **lifeiselsewhere**, 27, ☑, #128982

JUSTIN TEXAS, Y'ALL!
JustinTexas, 37, ☑, #128979

WEARS WHITE SPANDEX
ya never met a boy like me. and i been this way since 2 or 3. i got soul and i like to smile, that way you see my teeth. **yomama**, 34, ☑, #128975

YOU AND I
Hi ladies! I like being outside to ponder the mysteries of life. Tall with a big heart, but not a sissy. Somewhat rough edged. **GTJon**, 43, ☑, #128965

FUTURE IS PAST
I can quote Sartre. I know you have spent your whole life looking for a guy who can quote Sartre. :-). **BlueSwan**, 35, ☑, #128869

HERE'S MY PROFILE
I'm really here to meet one person and she knows who she is aside from that I trying to maintain a life style that doesn't require my presence. **Rancher**, 58, ☑, #128953

CARE TO DANCE?
I just won the Mega Millions Lottery for \$100 million dollars and I am waiting for the right time to announce it. **Private_Chef**, 51, ☑, #128935

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

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 someone similar to myself; sincere and fun!
DrSenoj, 33, ☑, #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, ☑, #128902

CREATIVE OPEN-MINDED HONEST
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. **billyaustin39**, 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 and 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, ☑, #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 point-less adventures with me. **donnie**, 20, ☑, #128889

SHY AT FIRST
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, ☑, #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, ☑, #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, and fun. **otterego**, 61, ☑, #128880

LOOKING FOR FUN
Tired of looking in La Grange. Seems everyone is taken. Or they aren't worth anything. I'm looking for better. I deserve it. **LaGrangeGuy**, 46, ☑, #128870

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women SEEKING men

DELICIOUS JAMS OHYEAH
I 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, ☑, #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, ☑, #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, vibes....saliva eventually. **chrisg2369**, 30, ☑, #128732

ADORABLE, DREADLOCKED, SEXINESS
I'm all about meeting new people and having fun.i like to dance, jog, bike rides, watch movies, travel, go to concerts,and check out new restaurants.let's hang out!
E137071, 27, ☑, #128500

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #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 way. **shewolfann**, 49, ☑, #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, ☑, #128071

MR.SQUIRREL AND I
I'm in Austin till the 19th. I go to college in NY. I'm like one of those enigmatic fortune cookie messages. I'm not entirely sure how to describe myself. **nelson**, 18, ☑, #128894

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #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, ☑, #127798

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, ☑, #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, ☑, #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?
inuyasha86, 22, ☑, #125037

k_girl

WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE

My biggest fear is living an uneventful average life. Thats just some randomness about me. I'm looking for someone who is honest and crazy fun. Gotta like dogs and hopefully cats. I don't really have a type too much. Pretty openminded.

read the rest of **K_GIRL's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at **austinchronicle.com/loverslane**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsy for January 16 - 22

JUST friends

GO DEAR HUNTER

Im max Im straight forward, truthful, and typically quiet I solve problems, I think too much, possibly read too much on top of that. **shapie08**, 25, **LOI**. #128961

WORKAHOOLIC SEEKS BALANCE...

I love live music, hiking, camping, and just doing crazy stuff in this great town. Let's find something fun to do, share some laughs and try not to get arrested. **ellisives**, 30, **LOI**. #121880

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, **LOI**. #128817

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-for instance,excessive body piercings. a workaholic,not very emotional,introverted,not shy but quiet, positively realistic,witty,playfully feisty,candid, & much more. **olivia825**, 27, **LOI**. #128795

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, **LOI**. #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, **LOI**. #128731

SOUTHASTINGUITARSLINGER

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! **austinguitar-man**, 30, **LOI**. #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, **LOI**. #128642

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, **LOI**. #128493

ANALYTICAL, CURIOUS, OP-PORTUNISTIC

I'd rather not have this posted in the print edition, honestly. **giantitp**, 24, **LOI**. #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

LOVELY CHINCHE

You were Chuy's host. Kept sharing smiles. Wrote note on a comment card. Have lots of love for you - hope I get a chance to explain. Today's the day. **When: Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Where: Chuy's. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903744**

GOODBYE FOR NOW

You: heart on sleeve,off to mexico, hurt by musty asswhitegirl. Me: ready to maim, friend, lover, spokes-woman toyou while gone. Come back and the rest will be ok! C.Liver. **When: Saturday, January 10, 2009. Where: eastside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903743**

RACHEL, TRAIN RIDE

Train from Fort Worth to Austin. You smoke parlaments and I like you. I lost your number. I had it in my wallet. It disappeared. Let's play some laser tag. **When: Friday, November 28, 2008. Where: Amtrak Train. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903742**

ALEX @ DOC'S

BCS title game, You: at the bar next to my table doing your Miller thing. We chatted-I remember where you know me from. Me: Red T, brown hair and eyes **When: Thursday, January 8, 2009. Where: Doc's South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903741**

BMX GUY S.LAMAR

Day before yesterday. Riding your bike next to my car on the sidewalk by wendys. You looked at me and smiled. I blushed. Lets ride somewhere and get coffee? **When: Thursday, January 8, 2009. Where: South Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903740**

1/7/09, THUNDERCLOUD-RIVERSIDE, 7:00PM

You:short-black hair, glasses, petite, and adorable. Veggie-delite, overheard that you recently moved here from Ohio. Me:tattoos, black shirt, some facial-piercings, long(ish) brown hair, in line in front of you. Coffee?Lunch?Dinner?Drinks? **When: Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Where: Thundercloud Subs on Riverside. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903739**

KINKO'S ON BURNET

Jan 6th You were at Kinko's on N. Burnet with co-workers. I looked at you and you at me. Not sure if your interested, but I sure am **When: Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Where: Kinko's on North Burnet. You: Man. Me: Man. #903732**

BAGEL ME

You are the cutest little bagel-girl ever. I'm the guy that never gets what he wants. Maybe we could get a cup of coffee at a starbucks someday. **When: Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Where: einsteins at 12th and Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903737**

PETITE SOCO CUTIE

You work at Hovercraft, have a peacock tattoo, beautiful eyes, and cool style. I've seen you downtown but we haven't talked. I'm curious. Drinks? **When: Wednesday, January 7, 2009. Where: South Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903736**

MUSTARD YELLOW HOTTIE

saw you riding your bike with a group of bikerhooligans. Thought you were hot!Maybe you can ride me sometimewithyoursuperwhitesu-perhot tyres!!!! Meet up sometime for beers??love you curly locks!!!! **When: Sunday, January 4, 2009. Where: uncle billies. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903735**

IN MY DREAMS

(Literally!) Sweet bike courier with shaved head and small, silver glasses...Leaning against a counter in a kitchen in Fort Worth and smiling. You seemed so real I'm taking a chance. **When: Monday, January 5, 2009. Where: In My Dreams. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903734**

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 Wake-field. You were watching a fight, I was playing pool with a friend. Take me out sometime? **When: Saturday, January 3, 2009. Where: TBAG. You: Man. Me: Woman. #903729**

BEETS, BEARS, BATTLESTAR-GALACTICA

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**

GREEN NEW YEAR'S

Spiderhouse New Year's. Your striking green eyes 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, 2009. 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, 2009. 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 nervous. You were wearing a red Texas Tech shirt. I'd love to see you smile again. **When: Friday, January 2, 2009. 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**

HEY!!!

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**

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, 2009. Where: Kobe (1/2/09). You: Woman. Me: Man. #903724**

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**

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**

MOHAWK BALCONY 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, 2009. Where: Hancock Center 24 Hour Fitness. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903719**

SAN MARCOS OUTLETS

You,petite, brown with black hair. Me? Grey haired,shopping for shoes. You were window shopping. Talked briefly a few times. Should have asked if you had time for coffee. Harmless? **When: Friday, January 9, 2009. Where: San Marcos Outlet Mall. You: Woman. Me: Man. #903738**

BEARDED MOTORCYCLE BANDIT

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**

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**

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**

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In one of his journal entries, Henry David Thoreau wrote about stumbling upon a single stalk of corn deep in the woods. It looked out of place there, so far from any cornfield, growing next to a pine tree. And yet it was doing just fine. How did it's seed get there? By wind or animal? I suspect you will soon make a comparable discovery, Capricorn: a blaze of vitality that seems out of its element but is perfectly beautiful. Should you pluck it or engage with it or simply admire it? The freshest part of you knows the answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This could be an epic year to be an Aquarius. I'm hoping you won't be satisfied with merely coasting along on the positive vibes that will be flowing in abundance. Rather than just enjoying your rising popularity, for instance, why not use your popularity to double your clout? And instead of simply increasing your productivity, why not supercharge your creativity at the same time? Finally, how about using your high levels of mental acuity to figure out ways to enhance your emotional intelligence? While this year will probably be pretty good no matter what, with some regular tweaks of your willpower, you could make it amazingly great.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you're reading this horoscope, you're not a Cambodian orphan who grew up as a slave in a brothel or a Sudanese man kidnapped by a militia and forced to do heavy labor 18 hours a day or one of the 27 million other victims of human trafficking around the world. But you may be yoked and subjugated in a less literal way, perhaps to an addictive drug or an abusive relationship or a job that brings out the worst in you. The good news is that the coming months will be a favorable time for you to escape your bondage. Maybe it'll help you muster the strength you need, Pisces, if I inform you that your freedom won't be anywhere near as hard to achieve as that of the Pakistani boy tied to a carpet loom in a dark room or the Nigerian woman who's beaten daily as she toils in the sugarcane fields for no pay.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): According to some historians, Barack Obama won't be the first American president with African ancestry. As many as six previous presidents may have had black ancestors, with Warren Harding and Dwight Eisenhower being the most likely. None of the others claimed their heritage, however, choosing instead to pass as pure white. Obama is the first to acknowledge his bloodline. In the coming weeks, I see you as being in a position with certain metaphorical resemblances to Obama. You'll have the opportunity, though it may be a bit nerve-racking, to thrive by celebrating a truth that no one before you has been brave enough to take advantage of.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This week's advice comes to you entirely from the great jazz pianist and composer, Thelonious Monk. It all happens to be in perfect alignment with your astrological omens. 1) "Don't play everything or every time. Let some things go by. What you don't play can be more important than what you do play." 2) "A note can be as small as a pin or as big as the world; it depends on your imagination." 3) "Whatever you think can't be done, somebody will come along and do it." 4) "A genius is the one most like himself."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a favorable time for you to phase out at least 60% of your stale old fears. The cosmos is poised to assist you in this noble cause if you'll exert even a modicum of effort. What's that you say? You're afraid you can't live authentically without a hefty amount of anxieties? You secretly believe that you'd be bored if you didn't have your worries to entertain you? Well, here's an idea that might work: Simply replace your hackneyed, knee-jerk fears with a slew of silly and outlandish ones. They'll allow you to feel the friction you rely on to feel alive, but they won't bog you down with heavy stagnancy. For example, you could contract automatonophobia, the fear of ventriloquist's dummies, and apeirophobia, the fear of infinity. Other good choices might be kyphophobia, the fear of stooping, and lutraphobia, the fear of otters.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Maurice Krafft has made a career of filming places where hot lava is flowing. *National Geographic* describes him hiking across the crater floor of Ol Doinyo Lengai, an active volcano that's sacred to the Maasai people in Tanzania. The ground is not erupting in torrents of fire and burning liquid rock but is constantly bubbling and exuding. Through long years of experience, Krafft knows exactly where to walk so that his shoes don't catch on fire. If you are going to attempt a metaphorically similar adventure in the coming weeks, Cancerian, make sure you've studied up on the ins and outs of the terrain. This is no time for guesswork or naive faith.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The world's record for most people running in a stiletto sprint is 265. That's how many put on 3-inch high heels and competed in an 80-meter race in Australia last September. It's quite possible that your imminent future will have metaphorical resemblances to that event, Leo. If you want to strive for a certain goal, you may have to take on some limitation or handicap. My advice? Don't spend a minute resenting the imposed impediment. Just push ahead with cheerful equanimity and liberated pluck. You can win your equivalent of the stiletto sprint.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Dear Rob: I have the golden eggs. They're shiny and big and beautiful. That's the good news. The bad news is that they're taking waaaaayyyy too long to hatch. I've been giving them all the love and care I can possibly spare - keeping them warm, playing them Mozart symphonies, thinking good thoughts toward them - but they're still just sitting there inert. Any suggestions to speed up the process? - Impatient Virgo." Dear Impatient: From my understanding, the golden eggs are valuable exactly as they are now. You really don't need them to hatch yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Mexican scientists have discovered a way to transform tequila into diamonds. Even the brands that sell for \$3 a bottle work fine as raw material. The catch is that the diamonds produced are too small to be used for jewelry. But they do have numerous practical uses: in surgical instruments, for example. You now have it in your power to preside over a comparable alchemical change, Libra. What could you do that would be like turning lead into gold or tequila into diamonds?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Beginning with Plato, a number of philosophers have proposed that humans suffer from a collective amnesia about where we come from and what we're doing here on planet Earth. Other thinkers of a more esoteric nature have suggested that our amnesia goes even further and is more personal, blocking us from remembering our previous incarnations. Then there are the modern psychologists who note that for most of us, the experiences we have before we learn to speak are virtually inaccessible to our memories. That's the bad news, Scorpio. The good news is that at least some of your amnesia will fade in the coming year, allowing you to glimpse and maybe even gaze steadily upon previously hidden panoramas. And it all starts soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to expert gerontologists, Rolling Stones' guitarist Keith Richards (a Sagittarius) should have passed on to the next world a decade ago. The man has abused his body so thoroughly, his continued survival is a mystery. You're currently in an excellent position to achieve equally stupendous feats of persistence yourself, Sagittarius. More than ever before, you have a dogged capacity to keep pushing - even in areas where you've been flighty or sketchy in the past. I'd say this is an excellent time to deepen your commitment to your dreams in very practical ways.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 900/950-7700.

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