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FILM Marjorie Baumgarten MIISIC Raoul Herna NEWS MANAGING EDITOR Amy Smith SCREENS, BOOKS Kimberley Jones

FOOD Virginia B. Wood SCREEN SPECIAL ISSUES. GUIDES. INTERNS Kate Messer ASSOCIATE EDITORS NEWS Nora Ankrum

MUSIC Audra Schroede

COMMUNITY LISTINGS James Renovitch

ARTS LISTINGS Wayne Alan Brenner ASST. LISTINGS Anne Harris

STAFF WRITERS Wells Dunbar, Katherine Gregor, Margaret Moser, Lee Nichols, Marc Savlov, Jordan Smith

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS TV FYF Belinda Acosta

PRODUCTION

MANAGING EDITOR Cindy Widner

ARTS Robert Faires NEWS Michael King

CALENDAR

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LITERA Ric Williams FASHION Stephen MacMillan Moser PLAYING THROUGH Thomas Hackett CREATIVE DIRECTOR Jason Stout WEB DIRECTOR Brian Barry PRODUCTION MANAGER Mark Gates

CRAPHIC DESIGNERS Tim Grisham, Shelley Hiam, Carrie Lewis, Chris Linnen, Liz Osting, Doug St. Ament STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS John Anderson, Jana Birchum PROORFLADERS Sarah Jean Billeiter, Mark Fagan, Darcie Stevens, Kristine

lofte, Anna Toon INTERNS Angela Armstrong, Zeke Barbaro, Nathan Brown, Meredith Greenwood, Monica Riese, Sara Robberson, Dacia Saenz, Meghan Ruth Speakerman, Richard Whittaker

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SUBSCRIPTIONS Cassandra Pearce CREDI ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT Samantha Jenkins INFO CENTER Fernando Martinez, Cassandra Pearce **CREDIT MANAGER** cindv soo SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Farr

ASST. SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR Frederick Stanton SPECIAL EVENTS Elizabeth Derczo

CIRCULATION

Erik Conn, Perry Drake, Joy Fairchild, Tom Fairchild, Ruben Flores, Brent Malkus, Michael McKenzie, Grant Melcher, Paul Minor, Dane Richardson, Motorcycle Michael, Rex Fourtwenty, Jeff Watts, Nicholas Wibbelsman, John Williamson, David Williford CONTRIBUTORS

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SOCCER WATCH The Aztex's Eddie Johnson

Theatre: The Method Gun, Age of Arousal

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Woofstock's putting on the dog, the Ghosts of Girlfriends Past, Battle for Terra, Pecan Street Festival reigns Downtown, Lymelife, Is Anybody There?, Not Forgotten, and there's much to Splash about at American Violet, Fighting, Obsessed 80 SHOWTIMES

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'Chronicle' Endorsements **May 9 Municipal Election**

For the full version of the Chronicle endorsements, see the April 24 issue or visit the Chronicle online, austinchronicle.com/endorsements.

MAYOR: LEE LEFFINGWELL

The central city issue is now the economic bust - and of the five candidates running, only City Council incumbents Lee Leffingwell and Brewster McCracken have direct current experience in handling and adjusting city budgets, programs, and staffing. On balance, our endorsement goes to Leffingwell as the most reliable and thoughtful advocate for protecting core city services and those policies indispensable to citizens' quality of life. His ability to work patiently with disparate interest groups and his council colleagues has broken policy logjams and moved the city forward on water conservation, redevelopment, public safety, and other issues. He will also need to use wisely the "kitchen cabinet" he proposes, in order to generate fresh ideas, solutions, and public energy.

McCracken offers often more visible enthusiasm and an emphasis on creative, enterprising projects, but he remains too often a creature of his enthusiasms, which have sometimes outstripped his judgment. Indeed, his consistent flaw has been his inconsistency.

We should add that either Leffingwell or McCracken would be leagues above former Mayor Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Austin's most prominent political chameleon and the default candidate of those who would unthinkingly slash spending, trash programs, and turn the clock backward. With five candidates in the race and Strayhorn's old guard waiting in the wings, turnout will be crucial. We encourage our readers to get out and vote.

PLACE 1: CHRIS RILEY

The Place 1 race provides a good argument for a larger City Council – both candidates are strong. But voters must make a choice, and our endorsement goes to Chris Riley as the more broadly experienced candidate with extensive, specific knowledge of city programs, as well as applied progressive credentials that he can bring to the council on his first day. We

believe that he'll be a great addition to the council on a whole range

of issues and that his experience at working with a wide range of city groups demonstrates he can collaborate to get things done. Perla Cavazos would make an excellent council member - and bring more needed diversity to the dais as well - but we believe her experience does not yet match in breadth or depth that of her opponent.

VOTE

PLACE 2: MIKE MARTINEZ

Mike Martinez has been a proactive and nononsense City Council member who speaks his mind to all audiences yet has demonstrated his willingness to listen to everyone. He has been a leader on such contentious issues as deeply affordable housing and the oft-debated single-member districts, he's the "go-to" council member for many everyday citizens, and he's bluntly honest about what the city is able to achieve within its means and what still needs doing. We urge our readers to vote for his re-election.

PLACE 5: BILL SPELMAN

The unopposed former council member has been diligent and engaged on the campaign trail, and that bodes well for his return to the dais.

PLACE 6: SHERYL COLE

Shervl Cole points to her work leading the Waller Creek Tunnel Project, sponsoring the Barton Springs Master Plan, supporting affordable housing for transit-oriented developments, and expanding social services, as well as initiating the closing of the notorious Chester's Club. She has also done good work chairing the Audit and Finance Committee and credits her financial and legal experience for slowing some of the other members' more expansive enthusiasms. We believe she's been a competent if not dazzling council member, and we urge voters to support her for re-election.

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR Lee Leffingwell Brewster McCracken Carole Keeton Stravhorn □ Josiah James Ingalls David Buttross PLACE 2 Mike Martinez □ Jose Quintero

Unexpired Term Chris Riley Perla Cavazos

PLACE 1.

PLACE 5

PLACE 6

Shervl Cole

Osemene Sam

Bill Spelman

ALSO ON THE BALLOT IN TRAVIS CO.

- City Council seats in Bee Cave, Cedar Park, Lakeway, Leander, Pflugerville, Rollingwood, Round Rock, Sunset Valley, Village of the Hills, and Volente
- · School board seats in Del Valle, Eanes, Lake Travis, Leander, Round Rock school districts
- Sales-tax authorizations in Bee Cave, Sunset Valley, and East Travis Gateway Library District
- Creation of the Anderson Mill Limited District

MOBILE VOTING

MAY 9 GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

(EARLY VOTING, APRIL 27-MAY 5)

You may vote at any early-voting location, as long as it's in the county in which you are registered. On election day, voters must vote in their precincts. Get a list of precinct locations by calling 238-VOTE or visiting www.traviscountyelections.org.

For Williamson Co. info: www.wilco.org/elections or 943-1630. For Hays Co. info: www.elections.co.hays.tx.us or 393-7310.

EARLY-VOTING LOCATIONS

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

NORTHEAST

MT Supermarket, 10901 N. Lamar, Bldg. G, Chinatown Center.

County Tax Office, 15822 Foothill

(Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm;

Farms Loop, Pflugerville

Goodwill, 1015 Norwood Park

Sat., 9am-7pm; Sun.,

H-E-B, 2400 S. Congress*

Randalls, 2025 W. Ben White

Dan Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove (Mon.-Thu., 10am-7pm;

Sat., 10am-5pm

Fri., Sun., closed

Randalls, 6600 MoPac S.

Randalls, 3300 Bee Caves Rd.

Randalls, 2301 RR 620 S.,

Randalls, 9911 Brodie

Fiesta, 5510 S. I-35

SOUTHWEST

WEST

Lakewav

(mdg-noon)

SOUTHEAST

SOUTH

Blvd. (Mon.-Fri., 8am-7pm;

Sun., noon-6pm)

CENTRAL

Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe

Travis Co. Offices. 5501 Airport Fiesta. 3909 N. I-35

University of Texas, Flawn Academic Center Lobby, West Mall

Goodwill, 701 Newman (Mon.-Sat., 10am-7pm; Sun., noon-6pm)

FAST

Parque Zaragoza Rec. Center, 2608 Gonzales (Mon.-Fri., 10am-7pm; Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., closed) Northeast Health Center,

7112 Ed Bluestein Blvd. (Springdale Center)

Bee Cave City Hall, 4000 Galleria Pkwy

* Temporary building in parking lot

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 Austin State Hospital, 4110 Guadalupe, 7am-4pm Southwest Key Program, 6002 Jain, 9am-6pm Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 9am-6pm

RBJ Residential Tower, 21 Waller, 9am-noon Lakeside Senior Center, 85 Trinity, 2-5pm FRIDAY, MAY 1

Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 9am-6pm Dell Children's Hospital, 4900 Mueller Blvd., 9am-5pm

Del Valle ISD Administration Building, 5301 Ross Rd., 9am-6pm Heatherwilde Assisted Living, 401 S. Heatherwilde Blvd., Pflugerville, 9am-noon Heritage Pointe, 1950 Webberville Rd., 2-5pm

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Briarcliff Property Owners Association, 22801 Briarcliff Dr., 9am-6pm Volente Vol. Fire Dept., 15406 FM 2769,

9am-6pm Deer Creek Elementary School, 2420 Zeppelin

Dr., Cedar Park, 9am-6pm Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar, 10am-6pm SUNDAY, MAY 3

Park at Beckett Meadows, 7709 Beckett Rd., noon-2pm Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Ave.,

noon-2pm

Conservatory at Wells Branch, 14320 Tandem Blvd., noon-2pm Crystal Falls Golf Club, 3400 Crystal Falls,

Leander, noon-6pm Continental, 4604 S. Lamar, 4-6pm Heartland Health Ctr., 11406 Rustic Rock, 4-6pm Parkbend Health Ctr., 2122 Park Bend Dr., 4-6pm

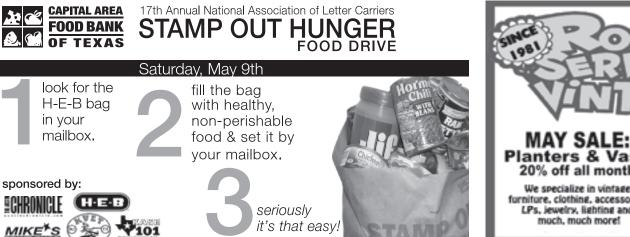
MONDAY, MAY 4

Stephen F. Austin Bldg., 1700 Congress, 8am-6pm Winters Building, 701 W. 51st, 8am-6pm Huston-Tillotson Univ., 900 Chicon, 9am-6pm Brackenridge Hospital, 601 E. 15th, 9am-6pm

TUESDAY. MAY 5

Central Services Building, 1711 San Jacinto, 8am-6pm Seton Main Hospital, 1201 W. 38th, 9am-6pm

St. Edward's Univ., 3001 S. Congress, 9am-6pm Seton NW Hospital, 11113 Research, 9am-6pm





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NORTHWEST Randalls, 10900-D Research H-E-B, 7301 FM 620 N.* NORTH

Ben Hur Shriners Hall, 7811 Rockwood

Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center, 5800 McNeil Dr. (Mon.-Sat., 7am-7pm; Sun., closed)

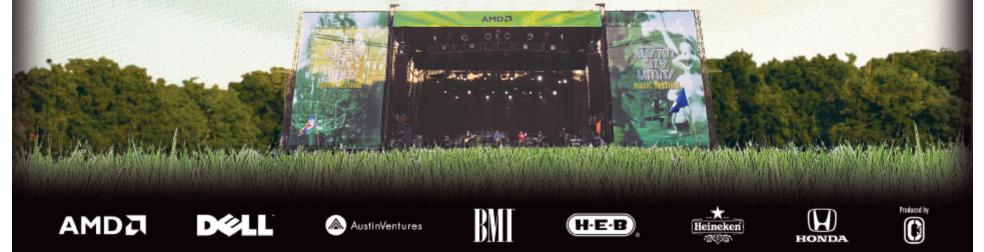
AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

AU/TIN CITY LIMIT/. JJUSIC FESTIVAL

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Postmarks

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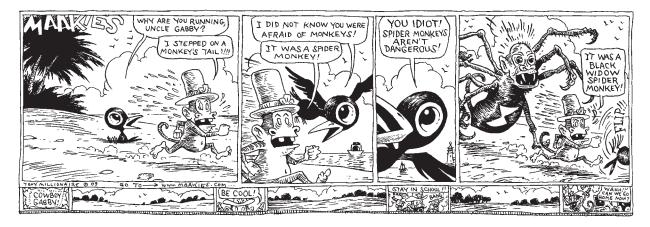
ENDORSEMENT BOGGLES THE MIND

Dear Editor,

Having lived in Austin since 1978, I have typically aligned with the political views of the *Chronicle* vs. the *Statesman*. The *Chronicle*'s endorsement of Lee Leffingwell over Brewster McCracken, however, boggles my mind ["'Chronicle' Endorsements," News, April 24]. How ironic that in this mayor's race, the *Statesman* is the "reliable dad" and the *Chronicle* is a senile, toothless, drooling, doddering, pathetic, and crotchety old codger. It's really sad to see the *Chronicle* so out of touch with what the progressive community of Austin wants in the next mayor.

Alan Luecke

"PAGE TWO" IS TAKING A BREAK.



MCCRACKEN BETTER THAN LEFFINGWELL

Dear Editor,

I read the news about the *Chronicle* endorsement of Lee Leffingwell for mayor and was immediately filled with sadness ["'Chronicle' Endorsements," News, April 24]. In my 13 years as a resident of Austin, I have never felt so alienated from the *Chronicle* editorial staff.

We are at a major crossroads as a city. Our economy is crumbling, unemployment is rising, and it's likely only going to get worse. The *Chronicle* endorsed Leffingwell on the strength of his steadfast nature and experience, calling him a stodgy father figure.

I do not want a stodgy father figure as mayor. Austin needs an energetic leader.

In contrast to Leffingwell's lack of a plan for weathering the recession, Brewster McCracken has actively been pouring himself into recruiting new industries to come to Austin. In the last year, he chaired the city's emerging technology committee; he led the effort to create the Pecan Street Project, arguably the nation's most significant clean energy research organization; he has recruited stimulus funding for a smart-grid energy system; he worked with UT to create a biosciences incubator; he worked to accelerate bond funding for Austin Studios; and he recruited solar, medical device, and video-game companies to come to Austin.

Leffingwell has argued to "hunker down" and ride out the recession. The cities that recruit new business and stimulus funding CONTINUED ON P.8





will be the ones that emerge from this recession stronger. The ones that hunker down run the risk of withering and dying.

My letter is not just to express my disappointment toward the *Chronicle* staff. It's a call to action for everyone who doesn't want to see Austin wither away in this recession to vote for McCracken. Not just that, but get involved in the campaign, and tell all of your friends using any means that you have to vote for McCracken.

The stodgy father figures and those who endorse them cannot win this war. If they do, Austin and a lot of what I love about this town run the risk of dying.

Tim League Founder Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

PROVIDE A BALANCED PERSPECTIVE

Dear Editor,

Capital Metro is an easy whipping boy. Ben Wear at the Statesman pounds the agency and transit every chance he gets. I am disappointed that the Chronicle's article ["What's Wrong With Cap Metro ... and What's Right," News, April 24], while more factually accurate, is no better in tone and emphasis. In delaying the start-up of the rail line, Cap Metro is putting safety before public image, and it should be commended for that. Delays in large public works projects are very common, and the agency had to respond to requirements of the Federal Railroad Administration that were changed in midstream. As you reported, the financial "crisis" that Wear tried to drum up does not exist - the agency has less revenue because of spending on capital

projects (which it is supposed to do) and a reduction in sales-tax income. The agency voluntarily agreed to give the city some of its tax revenues and has been making those payments.

It would be more helpful if the *Chronicle* took a reasoned look at what Cap Metro has accomplished despite many hurdles, including no funds for the rail project from the federal government, constant attacks from the road warriors, and a very narrowly defeated referendum in 2000. Capital Metro is trying to do something really positive for this community in the face of a lot of criticism (some deserved, some not), and it would be more informative if you provided a balanced perspective instead of adding one more harangue.

Susan Pantell

MORE ON CAP METRO

Dear Editor,

The article "What's Wrong With Cap Metro ... and What's Right" [News, April 24] left out a few items that the public should know. Regarding the "spend-down" of tax revenue, the transit authority does not have bonding authority, and it has built the (hopefully) soon-to-be-operational rail line without incurring much debt. This point should be lauded. The borrowing for the rail cars themselves has been the only reported debt generated by the Red Line construction. The acquisition of land, construction of the railservice facility, rail stations, and park and ride lots has all been bought and paid for.

Senate Bill 2015 would be a disaster for the true stakeholders of the transit system, the taxpayers and transit riders. The article did mention that SB 2015 would give the city of Austin more authority over the system. With the city of Austin's council being elected predominately by the Central Western affluent section of the city, City Council truly represents people who for the most part do not depend on the system. In addition, the 1-mile clause would put railroad crossing arms at Fourth and Congress. That is an unacceptable end run around what the voters approved in 2004. Also, this bill will create a board far less responsive to the riders of the system.

While the April 24 issue of the *Chronicle* was hitting the stands, Fred Gilliam and I were discussing a few ideas for augmenting security on the transit system. While Mr. Gilliam is aloof, he is not unreachable. If one compares his tenure to that of his predecessor, Karen Ray, he has done a yeoman's job in bringing a quality team to the local transit system. Capital Metro's senior staff members communicate and respond quickly and without reservation to queries and reported problems. If it is true Mr. Gilliam's tenure is drawing to a close, I pray his successor makes only selective changes in senior staff. *Lee Hill*

AUSTIN MUSICIANS NEED TO ORGANIZE

Dear Editor,

So the city of Austin wants to start enforcing a sound ordinance of 70 decibels in restaurants. Another bonehead move from "the live music capital of the world." Interesting isn't it, that the city waited until after South by Southwest and its \$100 million in the city's coffers? From now until the dog days of summer are some of the most glorious days in Austin. Musicians will be losing places to play, and the city will lose some of the magic that makes it Austin. Once again, bread is snatched from the mouths of Austin musicians.

During SXSW, most local musicians don't work much. Musicians from out of town pay to play. Friends of mine earned less than usual, worked less than usual, and paid more than usual for parking. You do the math. It seems we are being sold a bill of goods. This is the "exploited musician capital of the world." Musicians come to Austin only to be exploited by booking agents, club owners, and especially city fathers who are all lip service and no real help.

The city of Austin's music office has been delayed. Good. I don't really know how much more "help" we need from City Council. Pinetop Perkins, a certified American musical treasure, at 95, has been found in violation of the noise ordinance. He was not playing in Metallica. Musicians in this town get fewer guarantees and more gigs for tips. As long as musicians accept this, they have no one but themselves to blame.

During the Republic of Texas Biker Rally, the noise ordinance is repealed for the weekend because the bikers fill our hotels and restaurants and bring their money. I suggest a moratorium or a boycott until this asinine ordinance is repealed or modified. We musicians have to do something to make City Hall take us seriously. Perhaps the musicians should make the music stop since the only thing the city seems to understand is the economic impact. During the biker rally coming up, let's shut down Austin music. Hell, we won't be able to hear ourselves over the Harleys anyway.

> Yours in struggle, Rusty Trapps

CONTINUED ON P.10



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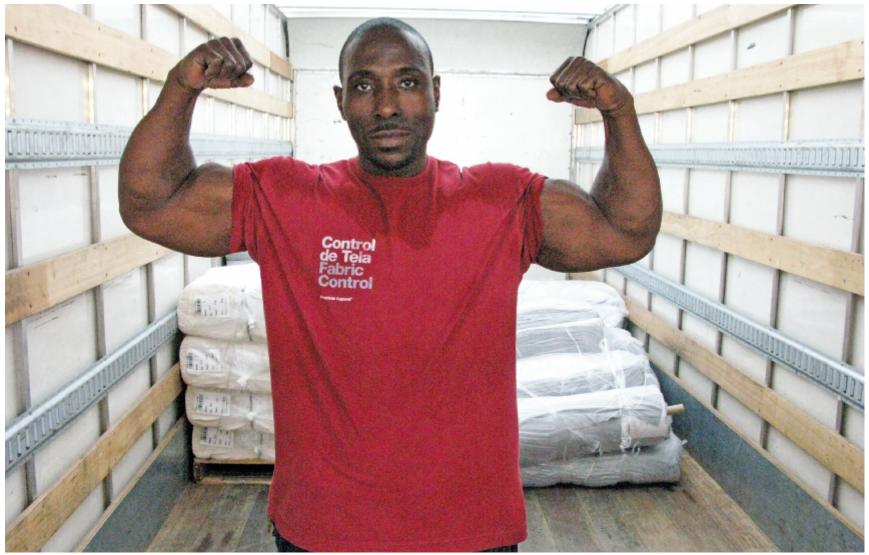


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AUSTIN NEEDS TO GROW UP

Dear Editor,

Re: "Ditch the Doughnut Model" ["Postmarks," April 24]: I couldn't agree more, Mr. Thrower. People all over Europe have gotten by for centuries despite having to build up instead of out, especially island nations like England, Ireland, and Scotland, but it's really no different for small nations like France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Austria, and a vast majority of the world's other 550 countries.

Only in the U.S. are we unable to control our insatiable need for constant consumption, our embarrassing need for more and more and more – and always at the expense of the taxpayer when things implode.

I'm reminded of the wonderful line in *Contact*, where it's discovered that the government has built two time machines instead of only the one that is needed. Quips an actor about the waste, "Why spend money on a single unit when you can spend twice as much by building two?"

When we build up instead of out, we're instantly eliminating the need for more electric towers, more miles of electric cable, more trenches for sewer and water and gas lines not to mention the lines themselves, more highway on which to travel out, more EMS vehicles needed to handle more accidents occurring more frequently, more gasoline, more oil, more emissions. It's sheer insanity.

Austin needs to grow up.

Jim Lacey

NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANDIDATES?

Dear Editor,

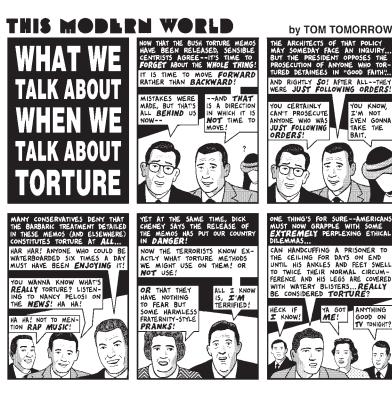
There didn't appear to be a single issue the two candidates disagreed on at the Hustle for Mayor debate held Tuesday, April 21. The only difference I could detect between Brewster McCracken and Lee Leffingwell was a slight shift in emphasis. Among the things the two candidates apparently do agree on: The Second Amendment is bad, illegal immigrants should never be asked their status and should receive city assistance to open a bank account, man-made global warming is not to be questioned and should be a guiding force in all city government decisions, and our salvation lies in bringing the "emerging green technologies" industry to Austin, an industry which will make ... well no one's quite sure, but it sounds cool.

Ben Aiken

MY BORING VALENTINE

Dear Editor,

My Boring Valentine ["The Sound of a Warped Cassette," Earache! Music blog, April 22]. That's the phrase that continued to stream through my head Tuesday night after I exited the Austin Music Hall halfway (!) through the set of one of the most influential bands of the last 20 years [My Bloody Valentine]. The guitars were turned up all the way to 11, but the vocals barely registered a 1, and their stage presence was less than inspiring. Why shell out \$40 for a ticket when I can crank up *Loveless* at home and get the same effect for free?



Truth be told, the fat-free yogurt that I had after leaving was the most enjoyable part of my evening.

Thankfully, Nine Inch Nails is coming to town next month, a favored band from my youth that knows how to put on a decent live show, not to mention an album every few years.

Scott Daigle

MONEY IT KNEW IT WOULDN'T GET

Dear Editor, Re: "What's Wrong With Cap Metro ... and Wast's Digtt" [Nawa April 24]; Lee, good article

What's Right" [News, April 24]: Lee, good article overall, but the most important impact of federal dollars wasn't earmark-related; it was the fact

CONTINUED ON P.12



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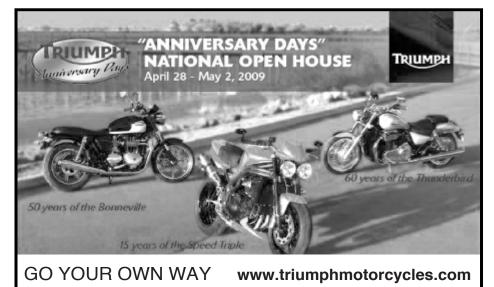
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that Capital Metro promised 50% federal participation on the Red Line (would have been \$45 million of the originally budgeted \$90 million) which it knew it would never get (the project isn't effective enough to merit federal participation). That led to \$45 million of additional reserve depletion and, combined with the overruns, accounts for essentially all of Austin's missing ¹/4-cent money.

Mike Dahmus

HOORAY FOR JORDAN SMITH!

Dear Editor,

Whenever I think I'm getting tired of the enormous *Chronicle* that has evolved over the years, starting with the long-winded editorial (I've learned to skim it for the pertinent facts), I come across a great restaurant ad or something very unusual to buy from someplace I never knew existed.

Or I come across a Jordan Smith article. That alone makes it worth picking up the *Chronicle*, for sure. Her stories such as "Believing the Children," News, March 27, coupled with the *Chronicle* staff and its great lawyer (or lawyers) have consistently brought forth investigative articles.

Since we have an investigative reporter in the league of *The Washington Post* in little ol' Austin, I was wondering if the *Chronicle* couldn't start a yearly Jordan Smith Award of the Top 50-100

best investigative stories of Texas. I would love to be able to go to a list of articles by the best that Texas has to offer. And to bring some of the reporters together for an awards ceremony.

Wouldn't it be a sad hoot if the satanic experts in this latest exposé turned out to be the real satanists, who were trying to imprison as many innocent people as possible? Shame on the police, the prosecutors, and the judges involved who sailed this ship in this horror fantasy.

Take the song "Rape of the World" from Tracy Chapman's album *New Beginning*; the investigative reporters the *Chronicle* sponsors are the little Davids against the Goliaths of the world. *Michael Brooks*

PERMITTING DETAILS

Dear Editor,

That explanation and correction ["Off the Record," Music, April 24] of last week's column ["Off the Record," News, April 17] is still not accurate.

1) Cocktail lounge is a permitted use in the Central Business District and Downtown Mixed Use zoning districts. For instance, Stubb's location is in the CBD (is zoned CBD). Stubb's situation will be relatively easy to remedy, because conditional use approval is not required for cocktail lounge use in the CBD. 2) Cocktail lounge is also a permitted use if the location has commercial-liquor sales (CS-1) and is in the Waterfront Overlay. Those restaurants will also not be required to seek a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission. For instance, Threadgill's location has CS-1 zoning and is in the Waterfront Overlay. Threadgill's situation will be relatively easy to remedy.

3) Outside of the CBD and DMU boundaries or with CS-1 zoning but outside of the Waterfront Overlay, cocktail lounge is a conditional use and must be approved by the Planning Commission, where public input and discussion will have an influence. Also note that this conditional use approval must be obtained prior to applying for the change of use permit.

The key here, and the really good news for the first two categories above, is that new code compliance requirements that normally would kick in due to the change of use can be waived, because cocktail lounge is a permitted use under either of those two conditions, therefore a change of use permit can be handled administratively. That eliminates the requirement for public input and discussion, and existing conditions can be approved without new code requirements kicking in.

Another key point, and somewhat bad news, is the conditional use application process has CONTINUED ON P.14

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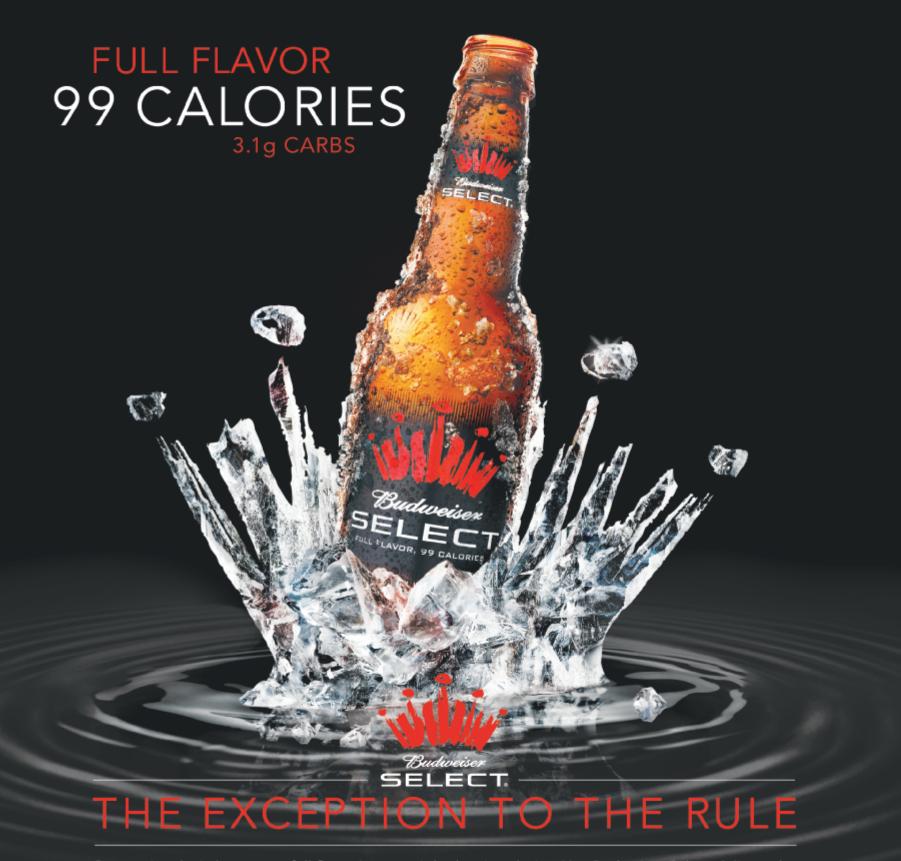
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its own set of requirements (i.e., a site plan), and those requirements and costs, coupled with the requirements of a change of use permit - the time and cost required, along with associated code compliance costs for new parking, restrooms, accessibility improvements, and other requirements that kick in under a change of use permit application - and neighborhood resistance will make escaping the 70 decibel limit prohibitive to impossible for many restaurants.

As Council Member Mike Martinez points out, one size doesn't necessarily fit all situations, and this is, I agree, a good solution and a way to allow for discussion where it is needed and at the same time allow live outdoor music to thrive in the areas where it obviously should.

Gary Etie Permit consultant www.austincitypermits.com/blog

ALL HAIL THE FIREANTS

Dear Editor,

Re: The Fireants concert at Whitewater Thursday night: I am 75 years old and have not heard or enjoyed a band as much since I first started following Kris Kristofferson before he hit the big time. The Fireants were awesome. They were so polite; their musical talent and

013 Duval

27-WMDproductions

their singing were a joy to listen to; they were so appreciative of the audience for coming out on a rainy night to hear them. They even apologized that they couldn't play longer as they had to get up to go to school the next morning. It's been a long time since I've witnessed such wholesome, polite, and talented musicians and know they will have a tremendous and successful future. I was honored to be part of the audience. Many thanks to all of you.

Fran Kelly

QUESTIONS AND BILE

Dear Editor.

I hesitate to write because, no doubt, there are much more intelligent and informed people who are equally outraged and can quote figures to make their point, but this new property tax increase is just more than I can swallow without gagging ... as they wash the red ink off their hands in the seemingly bottomless potential basin of property tax revenue, I wonder if the City Council feels even the smallest bit of regret at their budgetary boondoggle?

Would there even be a problem if we weren't giving all our tax money away to developers of redundant shopping districts? Is there any law, actual or commonsensical, that the City Council considers inviolate, regardless of the potential

revenue? For example, why are those aquifer recharge signs still up along the road? They obviously don't mean diddly. With the new transparency in the Swedish banking system, has anyone investigated Will Wynn et al. for hidden bank accounts? I don't see any other reason for some of their decisions other than personal gain.

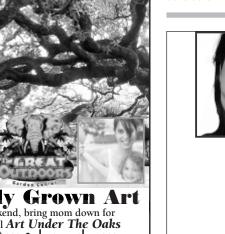
> With lots of questions and lots of bile, Adam Allert

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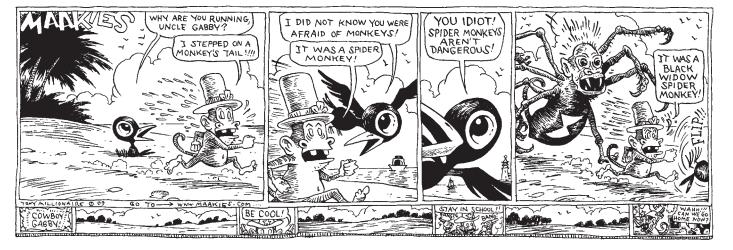


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Tuesday 5/5	Cab Franc Tasting Hosted by	Twin Liquors Marketplace						
7pm - 9pm	Les Amis du Vin · Info and Tix: 925-3985	At Hancock Center						
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20 On the Lege 22 On the Campaign Trail 26 Developing Stories 29 The Hightower Report 30 City Elections

Headlines

Early voting started Monday, April 27, for the May 9 municipal elections. If you want to beat the election day crush, you've



got until Tuesday, May 5. Candidates for mayor and City Council have begun airing ads, while the campaign rhetoric takes a sharper turn. See "Lee & Carole & Brewster & All of Us," p.30.

- Oh yeah, there's still a city to govern: City Council meets today, considering, among other things, the job performance of City Manager Marc Ott. See "City Counseling," p.24.
- An outbreak of a new strain of swine flu has caused global concern, sparked noise on the right about disease-carrying foreigners, and tested which members of the media understand the word "pandemic." Gov. Rick Perry has issued a statewide disaster declaration in response.



A Parks and Recreation Board hearing Tuesday, April 28, on the fate of 28 trees at Barton Springs Pool drew a crowd of folks – most of them opposed to a plan to chop down the enormous trees. The city's decision grew out of a consultant's findings that the trees are decayed. Next hearing, before the Urban Forestry Board, is set for 6:30pm on Wednesday, May 20.



 Pennsylvania's Sen.
 Arlen Specter dramatically joined the Democrats on Tuesday, citing the GOP's hatred of moderates. Eyes are now on GOP Sen. Kay
 Bailey Hutchison (pictured) and how the Specter switch will affect her 2010 gubernatorial run against moderatehater Rick Perry.

- Speaking of elections, Texas lawmakers expect voter ID back on the agenda soon: Hopes for a consensus hit a bump when 50 Republicans issued a list of four demands they want in the bill. See "On the Lege," p.20, for more coverage.
- Filmmaking in Austin could get an additional boost with the April 23 star-studded signing of House Bill 873, the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program reform bill. See "Gov. Perry Signs Film Incentives Bill Into Law," Screens, p.53.
- Austin City Limits has confirmed the recessionproof lineup for its 2009 festival, running Oct. 2-4. Headliners include Pearl Jam, Beastie Boys, and Dave Matthews Band.



Workers gave the MetroRail train a series of test runs at railroad crossings Tuesday, including this one along the northbound frontage road of I-35 across from the Hancock Center. The crossing gates were not working at the time of the test. Capital Metro's rail system is on indefinite hold while transit authorities work out some safety kinks.

On Voting, Endorsements, and Sincerity

point

austin

It's put up or shut up time at the municipal polls

BY MICHAEL KING

It's that most wonderful time of the year – city election season. Although judging from our dismal voter turnout, most Austinites, alas, have long since given up on local politics, your vote this month on City Council elections will have a more direct effect

on your life and that of your city than all those national caucuses you lined up for last spring. And there can be other surprisingly momentous reverberations – as I write, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing arguments in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.*, the next stage of the anti-Voting Rights Act lawsuit undertaken by the Canyon Creek

MUD board (with the grandiloquent assistance of various right-wing foundations). I'll have more to report about the court hearing next week – today's homily is about voting. If the Canyon Creek folks had been a bit more diligent about the people they elect to run their utility district, the board couldn't have been "hijacked" (as one Canyon Creek resident put it) to pursue this frivolous lawsuit, which now threatens to undermine one of the essential Department of Justice tools for protecting the rights of minority voters. As you can tell by the letters to "Postmarks" and our online postings, this is also a time of arguments over endorsements. We've taken plenty of heat (and some praise) for the candidate endorsements we've made, all of which we welcome. The only responses

> that irritate are those that presume there is some secret motive or mercenary methodology to the *Chronicle* choices. Hey, if it's good copy we wanted – under the wellattested theory that what's bad for the city is good for journalism – we'd endorse

attested theory that what's bad for the city is good for journalism – we'd endorse the most ludicrous candidates and then report the consequences. The truth is, the *Chronicle* endorsements, right or wrong, are the outcome of spirited and informed discus-

sions among our News staff, News editors, the managing editor, and the publisher, about 10 people who share a general vision about progressive city policy but who often disagree sharply about the best way to get there. (For several reasons, Editor Louis Black has not been involved with the endorsements for the last couple of years – my own theory is that he enjoys too much his new status as innocent bystander.)

So we follow the campaigns, we cover the forums, we personally interview the candidates we might con-CONTINUED ON P.19

OUDTE of the WEEK



"You've created a hornet's nest like l've never seen here."

 Sen. Eliot Shapleigh,
 D-El Paso, to State Board of Education Chair Don McLeroy, (see p.20)

Naked City

- > COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEAM CHOSEN The future of Austin's Comprehensive Plan is now in the hands of Wallace Roberts & Todd, a prominent national firm specializing in sustainable city and regional planning. City Council made the selection unanimously last week in a notable departure from the initial staff recommendation, ACP Visioning+Planning. Council had delayed its selection - at the request of Liveable City and concerned citizens - to allow for additional public input, which included a second round of public Q&A with the finalist teams and two public forums with council and staff. According to Liveable City Co-Chair Brian Donovan, some of the local subconsultants on ACP's team raised red flags. In particular, its transportation and traffic consultant, Prime Strategies, was seen as too strongly tied to toll-road advocacy and anti-rail transit positions. "The public input and the additional materials provided by the finalists allowed us to better analyze our options and make a well-informed decision," said Council Member Laura Morrison. Liveable City has called for a community advisory group as part of a "robust" public outreach plan. The current development lull offers an ideal time to get the two-year process rolling. To learn more, Katherine Gregor visit www.cityofaustin.org/compplan.
- > GOOD NEWS FOR (MOST) SHELTER ANIMALS According to a new report from Mission: Orange Austin, fewer dogs and cats are dying in Austin's animal shelter system - and more are leaving it alive - than ever before. The national Mission: Orange program, an effort of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, aims to achieve a liverelease rate of 75% in partner cities by 2010, and Austin seems poised to surpass that goal. According to Mission: Orange Austin's data report for the first quarter of 2009, the local live-release rate stands very close to that mark at 73.8%, which means 3,259 dogs and cats left Austin's sheltering system alive between January and March. That also means 953 animals were still euthanized - out of the 4.418 taken in during the first guarter. But at 21.6%, the euthanasia rate is less than half what it was just 16 months ago - at the close of 2007, it stood at 48.9%. To see how Austin is achieving its progress, see "How They're Doing It," April 3. - Patricia J. Ruland
- > SUPREMES RULE ON WARRENTLESS SEARCHES In an unusual split, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on April 21 that police need to obtain a warrant before searching the vehicle of a person who has been arrested and locked in a police cruiser. Police may conduct a warrantless search in connection with an arrest "only if it is reasonable to believe that the arrestee might access the vehicle at the time of the search or that the vehicle contains evidence of the offense of arrest." they ruled. In the case at issue (Arizona v. Gant), police arrested Rodney Gant for driving with a suspended license. After handcuffing and locking Gant in their cruiser, police searched his car and found a gun and a bag of cocaine. Gant challenged the search, arguing that he was already secured and that there was no possibility police would find evidence related to the traffic offense for which he'd been arrested. (Asked at a pretrial hearing to explain the reason for the search, one officer told the court. "Because the law says we can do it.") An unusual majority of the court - including Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, David Souter, and Clarence Thomas joining John Paul Stevens' opinion - agreed that the search was unconstitutional. - Jordan Smith

NEWS

HERD INSTINCT: ROUNDING UP THE STRAYHORNS

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Is the People's Republic of Austin - this liberal oasis of terminal democracy - actually staffed with battalions of Strayhorn sleeper cells? That was the alarming conclusion to be drawn last week from a poll conducted by **KXAN-TV**. On the eve of the station's televised mayoral debate (not coincidentally), co-hosted with the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the talking heads breathlessly hawked a poll showing a nearly "dead heat" among the front-runners, City Council Members Lee Leffingwell and Brewster McCracken and careerist political turncoat-cum-sometimes Republican Carole Keeton Strayhorn. According to KXAN's numbers, Leffingwell led with 27%, followed by McCracken at 24% - but a close third, with more than most observers might imagine, was the politician formerly known as One Tough Grandma, at 21% - supposedly within the poll's 3% margin of error and therefore a "dead heat" (that math only works, alas, if you add three plus three and come up with three).

What else were among the jaw-dropping revelations? That Strayhorn was miraculously polling highest, albeit "with a slight edge," among young voters. What could it be? Her wild-eyed, goofy TV entreaties? ("Not on my watch!") A well-intentioned if misguided attempt by Austinites to piss off Rick Perry in retrospect? The sweeping political awareness ushered in by Obama that now means the kids are clamoring to vote for a geriatric, white, snake-oil saleswoman?

Maybe - just maybe (fingers crossed) could it be that KXAN's poll methodology had a few problems? It's hard to say without more public info, but we know the station contracted a Seattle polling firm, Constituent Dynamics, to poll 1,000 Austinites. That's a considerable sample, but the pollsters' only declared control was the requirement that those polled be from the ranks of "registered voters." In Austin, voter registration is in the 90th percentile – but we're lucky if a city election turnout actually cracks double-digits, so the lack of additional controls (e.g., participation in past city elections, likelihood of voting in this election, etc.) could undermine the results. A host of other potential problems (e.g., acquiring an overly conservative sample by phoning only landlines during daytime hours, etc.) could also skew the outcome.

Whatever the explanation, the poll did raise a persistent question: Just how strong is Strayhorn's support going into the home stretch?

She does have a few things going for her: Despite her lifetime of political opportunism, she's the "anti" candidate in this race, i.e., not an incumbent council member. Sure, she's screwed the city of Austin in countless horrific ways: To take only one example, although she's been cheerfully blasting

renewable energy investments on the trail as too costly, she was the mayor (1977-1983) who bought Austin into the mother of all boondoggles, the South Texas (Nuclear) Project. But with the public's political memory quite fickle - "Strayhorn, yeah, I've heard of her" - none of her cardinal sins are grave enough to frighten off everyone.

Strayhorn reportedly enjoys one pocket of apparently surprising support, quarters of the African-American community. For instance, black community newspaper NOKOA: The Observer endorsed her. Some of the Eastside goodwill for Strayhorn dates to her time on the Austin Independent School District board from 1972 to 1977, as the school district finally made good on a long and convoluted desegregation process during her tenure.

Strayhorn's other group support is emerging from the increasingly loony-libertarian ChangeAustin.org. To co-founder and serial petitioner Linda Curtis, the biggest issue at stake this election is Senate Bill 690 (by Jeff Wentworth), which would make the number of petition signatures needed to alter the city charter the same as those needed to change an ordinance. (While problematic, the bill makes sense, as

changing the charter - the city's constitution shouldn't be easier than addressing a single ordinance, as is the case now.) Although the bill has already died an ignominious death in committee, the organization staged a Capitol rally and made the nonissue a rallying point of its endorsement discussions. Carole dutifully told the "Change" crew what they wanted to hear unsurprisingly, since under the name "initiative and referendum" (the corporate-funded

plague that destroyed California public schools and much of its government - see Exhibit 1, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger), petitions were also Strayhorn's

GOP hobbyhorse at the Capitol. (You're shocked, we know.)

The group is also helmed by Stop Domain Subsidies ramrod Brian Rodgers and has been attracting like-minded conspiracists and faux organizations (see the latest Ron Paul campaign spin-off, Texans for Accountable Government) in their valiant quest to do ... something.

Oh, yeah – throw the bums out.

In ChangeAustin's latest missive, after enumerating political slights real and imagined, the Changers ask plaintively, "Leffingwell and McCracken - with friends like them, who needs enemies?" In Place 6, ChangeAustin endorsed yet another libertarian would-be government drowner and mini-Strayhorn, Sam Osemene. In that light, Strayhorn's version of the ChangeAustin question might well be: "With endorsements like these, who needs voters?'

Holler at the Hustle on Twitter: www.twitter.com/citvhallhustle

res publica for more details and events, see community listings, p.66.

THURSDAY30

www.centerforinguirv.net/austin.

BUILDING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS brings in a smorgasbord of local experts to talk about food access and sustainability issues in Austin. 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop

BURNING THE FUTURE: COAL IN AMERICA A documentary on West Virginia coal mining, presented

by the Austin Film Festival. 7:30pm. Alamo Lake Creek, 13729 Research. \$4. www.austinfilmfestival.com.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT MONTHLY LECTURE features a panel discussion on the evolution vs. creationism debate. 7-8:30pm. Old Ouarrv Branch Library. 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435. Free.

FRIDAY01

MARCH FOR JUST & HUMANE IMMIGRA-TION REFORM A great way to celebrate International Workers Day. 6pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress. www.austinirc.org.

SATURDAY 02

BUS RIDERS UNION MEETING 11am. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.busatx.org

CONSTABLES OFFICE OPEN HOUSE Find out what a constable is and what a constable does - then eat hot dogs, and jump in the moonwalk. 10am-2pm. Travis County Precinct 1 Offices, 1811 Springdale, 854-7510. Free.

LAW OF PARTIES PROTEST Join the fight against the Law of Parties, Texas' guilt-by-association law that puts people behind bars for crimes they have not committed. 1pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress. www.texaslawofparties.com.

SOLAR FIRST SATURDAY See if the stimulus money can help you afford solar. 9am. Habitat Suites, 500 E. Highland Mall Blvd., 751-7716. \$50. www.imaginesolar.com.

TEXAS CANNARIS

CRUSADE March in the name of legalization! Start out at the Zilker Park Pecan Grove at 10am, proceed to the Capitol at noon, and convene at Zilker Park afterward to party political-style till 10pm. www.texascannabiscrusade.com.

WHY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IS IMPORTANT A panel discussion with education experts from Houston, Dallas, and Austin. 11:45am-1:15pm. Yarborough Public Library, 2200 Hancock Dr., 371-3853, Free,

SUNDAY03

BIKE DRIVE Bring your used bikes to REI for donation to the Yellow Bike Project's youth education programs. 11am-7pm. REI. 601 N. Lamar, 482-3357. www.austinyellowbike.org.



TEXANS AGAINST REAL IDs MEETING 3pm. Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503. Free. www.beatthechip.org. ceivably endorse, we bring together our notes and arguments, and we hash out our decisions over breakfast tacos and pressroom tumult. Then somebody drafts the actual endorsement copy – generally some poor sucker who hasn't entirely forgotten the meaning of the word "deadline" – and we circulate those drafts for comments and revisions. The result is more committeelike than anything else in the paper (to my hypersensitive ear, the final copy sounds too often like careful mush), but we do it because we presume our readers would like to hear our considered opinions on these vexed questions (and vexing candidates) before they themselves enter the voting booth.

But hey, that's what they are: *opinions*. As Groucho said about principles, if you don't like those, we have others. But most importantly, if you don't agree with us, the proper course of action is painfully simple: Vote for someone else!

Your city needs you.

You've Been Hustled

Along the same lines, there are a few more words to say about last week's entertaining

and enlightening *Chronicle* mayoral forum, the Hustle for Mayor, hosted by City Hall Hustler Wells Dunbar and featuring the two leading candidates, Lee Leffingwell and Brewster McCracken. I want to publicly applaud Wells,

since the event was his idea, his momentum, and – though gamely and ably assisted by plenty of folks in marketing and production (Erin Collier, Dan Hardick, and Dunbar's Hustle-sidekick Michael Bartnett and probably dozens of anonymous others, not to mention the Mohawk folks) – mostly his show. Newsweeklies elsewhere (notably Portland, Ore.'s *Willamette Week*) have turned this kind of event into an annual citywide celebration that draws crowds to the occasion and voters to the booths – and for some time, Wells has wanted to give it a try. This was our first experiment, and a smashing success it was.

Like virtually everything that happens around here, no one ordered Wells to do it (my only direction was "DIY!"), and the result was a great evening, attended by many folks who wouldn't otherwise turn up at a campaign event if you paid them (admittedly, the beer was cheap enough even for me, and that's saying something). Most of the response has been positive (I've been fielding compliments for Wells every day since), but we did take some miscellaneous flak for not reflexively including *all five* of the nominal mayoral candidates. (Carole Keeton Strayhorn was invited, but as she has done this cycle to plenty of folks more respectable than we are, she didn't respond.)

We don't apologize. If "alternative" means anything at all, it means we don't have to do it the way everybody else does. We wanted a lively, engaging event that would draw people in, explore some issues at length, and also force the major candidates outside their predictable comfort zones. All this we did – or, I should say, Wells did. More broadly, while we abundantly recognize the right of any Tom, Dick, Harry, or Jennifer to wake up one morning and decide to run for mayor, that does not mean the rest of us must therefore abandon any rational judgment of who is actually *qualified* to be hired by the voters to

If "alternative" means anything at all, it means we don't have to do it the way everybody else does. serve in that office and thereby help run and lead a large modern city. And it shouldn't need to be said – although it apparently does – that that judgment is initially distinct from whether we agree with any particu-

lar candidate's policies or politics. Weird is one thing – foolish, pointless, and timewasting is quite another.

Ezra Pound said of poetry, "The only true test of a man's sincerity is technique." In a political context, the only true test of a candidate's sincerity is his or her demonstrated willingness to grapple with the actual conditions of public office, to engage the messy and complex business of making public policy and finding consensus, and to provide the voters with a clear sense of the range of decisions and choices that will need to be made. Anything less is a *real* City Hall hustle. In that light, the *Chronicle* indeed invited all the *qualified* and *sincere* candidates for mayor. Now please vote – for whomever you

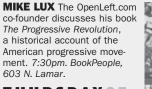
damn well please.

TUESDAY05

EARLY VOTING ENDS If you don't vote by the end of today, you'll have to wait till May 9 to cast your ballot in the city elections. Not sure which candidates to support? Attend one of the upcoming forums to see them in action (see p.22 for a schedule), check out **austinchronicle.com/elections** for campaign news and background, and see our endorsements on p.4 if you want to know what we really think. www.cityofaustin.org/election.

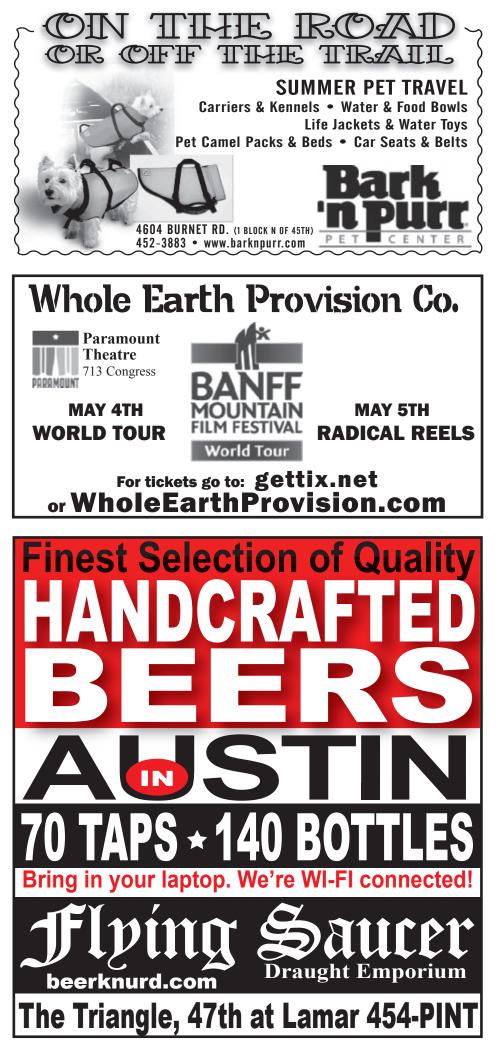
WEDNESDAY06

CLIMATE CHANGE IN TEXAS Jere Locke, director of the **Texas Climate Emergency Campaign**, discusses what needs to be done if we're to avoid nature taking the reins again. *8pm. MonkeyWrench Books*, 110 *E. North Loop. Free.*



THURSDAY07 FOOD JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES: ENVIRONMENT,

HEALTH, & FOOD SAFETY A panel discussion featuring King Corn filmmaker Curt Ellis, environmental writer Vicky Wolf, and Charlotte Herzele of UT. 7pm. Center for Community Engagement, 1009 E. 11th.



SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY GETS GREEN LIGHT

Almost two months after lawmakers rolled out their planned reforms to the **school accountability** system, the new and improved draft changes received unanimous backing from House and Senate. Now Austinites are asking if the reforms will save **Pearce Middle School** and **Reagan High School** from the threat of mandatory repurposing.

On Wednesday, April 29, the Senate passed Senate Bill 3 on a 31-0 vote, followed by House passage of House Bill 3 on a vote of 146-0. The original plan was for the two bills to be identical: But after lengthy public hearings on March 17 in which lawmakers heard extensive criticism of the original text, senators and representatives started their own rewrites, and the one bill with two numbers became two differently worded bills. The reforms will ultimately head to conference committee to hammer out the differences. House Public Education Chair Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, explained that Senate Education Committee Chair Florence Shapiro "agreed that we needed to modify our bills however we needed to pass them through our respective chambers."

Both bills rebuild the accountability system, restructuring "what I'll call trip wires, because that's what people remember them as," said Eissler. Exemptions, which are part of the state education commissioner's code, will become law, so that a district can fail on 15% of measurements for each year and not be classified as "unacceptable." That said, no school can fail in the same matrix cell in two successive years. Secondly, schools will be graded on growth over a three-year rolling average, so if they're going in the right direction, they won't be penalized. Most importantly, if the finalized reforms pass both chambers by a two-thirds majority, they take immediate effect. That gives schools facing

mandatory repurposing this year an extra year to rebuild. That's essential for Pearce, which is "where Johnston High School was this time last year," as Christy Rome, Austin Independent School District director of intergovernmental affairs, put it. She added that even if the

bill does not pass, the reforms already in place will make the school reach the "academically acceptable" standard and avoid closure this summer.

That's good news for Rep. **Dawnna Dukes**, D-Austin, whose district includes both Pearce and Reagan. "There's been enough give and take," she said. But while she lost a House battle to end mandatory closure, Sen. Kirk Watson amended SB 3 so that the commissioner has the option to apply the reforms to failing schools. "It has an immedate impact on Pearce," he said. There are still some differences between the two bills on how campuses and districts will be graded. Eissler feels that his version, which emphasizes the new distinction status for campuses, will be a selling point for members listening to their school districts. He explained: "Schools have complained that they're judged on their worst performing department. Here, with distinctions, you can get judged on your best performing departments."

So how hard will it be to get the two versions to match up? Rome said: "There are a lot of minor differences throughout that will be easily reconciled in conference committee, such as the House gives a little more discretion to the commissioner in terms of sanctions than the Senate does. The biggest difference between the two is in graduation requirements."

That's what may matter most to students. Both bills keep the new four-by-four system (four years of math, science, English, and social studies), with two years of foreign language and eight elective courses, leading to a Texas diploma (the proposal for two separate diplomas, one for students aiming for four-year colleges and one for students heading to the work force or two-year institutions, has quietly been removed). The big difference is in what's required to graduate: The Senate version requires passing two out of three tests in each of the four core areas, while



House Public Education Chair Rob Eissler

the House version demands students pass Algebra II and English III.

Whatever emerges, Rome feels that the bills mark a significant step forward in what committee members understand about the real needs of public schools. She explained, "They spent the whole interim studying the topic of accountability, and they traveled all over the state, and they heard from people that this actually affects, and that helps." She added, "They get it." – *Richard Whittaker*

McLeroy Gets a Dressing Down



"You've created a hornet's nest like I've never seen here." That was El Paso Sen. **Eliot Shapleigh**'s none-too-subtle way of suggesting to **State Board of Education** Chair **Don McLeroy** that his renomination to the position may be in jeopardy. Shapleigh pointed out that there are at least 15 bills currently before the Legislature to strip the SBOE of some of its policymaking powers. And predictably, McLeroy – testifying before the Senate Nominations Committee last week – didn't take the hint.

"I would say that the hornet's nest is over the fact that we have actually gotten into this distinct debate in education ... the passions that have risen, is over the fact that we've been willing to take that debate and make things happen," McLeroy replied. "I don't mind having a hornet's nest."

There's nothing Shapleigh can do to actually get McLeroy off the SBOE – the College Station dentist is one of 15 elected members – but which of those members chairs the board is up to a nomination by the governor and confirmation by the Senate. While nomination confirmations are generally routine and uncontroversial, it's been impossible of late to utter a sentence about the SBOE without including the word "controversy." A seven-member bloc of religious fundamentalists on the board, including McLeroy, has made few friends in the education community by repeatedly rejecting the advice of experts and trying to insert its agenda into classrooms.

Last month, the board drew nationwide attention when it ignored the recommendations of a board-appointed panel of experts and changed curriculum standards to water down science education. Although one of the most controversial changes – to teach "strengths and weaknesses" of evolutionary theory – narrowly lost, other amendments questioning the big-bang theory and pushing the notion of "stasis" in the fossil record passed.

Mainstream scientists generally consider evolutionary theory to be without major weaknesses and stasis as a pseudoscientific questioning of the theory; McLeroy is an avowed creationist who believes the Earth is only 6,000 years old. At that March board meeting, McLeroy famously said: "I disagree with these experts. Somebody's gotta stand up to experts."

Despite these fights, "I don't see any way I'm imposing my religious views in anything that I've done on the state board," McLeroy told the committee.

At one point, McLeroy said he had confirmed some of his beliefs questioning evolution by discussing them with his "second cousin in a master's degree program at Harvard." (He didn't specify what kind of program.) "And you're relying on her as you make up the curriculum as opposed to Nobel laureates and scientists that might be working at the University of Texas?" asked Austin Sen. **Kirk Watson**.

McLeroy and his allies have consistently argued that they are promoting freedom of speech in the classroom and only looking for debate. "I think you're gonna get your wish," said Shapleigh in conclusion. "I think we will make that happen." - Lee Nichols

legelines

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

Thirty-one and counting: The 81st Legislature enters its final month.

- Members of the budget conference committee, which will hammer out the differences between the House and Senate budget versions, have been announced. From the Senate: Finance Committee Chair Steve Ogden, Vice Chair Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, and Sens. Florence Shapiro, Royce West, and Tommy Williams. From the House: Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Pitts, Vice Chair Richard Raymond, and Reps. Ruth Jones McClendon, John Otto, and John Zerwas.
- To deal with the crush of bills, on April 24 the House took the unusual one-time-only step of suspending the constitutional restriction against hearing bills for the second and third time on one day (don't worry; the Senate does it all the time). House Administration Committee Chari Charlie Geren, R-River Oaks, followed that by announcing that the House won't hear any guest introductions from the dais on Friday or Saturday.
- Saying sorry and making amends: The House passed House Bill 1736, the "**Tim Cole Act**," increasing compensation for citizens who were wrongfully imprisoned. Now lawmakers are waiting for senators to take up their version, Senate Bill 2014.
- The pen is not quite as mighty as the subpoena: On April 28, the Senate passed HB 670, a journalist shield law, giving reporters qualified privilege to protect confidential sources, subject to judicial review.
- Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, said she's optimistic that a compromise public school finance reform bill is imminent. "We know it's going to be \$1.9 billion; we just have to work out how we'll distribute it," she said.
- They call this Texas comedian 'Tater Salad: April 27 was Ron White Day in the House.

For breaking news and analysis, visit austinchronicle.com/legeland or sign up to www.twitter.com/legeland.

A Good Excuse to Grandstand

The perennial battle over pending **abor-tion-related legislation** hit the House State Affairs Committee last week, with lawmakers hearing passionate testimony (mainly from abortion foes) on a bill that would require women to undergo **ultrasound** prior to having an abortion.

House Bill 36 by Rep. Frank "the Fetus" Corte, R-San Antonio (carried in the Senate by Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston), requires women seeking abortion to undergo an ultrasound at least two hours before terminating a pregnancy. Supporters of the bill have argued variously that because many abortion providers already conduct an ultrasound prior to the procedure to determine gestational age, the measure would not pose a burden. Further, they argue, by allowing a woman to see an ultrasound and to hear a fetal heartbeat, as the bill proposes, women will have a chance to fully grasp their situation and, presumably, decide to continue the pregnancy. Several women testified that they were psychologically scarred by past abortions and were either kept from seeing an ultrasound image of their fetus or were not given an ultrasound. One woman dramatically told the committee she is now only raising two of her three kids; she aborted the first "because [she] was not shown what was inside" her body.

Opponents argue the bill is coercive in nature. Mandating women undergo an invasive procedure that may not be medically necessary gives the state the power to usurp patient-doctor confidentiality and decision-making, they say. And the measure might place a financial burden on women – there are not that many groups that offer free ultrasound, meaning some women may have to pay out-of-pocket for a procedure they don't want. Indeed, if it is not medically necessary, it's unlikely that women who do have insurance could have the procedure covered by their health plans.

A lobbyist for the Texas Medical Association and the state's association of ob-gvn doctors made similar arguments in testifying against the bill. Their testimony was met with grandstanding comments by Rep. Randy Weber, R-Pearland, who is not a member of the committee but nonetheless interjected his opinions, which were clearly designed to elicit rounds of applause from the bill's supporters. Indeed, in response to the argument that an ultrasound may not be medically necessary, Weber piped in to say that if a woman thinks the ultrasound is invasive and unnecessary, what "do you think the baby thinks [about abortion]? In many cases, the abortion could be termed a medical procedure that is not necessary."

Calculated zingers aside, it is unclear whether the measure will make it out of committee. (It passed out of committee last session but died on the House floor.) Interestingly, aside from committee Chair Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton, not many of the 14 other members showed up or stayed on the dais for the entire hearing. Some sourcRep. Donna Howard

es say that suggests lawmakers do not consider the measure among the body's priorities for the session.

Lawmakers also considered a measure that would direct abortion providers to make detailed information about their clients available to the state for "statistical analysis." Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, has again authored legislation (HB 3796) requiring women to certify they're not being coerced into abortion and mandating abortion providers to collect additional information about their clients to submit to the state for analysis. The bill would ask for detailed personal information - including the age of the father of the unborn child and the specific reason the woman is having an abortion. As it did last time, the bill has earned concern from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle who question whether the privacy of women and their doctors could be jeopardized by the release of such extensive information.

Both bills were left pending in committee. – Jordan Smith

House Passes Wrongful Conviction Bill

On April 24, the Texas House passed the **Tim Cole Act** (House Bill 1736) by Rep. **Rafael Anchía**, which increases the lump-sum compensation paid to wrongfully convicted persons to \$80,000 for each year spent in prison. The bill also sets compensation at \$25,000 for each year a wrongfully convicted person spent on probation or registered as a sex offender.

The measure is named for Timothy Cole, who spent 13 years in prison for a 1985 rape he did not commit. Cole died in prison in 1999, but it wasn't until this year that he was officially exonerated, after a two-day hearing in Travis County.

Under current law, Cole's family is not eligible to collect the more than \$1 million in compensation that Cole would be owed. Anchía's bill would change that to make the heirs or family of a deceased inmate eligible for the lump-sum compensation. It also requires the state to provide exonerees with free tuition at a trade school, community college, or state university, up to 120 credits. By accepting the state compensation, an exoneree gives up the right to file a civil rights lawsuit against the state.

Anchía told his colleagues that the measure tries to "achieve a semblance of justice" for folks whose lives have been halted by a wrongful conviction. A handful of Texas' 38 exonerees were on hand in the House gallery for the passage of the measure. "Don't think of these men as the other; think of them as 'us," Anchía said. "Because, frankly, what happened to these men could happen to any of us. It could happen to the representatives in this body; it could happen to our children." The bill passed with just one dissenting vote (Rep. **David Swinford**, R-Dumas). – J.S.

Whittling Away at SBOE's Power

One of the many bills targeting the State Board of Education this session (see "McLeroy Gets a Dressing Down" p.20) is House Joint Resolution 77, by Austin Rep. **Donna Howard**. The measure, calling for a constitutional amendment to strip management of the **Permanent School Fund** from the board to an appointed council of financial professionals, passed the House after a bit of parliamentary drama Tuesday. The first vote garnered support of 99 reps, one short of the number needed to skip third reading. Waco's **Jim Dunnam** called for a verification vote, and some Democrats with "malfunctioning voting machines" (a code-phrase for "absent from the floor") made their way into the chamber and bumped the total to 104. The resolution now goes to the Senate, but the hard part could be getting past Gov. **Rick Perry**'s veto; Perry, who appears to be veering hard right in his pending re-election battle with Kay Bailey Hutchison, may want to appease supporters of the SBOE's fundamentalist block. Howard told the *Chronicle* that it only makes sense to have qualified people managing the fund. Asked if there were any SBOE members who were qualified to make education policy, she said, "I'm not going there." – *Lee Nichols*

Student Safety Bills Get Mixed Reviews

From the 2003 murder of Austin Independent School District student Ortralla Mosley to the hazing-related death of University of Texas student Phanta "Jack" Phoummarath in 2005, Austin has seen the darkest side of school and university life. But a series of bills tracking violence on and off campus are facing mixed futures.

Anti-gun campaigners were left scrambling when the Senate State Affairs Committee called a public hearing for April 27 on Senate Bill 1164, allowing concealed firearms on university campuses. (Its House counterpart has already passed out of committee.) **Students for Gun Free Schools** warned their members, "The hearing was called on very short notice in hopes that we could not get people together in time to testify." Just because a bill gets out of committee doesn't mean it's going anywhere. Laredo Democrat **Judith Zaffirini**'s anti-hazing bill, SB 48, was voted out of Senate Higher Education on March 23 (see "Adding Teeth to Hazing Laws," March 27), but a month later, it's on hold. Zaffirini said she had been bombarded with a series of amendments, many of which weaken the bill's intent. She said, "My concern is that, with so many amendments, it would be so watered down that the status quo would be better."

Over in the House, Mark Strama, D-Austin, has shepherded House Bill 1323, his anti-bullying bill, out of the Public Education Committee. The bill amends the education code to include cyber-bullying and extends beyond the school gates; it's currently with the House Calendars Committee, and Strama hopes for a hearing soon. – *Richard Whittaker*



NEED



Dumb Strategy, Flawed Execution

Every campaign season brings its own annoying twists, and in recent election cycles at the Chronicle, we've gotten used to a new one: copyright violations by political campaigns. Staff photographer John Anderson has become a repeat victim, most recently by the Carole Keeton Strayhorn mayoral campaign, which last week launched her latest TV and Web commercial ("Not on My Watch!") that briefly employed a copyrighted Anderson/Chronicle photo of opponent Lee Leffingwell - without permission or credit (or, needless to say, payment to Anderson). To the campaign's credit, when we complained to coordinator Mark Sanders, he quickly took action to get the photo pulled, while grumbling about the PR firm that produced the ad. (After a quick check on Google, commented former reporter Sanders, "I don't even do this stuff, and I know you can't use a copyrighted photo!") It turns out the ad was produced by the San Franciscoand New York-based public relations firm Dresner, Wickers & Associates, which describes itself as "the go-to political consulting firm for Republican candidates, ballot initiatives, and major trade organizations." (And here we thought Strayhorn was an "independent.") DWA also headlines its "Smart Strategies, Flawless Execution." Not this time. - Michael King

Upcoming Candidate Forums REAL ESTATE COUNCIL

OF AUSTIN/GREATER AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAYORAL FORUM Friday, May 1, 11:30am.

Hilton Hotel, 500 E. Fourth. **AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CANDIDATE FORUM** Friday, May 1, 6pm. City Hall Chambers, 301 W. Second.

NORTHEAST AUSTIN BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE FORUM Saturday, May 2, 6pm. United Memorial Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman.

BETTER AUSTIN TODAY EVENT with endorsees Lee Leffingwell, Perla Cavazos, Mike Martinez, and Bill Spelman. Wednesday, May 6, 5:30pm. El Sol y la Luna, 600 E. Sixth.

CITY UNIONS VS. MCCRACKEN CAMPAIGN FIREWORKS FLARE

It's a familiar political pantomime: On the trail, Candidate X makes an issue of public-safety costs. The public-safety unions – which, just coincidentally, support Candidate Y – issue a terse statement, questioning Candidate X. But in a very uncertain economy, arguments over budgeting, jobs, and salaries take on heightened implications.

This go-round, "Candidate X" is mayoral contender Brewster McCracken. Late last week, the leaders of the combined public-safety unions – the Austin Police Association, the Austin Firefighters Association, and the

Austin/Travis County EMS Employees Association - issued a collective statement taking McCracken to on the task for his campaign talk about campaign public-safety salaries. McCracken has repeatedly called for the trail unions to renegotiate their salary contracts if and when the economy worsens, asking them, in his campaign parlance, to "share in the sacrifice." Clearly smarting from the fact they've already made reductions - police cut more than \$3 million in costs in midyear reductions - the unions released a statement claiming, "McCracken has called for salary cuts for all City of Austin employees," adding that such talk is "premature and political. Even the City Manager, who is responsible for managing the City budget, has not called for such cuts." Of course, their missive also contains a reminder that the unions have endorsed Lee Leffingwell and a note that they've committed to him "that if salary cuts for all City employees ever do become neces-

sary in the future, we will sit down with the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager to discuss how Police, Fire and EMS employees can be part of the solution to the city's budgeting challenges ... our commitment is to be part of the solution."

The unions are stretching the truth to a degree: As McCracken spokesman Colin Rowan points out regarding salary cuts, his candidate "isn't calling for them yet." Rowan says McCracken's message has always been that "if we are going to do pay freezes and if we are going to do pay cuts, then

they need to be fair and across the board" and not unfairly prioritize public-safety salaries over any other city sectors. Moreover, the campaign says, with the city facing an estimated \$30 million shortfall for the next fiscal year while 80% of the city budget is tied to salaries and benefits, a shared

reduction may be the best way out of the hole. "Brewster has never said, 'I'm gonna go after the cops and reduce their salary," says Rowan. "His point has been all along ... that each department needs to share in the sacrifice."

Still, "it's way premature" to be talking cuts, APA President Wayne Vincent told the *Chronicle*. "The city manager isn't even out there saying the sky is falling. To ask to renege on a contract, that's huge. … I would think that Brewster McCracken or somebody would have called and would sit down and talk with us first." — *Wells Dunbar*

Carole's Greatest Hits, Vol. 3

If You Wanna Be Governor, Heads Gotta Roll

If there's one quality Austin mayoral candidate Carole Strayhorn has in spades, it's the ability to sniff out a chance for shameless political self-aggrandizement. After a string of news stories in late 2003 exposed serious abuses in the state's foster-care system, Strayhorn (then state comptroller and governor wannabe) pounced, undertaking a review of the entire foster-care system. In April 2004, with much fanfare, Strayhorn released a comprehensive and extremely unflattering portrait of the system, specifically targeting the Department of Family and Protective Services. She singled out several foster-care providers as examples of particularly poor caretakers, including the Bastrop County-based therapeutic wilderness camp Woodside Trails. When camp director Bebe **Gaines** and others familiar with the camp's operations argued that the accusations were misleading and unfair, that Strayhorn had not seen the camp nor had she sought to understand its therapeutic history, it only made the camp a bigger target.

In response, Strayhorn's staff flooded the state's abuse hotline with complaints about Woodside Trails - ultimately, the camp was shuttered amid specious allegations that Gaines had neglected her wards and that a counselor had abused a male camper. Gaines sued Strayhorn and DFPS officials. A federal judge dismissed Strayhorn from the suit – but not before chastising Strayhorn for her conduct. "It is worth noting here that the Court is not saying that its eyebrows have not been raised by the treatment of [Gaines] in this case," U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew W. Austin wrote. "No doubt much of [Strayhorn and her staff's] behavior in this case ... is untoward and petty. No doubt much of the behavior is (much) less than one would expect from an elected official or her staff." Gaines won her suit, but the damage to the camp was permanent. (For more on Strayhorn and the Woodside Trails fiasco, see "Campfire Horror Story," Nov. 21, 2008.)

– Jordan Smith





"Vote for Lee, or no more chicken fried steak!"

- Eddie Wilson, Threadgill's

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EXAS

LACE

WHERE DID AUSTIN'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING GO?

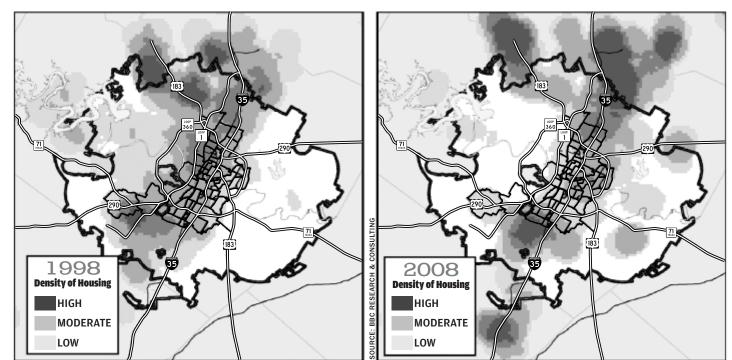
If you make less than 50 grand a year and think you (and your kids) now have snowballin-hell odds of ever affording a house in **Central Austin**, you're not imagining things. A recent **comprehensive housing market study** delivered by a Denver consultant to **City Council** and staff in March documents the dwindling supply of housing affordable for Austin's regular folk and the effects of this "housing gap" on the community.

The contrasting 1998 and 2008 maps shown here depict the sprawling outward creep of houses affordable to families living on **51% to 80% of median family income** (\$34,554 to \$55,280 a year). Besides being bad for the environment, this middle-class migration means that Austinites least able to afford higher transportation costs are being pushed farther and farther from the jobs and services of the central city. Not good.

The study's top-line recommendations to reverse the trend: 1) Re-evaluate the zoning and development process (as part of Austin's Comprehensive Plan), 2) set affordable-housing targets, 3) examine regulatory barriers to housing development, 4) consider additional development incentives to produce affordable housing, and 5) supplement existing funding.

- Among the study's other conclusions: • Households earning \$50,000 can afford
- 36% of the attached units (condos) on the market but only 16% of the houses.
- Those earning \$75,000 and up have many more options for homes to buy but just 13% of renters earn this much.
- Austin needs more homes priced between \$113,000 and \$240,000 to enable renters earning \$35,000 to \$75,000 to buy. Citing "a disturbing picture," the nonprofit

Liveable City called for incorporating the study's findings into the Comprehensive Plan



AFFORDABLE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES, 1998 AND 2008

The maps above show the locations of "detached single-family units" that are affordable to Austin families earning between 51% and 80% of median family income. The term "density" here does not imply density of land use but of affordable housing in a given geographical area.

process and drew special attention to these study conclusions (here pulled from Liveable City's newsletter):

- Austin housing costs increased 85% over the last 10 years.
- Austin workers especially retail workers – are being pushed out of town by high housing prices.
- Recent UT grads and young people are leaving Austin due to high housing costs.
- Austin lacks affordable housing for 29,000 households.
- To improve the situation, Austin needs to add at least 1,000 new housing units a year affordable to households earning \$20,000 or less.
- Twenty-three separate ordinances related to development in the last 18 months have increased development costs.

Read the entire study at www.cityofaustin.org/ housing/apr08chms.htm. Then go blow that \$2,000 you were saving toward a down payment on lottery tickets – your best shot at a nice house anywhere near Central Austin. – *Katherine Gregor*

city counseling FACE THE MUSIC BY WELLS DUNBAR



Last week council passed an ordinance expediting rezoning for several restaurants hosting **live music**, after it looked like a laughably low 70-decibel limit (actually dating from the Eighties but seldom enforced) would pull the plug on them. But at the Thursday meeting, it was apparent the ordinance still left some restaurants outside the Central Business District unplugged, specifically the current music scene cause célèbre, **Freddie's Place**, which – in a move that smacked of headline-grabbing overreaction – had pre-emptively canceled all its remaining gigs for the rest of the year, after a neighborhood complaint drew police monitoring.

Freddie's owner, **Fred Nelson**, decibel meter in hand, came to council to show the absurdity of the 70-decibel limit, for which loud conversation is a potential violation. Council Member **Mike Martinez** promised to work with Nelson but intimated that the newly passed cleanup had helped the lion's share of affected restaurants: "There will be four venues that we'll still need to work on," Martinez said. "Out of the 17 [affected restaurants], 13 of those should be able to switch to '**cocktail lounge**' use and continue operation as is. But the other four remain." Martinez and other council members argued that despite the snafus, their revisiting of decibel limits – a "simplification" passed in March that inadvertently brought attention to the seldom-enforced limit – has been a success. Yet Nelson wondered why, if the emergency ordinance has been so successful, they had to go back and create loopholes to worm out from under it.

FREE ASSOCIATION

The other big news last week was council's selection of **Wallace Roberts & Todd** to craft the city's **comprehensive plan**. Council opted not to go with the staffrecommended **ACP Visioning+Planning**; WRT had been the highest-ranked team, until ACP got additional points from a city staff interview, described by WRT boosters as overly arbitrary.

Coming Thursday (today): City Manager Marc Ott gets his first formal job review. Last week, council held the city clerk and municipal court clerk to the same pay rate as last year (thanks, recession!), so don't expect any big bonuses, Marc... Item 33 (Sheryl Cole) wrangles the University of Texas Athletics Department, Travis County, and the Texas Department of Transportation together "to better facilitate future Texas Relays events." It also assembles a community task force to avoid another collective freak-out about Relays weekend and further welcome Texas Relays' large African-American audience... A clutch of 2pm briefings round out the meeting: updates on Austin Energy's Public Participation Process and CO2 Reduction Plan, the city's strategic mobility program, and last but not least, the city's response to the federal stimulus funding.

AISD: A Chat With the New Super

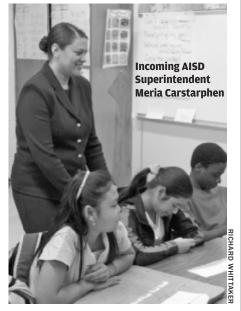
In June, the Austin Independent School District gets its new leader when **Meria Carstarphen** leaves her current post, as superintendent of **St. Paul Public Schools** in Minnesota, and moves into her new digs on Austin's West Sixth Street.

While Carstarphen talks about the Austin position as a dream job, this is a nightmare vear to be a new superintendent. First up is building the next budget, this year a traumatic process for every government agency. Keeping up with current numbers will be tough enough, but Carstarphen will face her own indirect budget cut: The \$628 million budget for 38,000 students in St. Paul becomes \$972 million for 82,000 AISD students, meaning her per-student cash drops by almost a third just because she's switching ZIP codes. She has convinced the board of trustees to extend Interim Chief Financial Officer Steve West's contract through August, when the budget should be completed, and she's had multiple meetings with West and Forgione "to ensure I have a lot of the background on how budgets are done in Texas, because every state is different and every board has its own policy."

Then there's the pressing issue of schools the state writes off as "academically unacceptable." With Reagan High School and Pearce Middle School both potentially facing mandatory restructuring, Carstarphen has seen the rescue plans for both and has met the state's performance management teams "to get their perspective on how things are developing." Minnesota doesn't have mandatory school repurposing ("Texas is alone" in that statute, she said), and while she is unconvinced about the mandatory part, that doesn't mean she opposes intervention. She's currently overseeing restructuring and redesign at four St. Paul schools and argues that districts must take the lead and dig deep for meaningful reform, rather than hitting statutory minimums. She explained: "We don't just look at state data. We look at all of the climate and qualitative and quantitative information we can pull from a school."

One option that's off the table for Carstarphen is **alternative learning centers** – schools ostensibly designed for students with various disciplinary problems. "I think they warehouse kids," she explained bluntly. "I get it. You bring a gun to school; that's a different story, but ... we don't want to keep putting kids out of the school process."

Detailed long-term plans are on hold until the Legislature finishes with its proposed school accountability and finance reforms, and there's also a districtwide efficiency study from consultants **MGT of America Inc.** on the way. But her approach to education is in place. "I'm a traditionalist," she said. "I'm here to teach, no matter what your issues are – we would be really good at our jobs if your [student] experience with us for 13 years from pre-K to 12 makes you a slam dunk for college, makes you a slam dunk for graduating, makes you a slam dunk employee."



How long is long term, in her case? Forgione lasted 10 years; the average urban superintendent lasts four to five, and there's a quiet rumbling among some local stakeholders that Austin will become just a stepping stone in Carstarphen's meteoric rise through the education ranks. Not an issue, she says: "No superintendent worth their salt starts in a district thinking, 'Where can I move next?' They want to stay; they want to see their reforms come through." But she also knows that she can only stay as long as she has the board's trust. Her initial contract is for four years, and she feels a superintendent "is really stretching their time past six years." As a self-professed data geek, she said: "I should be held accountable for every day I'm in this job. There should be outcomes, and I want that for my community."

Not that being an urban superintendent precludes someone from being a figure on the national stage. In conversation, Carstarphen regularly name-checks Beveriv Hall. superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools. Across a decade of aggressive reform, Hall has become a leading educational thinker and national policy innovator. But Hall has sometimes been accused of being confrontational, and Carstarphen admits her own managerial style can lead to some eggbreaking for omelet-making. "I need a board to set the vision, give me goal statements, tell me where they want us to be. ... A community needs to work with both the board and the superintendent/administration to create the plan for what we're going to do." The trade-off is that, once the direction is set, the district has to let the super be the super. She explained: "I can get you a strategic plan in a month. I can get you [a deficit solution]. I can get it to you in a day. If you want to be engaged, let's talk about that - what does that look like, what does that feel like, when do we call the question, how much time - and that's something we're going to have to negotiate."

- Richard Whittaker





austinchronicle.com MAY 1,2009 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 25

Protecting the Waterfront (Part 2) Realizing the potential

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

Storm waters continue to swirl around the redrafted Waterfront Overlay Ordinance, set for a possibly lively public hearing and still-uncertain council action at 6pm today (Thursday, April 30). The Planning Commission on Tuesday approved a "hybrid" version of the Waterfront Overlay Task Force recommendations and spent hours defining the role of the new Waterfront Planning Advisory Board, which is charged in the draft ordinance with "promoting excellence in the design, development, and protection of the City's waterfront." The same night, the Parks and Recreation Board approved 6-0 the Waterfront Overlay Task Force recommendations - which reinstate 1986 development height limits of up to 96 feet.

Strict protectionists – personified by Jeff Jack representing **SaveTownLake.org** on the task force – see the proposed board's

role primarily as that of a watchdog limiting development. The Real Estate Council of Austin has EVELOPING argued against both reinstating height limits and a new stories oversight body. Unfortunately, neither side has advocated for the enlightened middle way: requiring good urban design that embeds community values in project master-planning and design. Yet the redrafted Waterfront Overlay Ordinance charges the board with establishing a vision that can "better realize the potential of the City's waterfront." Significantly, its members are being asked do far more than "just say no" to height and variances.

For that reason, the Planning Commission took care to detail a long list of specific considerations for the new advisory board – such as affordable housing, transit, Lady Bird Lake view corridors, green building, and 3-D project modeling. The commission also supported the controversial position that height-releasing planned unit development zoning trumps Waterfront Overlay Ordinance restrictions.

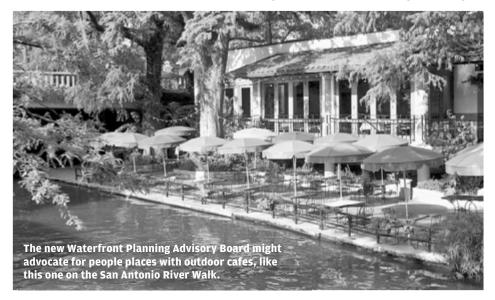
The advisory board's first job will be helping the city manager "to establish a system for providing development bonuses in exchange for community benefits." As city senior planner Robert Heil recently noted, the 1999 rewrite removed maximum heights from the ordinance because its language was supposedly muddled, but also because it was missing the "density bonus" system needed to earn any height beyond base zoning. The new ordinance before council reinstates exactly the same problem - temporarily. The Planning Commission added a timeline requirement that the new advisory board be appointed within two months and that bonus rules be developed within six months after the board is established. (The $\ensuremath{\textbf{ROMA}}$ $\ensuremath{\textbf{Austin}}$ team is well along on developing a densitybonus system for Downtown, which includes

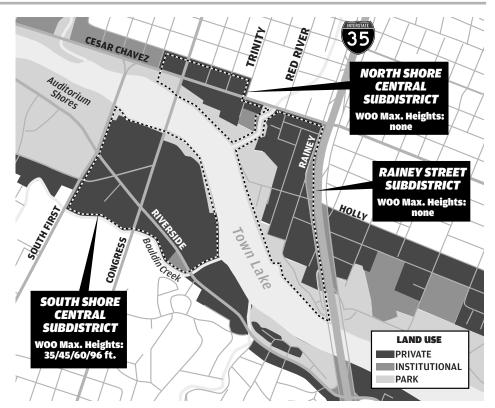
the urban north-shore subdistricts; the new advisory board can fast-track a lake-specific system by building

on that professional work.) Those critical of the amend-

ed ordinance accurately characterize it as looking backward. While it laudably incorporates the original **1985 Town Lake Corridor Study** goals, in the subsequent decades, the city's pri-

orities have changed. For example, it's now council policy to increase central-city and Downtown density and to reduce greenhousegas emissions through land-use planning. The total acreage within the Waterfront Overlay is larger than that of Downtown and includes land more than 1,500 feet from the river, according to attorney Steven Metcalfe. So the simplistic notion that "height is the enemy" requires serious updating. Globally reinstating all the old height limits with this ordinance was a matter of correcting a historical wrong. But if council adopts the Waterfront Overlay Ordinance as redrafted, it should also free the new advisory board to reconsider height as it shapes urban design. Adopting





this incarnation of the overlay must not preclude (as a separate task) vigorously defining the best course of action for Lady Bird Lake's future – this time looking forward, not back.

As reported in "Developing Stories," April 24, the Waterfront Overlay Task Force was convened with a narrow mission, to correct "inconsistencies and ambiguities," and that's done; its members (heavy on neighborhoodprotection types) were not convened to create the waterfront urban plan of the future. Importantly, two task-force members (Michael Casias, an Eastside sustainable developer, and Jay Reddy, a Planning commissioner) dissented; two others (Dale Glover, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and Brian Ott, Town Lake Trail Foundation) abstained, specifically from the 100% rollback to the old height limits. Pushing for a contemporary solution instead, Casias, Reddy, and Glover signed a minority report appended to the recommendations.

Their minority voices and others – including past RECA President **Tom Terkel** and attorney Metcalfe – have argued that height alone is an ineffective measure of a "good project." (They also argue that neighborhoods such as **Travis Heights** – with a self-interest in protecting their own views – were given too much power over a citywide issue.) They advocate for a more nuanced, 21st century formula to improve overall project quality – including the judicious use of taller, thinner buildings. "It saddens me that we jumped back to 1986 without securing a way to promote a balance of the highest quality design and the greatest level of public benefits," says Glover.

ROMA principal **Jim Adams**, who worked with an earlier Town Lake Waterfront Advisory Board on a plan for the area, encouraged a broader visioning process: "If the community is interested in seeing positive change on the south bank of the river, regulations alone will not be sufficient – particularly ones that do not provide sufficient incentive for property owners to change the existing land uses." (See "Planning South Shore Central: The ROMA Report," Jan. 19, 2007.)

To create, as Adams put it, "a world-class waterfront district" could require allowing some greater heights than the caps being reinstated, in exchange for community access and benefits – for example, opening up public access on the ground. Council Member **Mike Martinez** recently endorsed this idea, saying, "I am certainly open to individual projects coming to council that clearly demonstrate a better way to achieve community values."

Council particularly needs to give its advisory board the latitude to recommend master-planning and future code amendments for the most urban subdistricts, containing the most developable privately owned land. Those include **Rainey Street**, on Downtown's north shore, and **south shore central**.

What's critical now is for council to appoint to the advisory board the best-gualified Austinites - ideally, professionals with experience and knowledge of other successful waterfront preservation and redevelopment programs. The board's seven members (each to be nominated by one council member) are to be "drawn from the fields of urban design, environmental protection, architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, shoreline ecology, neighborhood conservation, civic art, and real property development." If instead the board is the same old adversarial mix of entrenched neighborhood advocates and self-interested developers, then a great opportunity to make good on decades of planning and visioning for the waterfront will have been lost.

For more information and to read relevant documents, visit www.cityofaustin.org/council/wotf.htm. Prospective Waterfront Overlay Advisory Board members should contact a council member or the city clerk at shirley.gentry@ci.austin.tx.us.





GETTING THE JOB DONE

■ Worked to create more accountability in our city budgeting processes by requiring more frequent budget reports to City Council.

Created and chaired the Public Safety Task Force, the only advisory body for the City Council on public safety issues.

Championed campaign finance reform to hold candidates accountable for violations and protect Austin elections from outside influence.

■ Led on environmental sustainability initiatives, including making city events carbon neutral, reducing landfill waste, and promoting single-stream recycling.

■ Fought for open government reforms, including making the City Auditor more independent and putting more public information online.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

■ Keep the city's tax rate as low as possible and prioritize the delivery of reliable, affordable basic city services.

Attract and retain good jobs in stable, diverse industries, and focus on ways to help our small local businesses succeed.

Take on our traffic problems, and hold an election to expand our rail system as soon as possible, as long as the funding system is clear.

■ Manage growth in a way that protects the unique character of our neighborhoods and community, and champion every viable affordable housing strategy.

Continue to fight to protect the quality of our air and water citywide, and meet or exceed our renewable energy goals.

PROUD TO BE ENDORSED BY: Austin Chronicle Austin American-Statesman Austin Central Labor Council Austin Firefighters Association Austin Lesbian / Gay Political Caucus Austin Neighborhoods Council Austin Police Association Austin Progressive Coalition Austin Sierra Club Austin Tejano Democrats Austin Women's Political Caucus Austin / Travis County EMS Employees Assoc Better Austin Today PAC Black Austin Democrats Burnt Orange Report Capital Area Asian American Democrats Capital Area Progressive Democrats Capital City Young Democrats Central Austin Democrats Circle C Area Democrats Clean Water Action/Texas Vote Environment College Democrats of St. Edward's University Combined Law Enforcement Assoc of Texas League of Bicycle Voters NOKOA Newspaper Northeast Travis County Democrats South Austin Democrats Southwest Austin Democrats Stonewall Democrats Texas Environmental Democrats Travis County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Assoc Travis County Sheriff's Officers Assoc University Democrats Villager Newspaper West Austin Democrats AND OTHERS!

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REED APPEAL UNEARTHS GRISLY DETAILS ON FENNELL

The latest – and likely last – in a string of state appeals filed by death row inmate **Rodney Reed** contains new and disturbing revelations about the conduct of former Georgetown Police Sgt. **Jimmy Fennell**, the man who Reed's supporters have argued was a far more likely suspect in the 1996 murder of Fennell's fiancée, **Stacey Stites**.

The evidence detailed in the appeal – demonstrating Fennell's pattern of intimidation, stalking, and sexual assault of women while working for the **Georgetown Police Department** – raises significant questions about the lack of investigative focus on Fennell's possible involvement in Stites' murder. The new information also raises for the **Court of Criminal Appeals** a particularly poignant question: How much evidence does Reed have to bring forward before the court will take seriously the idea that the wrong man might be in prison?

Stites' body was found dumped on the side of a Bastrop Co. road several hours after she failed to show for her early-morning shift at the local H-E-B. The pickup truck that she allegedly drove to work – which belonged to fiancé Fennell, a Bastrop police officer at the time – was found parked at Bastrop High School. DNA evidence found in Stites' body eventually led police to Reed, who has maintained that he was having a consensual sexual relationship with Stites.

No other physical evidence tied Reed to the crime, and he has consistently argued that Fennell was a more likely suspect - not only had Fennell found out about the affair with Reed, but he was furious about it, in part because Reed was black. Police only briefly investigated Fennell before dismissing him as a suspect; they never searched the apartment he shared with Stites, even though it was the last place she was known to be alive, and police returned to Fennell the pickup truck she'd been driving before it had been thoroughly processed for evidence. Fennell then sold the truck. (For more on the case, see "Who Killed Stacey Stites?" May 24, 2002.)

Questions about Fennell's possible involvement grew more urgent last fall after Fennell pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in prison for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a woman in his custody while he was on duty with the Georgetown Police Department. According to Reed's newest appeal, in the "aftermath" of Fennell's conviction and a subsequent civil case (the city of Georgetown settled with Fennell's victim last month for \$100,000), "other evidence of Mr. Fennell's violent and sexual misconduct has come to light." The appeal includes copies of police reports detailing investigations of accusations other women have made against Fennell including one woman who said he raped her after picking her up on a drug charge. He asked her what she'd do to get out of the charge, then took her to a secluded area in a police cruiser and assaulted her.

Later, she said, he called her numerous times, asking for dates.

Another woman said that Fennell approached a car she was sitting in, had her exit the car, told her that he'd found drugs in the car, backed her into some bushes, and said he wouldn't arrest her if she promised to meet him at her apartment later that night. The woman called her mother, who then called police to complain. The mother was told the drug charge would be dropped since there was an accusation of officer misconduct. After that, she told police, Fennell drove by her house in the "middle of the night" on several occasions. She was afraid of him, she said. At least two other women made similar accusations.

There's also an account from **Keith Tubbs**, who previously worked at the Williamson Co. Juvenile Justice Center with Fennell's present wife, Aida. Tubbs told police that Fennell once questioned him about whether Aida had been "seeing someone" at work. Tubbs also said that Aida once came to work with bruises on her face from a phone Fennell had thrown at her. Aida told him that she was "nervous" about Fennell, who she said was "jealous and had a temper." Moreover, she told Tubbs she was concerned about Fennell's possible involvement in Stites' death.

In previous appeals, Reed's attorneys presented evidence related not only to the conduct that led to Fennell's current incarceration but also showing that Fennell had a volatile relationship, shortly after Stites' death, with a woman who accused him of stalking her.



MySpace page - the court again ruled that Reed had not presented enough information to be persuasive. This time, however, they shifted their reasoning: The evidence doesn't change the fact that Reed was matched to semen found in Stites' body. "[O]ther than showing that Fennell has engaged in despicable and reprehensible conduct as an officer with the [GPD]," the court wrote in an unsigned opinion, "the information does not exonerate Reed of Stacey's murder." The court's about-face frustrates Reed's attorney Bryce Benjet. "The first opinion essentially said, 'This is all very interesting, it raises our eyebrows, but there's not enough here about Jimmy," he said. Then, after additional infor-



Jimmy Fennell

 demonstrating Fennell's pattern of intimidation, stalking, and sexual assault of women while working for the Georgetown Police Department
 raises significant questions about the lack of investigative focus on Fennell's possible involvement in Stites' murder.

The evidence detailed in the appeal

Nonetheless, the court ruled that the evidence – some of which, the defense argued, was previously known to prosecutors but undisclosed – was not enough. Though it arouses "a healthy suspicion that Fennell had some involvement in Stacey's death," the court wrote in December, "we are not convinced that Reed has shown by a preponderance of the evidence that no reasonable juror, confronted with this evidence, would have found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

In a subsequent opinion, which included even more information about Fennell's alleged violent tendencies – including "sexually explicit and violent images" from his mation was discovered, "they said, 'Well, there's still the DNA.'" It seems, Benjet said, that the court's position is that there is never enough evidence with which to build even a reasonable doubt. "The procedures and standards the court has applied in this case are unreasonable," said Benjet, "and the conclusions they've come to are unreasonable."

It is unclear whether the **Williamson Co. District Attorney's Office** has fully considered the claims made by the additional alleged victims of Fennell's misconduct – or whether officials there considered filing any additional criminal charges against the former GPD sergeant. "I knew about these

extraneous allegations and was prepared to aggressively rebut them in trial," said Fennell's attorney, Bob Phillips. "I think it is notable that [Williamson Co. District Attorney] John Bradley, who is a very aggressive and skillful prosecutor, did not indict on any of them. And there were problems with [the accusers'] credibility, which I think would have been manifest in trial, and that's part of the reason why the case settled so favorably." At press time. Bradley had not responded to a request for comment. Bradley told the Austin American-Statesman that the additional allegations were "considered" at Fennell's sentencing but that he did not seek additional indictments because the accusations were "not the strongest and most serious cases against Fennell."

Nonetheless, taken together, the allegations suggest a very disturbing pattern of aggression toward women - the same sort of behavior that sources close to Stites have previously told the Chronicle made them wary of Fennell's relationship with her and made them distrustful of him after she turned up dead. Fennell didn't like Stites hanging out or even talking on the phone with friends; he was jealous and had a bad temper, they said. Indeed, during their initial investigation of Stites' murder, a co-worker from the H-E-B told police that shortly before her death, Stites had seemed depressed. "He stated that she seemed down guite a bit and he asked her what was wrong," a Bastrop Sheriff's Office investigator wrote in 1997. "She told him that her and her boyfriend were having problems and also that the boyfriend had a violent temper." The co-worker's information was apparently never pursued by police, and he was never called to testify at Reed's trial.

There is no deadline for the court to rule on Reed's latest appeal, and if they again deny relief, the case will move into the federal system. "I always hope the Court of Criminal Appeals will do the right thing," said Benjet. "At some point maybe the mountain of evidence will get high enough for them to decide this case deserves another look." – Jordan Smith

the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

TIME TO END A BANKER BOONDOGGLE THAT HURTS STUDENTS

What do you call it when arrogance, avarice, and absurdity combine? Well, one name for it would be "Sallie Mae."

Despite the sweet name, Sallie is not a person. It's a giant financial corporation that is America's largest provider of student loans. It began in the 1970s as a government entity, but in 1997 it was privatized. Along with other private lenders such as Wells Fargo and Discover, Sallie Mae has used the Family Education Loan Program to milk windfall profits from college students. The program is a corporate boondoggle, because the only thing it privatizes are the profits the lenders pocket through hefty fees they levy on students. The industry's losses, on the other hand, are socialized, for the government covers 97% of any loans that students fail to pay.

Because this absurd subsidy of private lenders rips off taxpayers while overcharging students, Obama has proposed ending it in favor of expanding the government's far more efficient and less costly program that loans directly to students. Cutting out the middleman would save taxpayers more than \$9 billion a year while giving college kids a much better deal. Going through private lenders is all the more absurd today, because a government bailout is all that is keeping them afloat. Any money they lend is not private capital but ours. Why keep subsidizing them to loan our money? Logic, however, is not a concept that bankers even want to grasp, so they are hiring top-gun lobbyists and rallying anti-government ideologues to oppose Obama's plan – and keep their boondoggle going.

Obama is right to halt this multibillion-dollar rip-off and redirect it to help students. For more information, contact the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, a national grassroots group: www.uspirg.org.

MAKING A MOCKERY OF U.S. REPRESENTATIONAL DEMOCRACY

Would you like to get a 22% return on the money you invest? Wow, that would be awfully good in today's sorry market!

Well, how about a 2,200% return? No way, you say, that would be a Ponzi scheme. Now, try a 22,000% return on your investment. If you think that percentage is the silly stuff of fantasyland, you've been playing in the wrong market, for that is the level of payoff that corporations have received by investing in a sure thing: Washington lobbyists.

Three University of Kansas professors recently issued a report on a corporate lobbying effort to win a special tax break in 2004. Pushed in the name of creating jobs, this bill (which drastically cut corporate taxes on foreign profits) actually created no job gains for workaday folks, but it did produce a job boom for lobbyists. Focusing on 93 major companies - including such giants as Pfizer, IBM, and Hewlett-Packard - the study found that the firms spent \$283 million on lobbyists to slide the bill through Congress. In return, the special break they won produced a financial windfall for the 93 corporations, allowing them to dodge \$62.5 billion in taxes they otherwise owed - a 22,000% dividend on their investment in lobbyists.

Not every lobbying campaign produces such eye-popping results, but Washington influence-peddlers now promise corporate clients that they'll get returns of 100 to 1 or better on every dollar invested in professional lobbyists. What we have here is an admission – a boast, really – that legislation is for sale and that you have to pay to play.

It's the golden rule – those with the gold rule – and it mocks America's pretension that ours is a system of representational democracy. To help push for lobbying reform, visit www.uspirg.org.

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





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Lee & Carole & Brewster & All of Us ...

Consider the possibilities this election day

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Contrary to what many of us are raised to believe, the mayor isn't the be-all and end-all of local politics. In Austin, Hizzoner or Heroner doesn't even have much traction on an ordinary, lowly City Council member. The mayor needs a council majority to get anything done; there's no fast lane to expedite the mayor's ideas and initiatives. Really, all the mayor gets is a cushier office, an extra staffer or two, and the bully pulpit to push an agenda. And depending on your view of the five candidates currently vying for the center seat and the gavel at council meetings, the institutional brakes on their powers are either a blessing or a curse.

Some of the candidates have proposed progressive, high tech visions for the future; others eye gathering economic danger and say they'll help us ride out the storm. Yet another has demonstrated she'll do anything – including cooking stats and contorting reality – to reclaim the office she once held.

So before this election day, Saturday, May 9 (if you haven't eagerly voted already), here's a look at where the candidates come down on the issues most directly affecting Austin.

Jobs and Economy: A Difference in Focus

To combat the recession locally, Brewster McCracken has proposed Austin embrace high tech, growth industries such as renewable energy, digital media, biotechnology, health care, and more. "You'll need at least one big bedrock sector to replace what's happening in the semiconductor sector," he says. "Clean energy is looking like that sector globally. ... Solar and energy storage in particular are looking like the biggest manufacturing-base sector so that people of all skill levels can take part in it." To that end, he's energetically promoting the Pecan Street Project, a "clean energy research and development partnership" dedicated to developing "smart grid" technology with cityowned Austin Energy and several other players. Seeking to contrast this high tech industry with its gasping predecessors, he describes utilities as well as health care and entertainment as less cyclical than consumer-driver computer tech and therefore more resistant to recession. On the stump, he's described himself as a stronger champion of renewable energy than Lee Leffingwell, depicting his own proposals as a way out of the downturn and his opponent's central promise to "focus on the fundamentals" as no better than "hunkering down" - a phrase destined to dwell in local political infamy, alongside "forgivable loan" and "Hi, this is your neighbor Lisa."

"Actually, nobody really knows what that term means," Leffingwell reckons on "hunker." But as he sees it, "we want to be ready to deal with the fiscal problems that we're gonna



have, and we have to be ready ... to maintain our basic core city services during hard times." (Last week's grim budget preview for the coming year served to reinforce that prognosis.) He adds, that "in no way precludes any of the other growth options" on the table, like attracting employers in fields such as renewable energy. But in emphasis, Leffingwell instead has chosen to focus on small, local businesses. "Over 70 percent of the people in the Austin area work for what could arguably be called small businesses, employers with less than 100 employees. ... That's where we should be focusing a lot of attention," he says. To that end, he's proposed creating a smallbusinesses cabinet, staffed by - who else? small-business leaders; expanding support services; and looking at creating a "local preferences" distinction at City Council: steering more city contracts to local businesses and offering local firms the chance to rebid if they're within 10% of the winning low bid.

Former Mayor Carole Keeton Strayhorn's economic emphasis has been on recruiting volunteer business task forces – the traditional good ol' boys or their sons and daughters – for expertise on entrepreneurship. When she talks about particular industries, she emphasizes biotechnology and renewable energy, as well as film and new media. She says she plans to create city-sponsored "innovation incentive" programs to provide "boost-ups for growing businesses, not bail-outs for failing busithe subject, Strayhorn is big on alliteration.) And she sees her promotion of a new medical school for Austin as promoting both health care and the local economy, although she tends to glide over the question of state funding: "I could raise the funds right here in Austin," she told the press last month.

City Budget: Where's the Cutting Edge?

The biggest budgeting dispute between Leffingwell and McCracken has been over city salaries. "About 80 percent-plus of the entire city budget are wages and benefits," says McCracken. "If we had everybody not take a pay raise, and maybe even a little bit of a cut ... that might be a way to maintain city services, and everybody could share in the sacrifice, including myself." A popular topic of McCracken's has been public-safety costs, which consume some 65% of the city budget; he's repeatedly called for renegotiating planned police raises unless the economy improves. "It's time to [tell] the public-safety unions ... 'We can't do a pay raise, guys; you need to come to the table and share in the salary sacrifice." The public-safety unions themselves which endorsed Leffingwell - have not been happy at McCracken's charge that they haven't

been willing to share budgetary sacrifices. In response to McCracken's suggestion to that effect in the KXAN/LBJ School debate last week, the heads of the three unions (police, fire, EMS) issued a joint statement objecting to McCracken's statements and insisting that "if salary cuts for all City employees ever do become necessary in the future, we will sit down with [city officials] to discuss how Police, Fire, and EMS employees can be part of the solution to the city's budgeting challenges."

Leffingwell's response on this issue has been to point out that in 2003 McCracken supported the public-safety premium, a provision in police contracts that guaranteed an additional 2% bump above any raises granted to all city employees; having driven up personnel costs in the years since, the premium is missed about as much as former Austin Police Department Chief Stan Knee's mustache. McCracken, conceding he voted for the contract as the council's most "junior member" in 2003, counters that in 2005, "I was actually the first council member to say we can't do the premiums anymore."

Speaking more broadly on public-safety issues, both candidates are generally satisfied with Police Chief Art Acevedo's performance – McCracken approves Acevedo's willingness to consistently discipline his officers, and Leffingwell praises the chief's openness – but CONTINUED ON P.32

Mayoral Candidates Scorecard

LEE LEFFINGWELL

- > City Council member, 2005 to present
- Retired; former Navy and commercial pilot
- Focused on environmental issues, building consensus on council
- Campaigning to "focus on the fundamentals": deliver and improve basic city services in downturn

BREWSTER MCCRACKEN

- City Council member, 2003 to present
 Attorney
- Focused on urban development issues on council (vertical mixed use, design standards)
- Running to make Austin a leader in tech and growth industries: renewable energy, digital entertainment, and more

CAROLE KEETON STRAYHORN

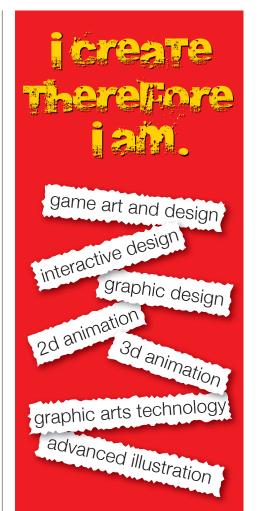
- Former Austin mayor, 1977 to 1983; state comptroller;
- gubernatorial candidate
 Pledging to shrink government, attract medical school to Austin, explore switch to "strong mayor" form of government

JOSIAH INGALLS

- > Hilton Hotel houseman; political newcomer
- Focusing on expanding support services to the homeless, greater government transparency

DAVID BUTTROSS

- Real estate salesman and developer; political newcomer
- Promising smaller government, low taxes, and public-private partnerships to address affordability



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months'

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neither supports APD's recent vampiric foray into forced blood draws on DUI suspects who refuse Breathalyzers, a controversial program that Acevedo defends under current state law.

As potential cuts loom with the new budget, Leffingwell says: "I don't want to try to apply uniform cuts across the board, although I think that would be the politically expedient thing to do, the safe thing to do, and the easy thing to do. ... I think the responsible thing to do is to take a look at prioritizing our city services and making a determination about what we absolutely have to have and what we can do without."

Strayhorn also opposes across-the-board cuts and blasted the city's recent major renewable-energy purchases - in biomass and solar - as wasteful and ill-considered, even saying she will do what she can to break the contracts. (Shudderingly, Strayhorn also says she supports a change to a "strong mayor" government instead of the current council-manager structure, and she often campaigns as though the change has already been made, and she's running for CEO.) In addition to denouncing the city's spending on "lobbyists" - the team of experts representing the city at the Legislature - she says she will cut "from the top down, not the bottom up," particularly from the mayor and council's office funding. She persists in claiming that the city budget is "\$137 million" in deficit by simply refusing to acknowledge the enterprise funding provided by the city-owned Austin Energy and Austin Water Utility. As we reported when she first made this claim, "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." In the formally nonpartisan city system, Strayhorn may not be running as a Republican - but she hasn't abandoned her GOP-style attack strategy.

Affordability and Neighborhoods: Quality of City Life

On affordability, there's not much difference between the two council members. In one candidate questionnaire, Leffingwell says the city needs to promote affordable housing - in part to combat suburban sprawl - "through the judicious use of the 2006 affordable housing bond funding," an initiative the council firmly supported. He also has promoted the city's efforts to make portions of East Austin a Homestead Preservation District, implementing optional tax-increment financing there in order to buy down rising property taxes. McCracken points to the affordability requirements in the vertical mixed-use ordinance he saw through on council - an effort designed to promote density along heavily traveled thoroughfares but will say it's too early to assess as successful in terms of affordability. "The real proof tends to be five years out," he said, adding, "All of us on the council ... really have embraced density versus sprawl as the way to go."

Both council members also supported the council's affordable-housing goals along transit-oriented developments and the creation of density bonuses requiring affordable housing in larger projects – a move council contrarians say inadvertently shrinks affordable stock by allowing dense development only with strings attached. More generally, detractors call these half-steps toward addressing a full-fledged affordability crisis.

To address neighborhood issues, McCracken has called for the next regularly scheduled bond election in 2012 to revolve around neighborhood needs and desires: sidewalks, pocket parks, soccer fields, and the like. 'Instead of three big bond projects, we should do 300 little projects," he writes on his website, using quality-of-life improvements in neighborhood plans as a guide. Leffingwell elucidated several positions at the Austin Neighborhoods Council endorsement meeting. Asked to name instances when he "supported the neighborhood position over developer interests," he cited zoning skirmishes in the Heritage neighborhood, Barton Hills, Oak Hill, and South Lamar "as they went through their VMU process. ... On virtually all the neighborhood plans. I have taken the position that, 'Let's get mutual agreement on [any specific] VMU before we proceed with that.' ... However, he's opposed to an interim 2010 bond election focused on transportation – which Leffingwell has directly called for. "We're the most congested midsize city in the United States, and we need to do something about it sooner rather than later," says Leffingwell, envisioning a bond election trained on transportation infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, bike lanes – and a rail referendum. Citing comparatively lower costs of construction and materials, he says, "During a down economy would be the absolute right time to do something like this."

McCracken currently serves on the Capital Metro board of directors, a position Leffingwell held before Mike Martinez took his place. McCracken has a slightly rosier view of the agency than his opponent, saying there was "a wholesale change in the financial team at Capital Metro a little over a year ago" and that "the previous team was not doing its job. ... It's kind of like blaming the Obama administration for this recession. They inherited it; they didn't create it." He calls the delay in the rail launch a learning-curve flub for the agency's first rail project and points to recent improvements there (including a long-delayed

Strayhorn has leapt upon negative Cap Metro headlines to denounce her opponents for not doing enough on transit – although it's plain by transit, she means highways.

There's plenty of VMU in place that will keep all the builders busy as long as we need to."

Strayhorn has had little to say either on affordability questions or the involvement of the neighborhoods either in their own planning or the city's comprehensive plan. That may be because neither issue was prominent when she last served on council or because neither is readily susceptible to simple slogans. On affordability, she appears to believe that reducing city expenditures will inevitably lead to more affordable city living (e.g., by lowering taxes), and she has called for forums on public issues outside City Hall. (In the same vein, Leffingwell has promised to hold some council meetings around the city.)

Transportation: How Do We Get There From Here?

Detractors have noted McCracken's relative silence on transportation this election – specifically on light rail, for which he was a passionate advocate less than a year ago. (His 2008 early enthusiasm – declaring rail was then ready for a November election, before funding mechanisms had been developed – was reined in by Mayor Will Wynn and Sen. Kirk Watson and then was partially blamed, probably unfairly, for the plan's demise.) McCracken insists he's still a proponent: "I'm still the only candidate in this election who will tell you this: I support light rail," he says, adding he'd work to procure federal funding. fare increase and a peer review by other transit agencies). By contrast, Leffingwell says Capital Metro is "an agency in trouble" and has called for CEO Fred Gilliam to step down, hoping his departure could smooth tattered relations between labor and management. He also supports an audit of Capital Metro and says that Strayhorn, who has sensationalized the agency's financial troubles as a campaign issue, was asked repeatedly as state comptroller to audit the agency but never did.

Strayhorn has leaped upon recent negative Cap Metro headlines to denounce her opponents for not doing enough on transit – although it's plain that by transit, she means highways. "Deficit spending while we're stuck in traffic?" complains her latest TV commercial. "Not on my watch!" Like much of Strayhorn's campaign rhetoric, it's a pure non sequitur, pitched to pooh-poohing suburbanites who simultaneously abhor high taxes, toll roads, and traffic jams – and Strayhorn doesn't bother to address how to pay for golden highways.

Buttross and Ingalls: The Also-Rans

As we enter the last week of campaigning, it seems unlikely that any of the Big Three will garner a majority in the first round. That's partly because three nonincumbents on an election match is difficult arithmetic in itself and partly because two additional minor candidates also decided to run for the council's most prominent seat, likely to pull another few percentage points from the general vote. While David Buttross and Josiah Ingalls are miles apart in campaign style and pet issues, they closely share one trait: Neither has made any visible effort to find out exactly how city government works.

Buttross is a local businessman (Buttross Realty) who calls himself a "liberal libertarian" and promises to bring "business-style" solutions to City Hall. A self-described millionaire from real estate deals across Texas, Buttross credits himself with "turning renters into homeowners" (i.e., he sold them houses) and also with some vaguely described, quasi-charitable ventures involving low-rent nursing homes and nonprofit organizations. (Indeed, judging from remarks he's made on the stump, difficulties with city permitting over some of these real estate deals appear to have at least in part motivated his mayoral run.)

On economic and budgetary matters, the Buttross mantra has been "It's Easy!" He'll "scrub the budget" (of programs generally unspecified) and forego his own mayoral salary (not a terribly big bite to the projected deficit). His specific proposals are slim and somewhat mini-Strayhorn: Focus on fundamentals like roads and public safety, cut the lobbyists, and address affordability by means of "public-private partnerships." (He also has said he'll work to get the Resource Center for the Homeless, aka the ARCH, moved out of Downtown.) Buttross says the city should consider rejecting federal stimulus dollars and specifically lauds Gov. Rick Perry's decision to reject federal unemployment-insurance funds because they come "with strings attached."

Ingalls is a hotel houseman whose expressed motivation for running is to give voice to those he considers neglected Austin citizens. In video blogs (www.youtube.com/josiahingalls), he shares the forces that shaped his candidacy; as he titled his unpublished poetic autobiography, *My Mother Did It, So Now I Am the Man That I Am.* What his mother did, according to Ingalls, was deny him an education by poorly homeschooling him. He now advocates for homeschooling standards, having declared himself president of the School for All Children Act, although it's hard to say what the org consists of other than its minimal website.

He has offered little in the way of proposals to address lower-income needs and on the stump awkwardly echoes what he hears from the other candidates. (For example, he says there should be no cuts in the public-safety budget, although that's the greatest city expense, making it difficult by contrast to address social-service needs.) Ingalls says he once lived on the streets and therefore makes combating home-lessness a major tenet of his campaign, but he hasn't proposed any specific solutions other than expanding social services and promising not to move the ARCH out of Downtown.

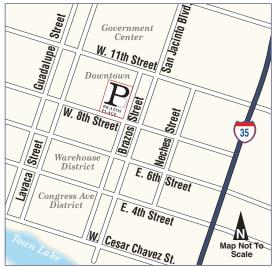
Note: This story features material from the Hustle for Mayor, a series of video interviews the Chronicle conducted with all the candidates who agreed to be interviewed. See the full interviews at **austinchronicle.com/hustle**.

CONTINUED ON P.34





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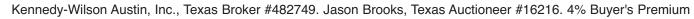
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Experience and Identity Place 1 opponents offer different bios, styles, priorities

Although there are nominally five City Council places in the wind this election season, only the mayoral and Place 1 contests offer much in the way of dramatic tension. The Place 1 race (to fill the unexpired term of incumbent Lee Leffingwell) is too close to call, because the newcomer opponents are each strong on their own merits while indirectly aiming their candidacies at quite different local demographic groups. Either Chris Riley or Perla Cavazos would bring real strengths to the council, and their differences visibly represent different elements of the Austin body politic.

Cavazos points to her service as a Planning commissioner and as a legislative aide (to Valley Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr.) as preparing her for the council. That it does – but her earlier life experience has been equally prominent on the campaign trail, as she recounts the tale of the young Hispanic girl from the Valley (San Benito) who lost her parents at an early age, was raised by her grandparents (she basically grew up in their restaurant, she often says), and went on to Stanford and the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a career in politics. The older Riley points to longer and broader experience as a Planning commissioner and Downtown commissioner with a host of organizational and professional connections and a similarly distinguished political and academic history: page to Rep. J.J. "Jake" Pickle, degrees from Harvard and UT Law, a successful career as a personal injury attorney. And just as Cavazos' personal history suggests her appeal, it's also arguable that Riley's visible bio - as one of the Downtown/ West Austin liberals who have inevitably governed the city by presumed noblesse oblige in recent decades - can be read as reflecting either known and proven credentials or, less generously, as more of the same old thing.

In that light, it seems natural that Cavazos has picked up many of the endorsements from Hispanic leadership as well as prominent local women, while Riley has garnered the large majority of the traditional neighborhood and political activist organizations.

On the pressing local issues, the candidates aren't strikingly far apart in their positions, although their priorities are different, and they emphasize different proposals. In general, Riley has offered detailed proposals ("position papers") across a wide range of city issues, while on the stump, Cavazos has emphasized a handful of priorities, with a particular emphasis on making Austin more affordable.

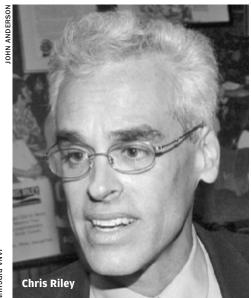
Economic crisis: Riley has called for city programs to emphasize small business and "green jobs," while also insisting that economic development go hand-in-hand with environmental protection; Cavazos calls for "affordability" for residents and small businesses across the city as addressing the crisis and reducing sprawl and has also specifically proposed "financial literacy" classes as a means to help Austinites cope with the recession.

Affordability: Cavazos argues that helping homeowners increase energy efficiency will both reduce living costs and enhance environmental conditions in the city, and she recommends both citywide affordable-housing goals and city participation in subsidized small-business health-insurance programs as ways of alleviating the affordability crisis. Riley recommends a range of affordable-housing programs, from a more "coherent template of incentives" through using



city-owned lands to more extensive publicprivate partnerships on housing programs, and he also supports "geographic distribution" of affordable housing and efforts to promote longer-term, and deeper levels of, affordable housing.

Transportation: As a carless bike rider and a founder of Austin CarShare, Riley virtually owns the transportation issue and for years has been promoting mass transit, rail transit, and related ways of discouraging automobile dependency, as projects both for increasing mobility and protecting the environment. On the other hand, from personal experience, Cavazos has pointed out that even the traditional mainstay, Cap Metro's bus system, is inadequate for many working-class residents who most heavily rely on it, and she argues that the city should focus on efficiency and affordability before it underwrites costintensive solutions.



Austin's future: Riley was born and raised in Downtown Austin, still lives there in his restored family home, founded the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and expressly sees the city's future as connected to a vibrant, planned, and densified Downtown as a central aspect of Austin's overall comprehensive planning. In her first campaign ad, Cavazos leads with "valet parking and \$500,000 condos!" as effectively altering the fundamental character of the city and thereby neglecting too many residents who are fleeing to the cheaper suburbs. Yet Cavazos lives on the near-Eastside and also belongs to the rising professional class that has contributed to the vitality of the urban core even as it tangentially raises the cost of living there. Riley emphasizes planning, design, mass transit, and environmental protection as protecting the quality of life for all Austinites; Cavazos describes affordability (in housing and all other common costs) as the No. 1 public priority and says she will make it her own priority on the council. – Michael King



PLACE 2: MIKE MARTINEZ VS. JOSE QUINTERO

In Place 2 – within the Austin body politic, long unofficially "reserved" for a Latino candidate – incumbent Mike Martinez is looking at a re-election landslide, although he's not without critics, some from seemingly surprising quarters. That's the case with challenger Jose Quintero, supported by some Eastside residents who say the city in general and Martinez in particular are not doing enough to fight gentrification.

On affordability and neighborhood issues, Martinez (with local and state officials) has championed an Eastside Homestead Preservation District, which has taken a long time getting off the

The Rest of the Dais

In addition to the mayoral race and Place 1 seat, three additional council seats will be filled on May 9. Here's a summary of the candidates and the major issues in those races. – W.D.

ground, in part due to the legislation required at the Capitol. Under the program, intended to help longtime Eastside residents stay in their rapidly appreciating homes, a land trust would use a portion of new development dollars to keep the property taxes for existing homeowners manageable by buying down future increases. But the tactic hasn't been fully embraced by all Eastside neighborhood groups, as the apprehension persists that the program is instead a covert city land grab.

On the city budget, Martinez has long been an advocate for more transparency (with some success under City Manager Marc Ott) and has proposed some controversial cost-cutting measures: for instance, asking for a cost estimate of all the city's myriad boards and commissions, with the intimation that meetings might be streamlined to reduce costs. Somewhat ironically, Martinez is responsible for the creation of another city commission. The former president of the Austin Firefighters Association, Martinez created the Public Safety Task Force to weigh in on police, fire, and EMS issues and included there a wide variety of voices, including representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union and neighborhood groups as well as traditional public-safety advocates.

Martinez is an Austin rep on the Capital Metro board of directors and had expressed an interest in becoming the board chair, partially to address the agency's tattered relationship with its labor force. Fellow board member Brewster McCracken opposed the move, and in the end, Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gomez was tapped for the post instead.

Jose "Joe Q" Quintero has had a minimal campaign presence, appearing at only a handful of forums; one was that of the Mexican-American Democrats, where he won the endorsement, as the group is controlled by a small Eastside faction sore with Martinez over neighborhood issues. On his campaign website, Quintero rehashes the 2006 Place 2 election: "Hispanics could not even get the President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce elected, Eliza May, who ran against the liberal environmental group's choice (Mike Martinez), much less grassroots candidates. ... The current 'Hispanic Representative' and my opponent has already moved out of the neighborhood as did [Raul] Alvarez before him, but the neighborhood is left suffering under the effects of the decisions made by them as it relates to land use planning." (By "the neighborhood," Quintero apparently means the lower Eastside blocks near Cesar Chavez; Martinez now lives with his son on the Northeast side, near 51st Street.) Quintero is most vocally passionate about the push for single-member council districts; Martinez has in fact been the strongest SMD advocate on council.

PLACE 5: BILL SPELMAN

A former one-term council member (1997-2000) and LBJ School professor, Bill Spelman returns with all the advantages of incumbency – mainly, no opponent. On the campaign trail, he's advocated a host of policy proposals.

Spelman has addressed affordability by suggesting the city encourage homeowners to build garage apartments and "granny flats" on their properties. Aside from creating an additional affordable property (in principle), Spelman sees the additional revenue generated for the homeowner as a way to ameliorate rising property taxes. Regarding the city's economic crisis, he seeks to crowdsource Austinites' responses. "In this difficult economy, it's critically important to ensure that city services and the budget are responsive to every neighborhood," reads a proposal on his website. "Other cities have worked to address this problem by proactively including residents in the budget process. I will bring the best practices in public budget deliberation to Austin." Spelman has also called on the Austin Police Association to turn down its

next round of scheduled raises, failing a miraculous economic rebound.

Sam Osemen

To balance neighborhood needs while stretching city dollars, Spelman has proposed a matching fund, under which neighborhoods would match the city's investments with sweat equity. (For example, the city might provide trees for a new pocket park, but planting duties fall to the volunteers.) He also proposes bringing back the Neighborhood Academy, a city outreach program that was axed in the post-9/11 downturn. He also proposes greater respect of current planning through stepped-up code enforcement.

PLACE 6: SHERYL COLE VS. SAM OSEMENE

Incumbent Sheryl Cole is all but assured a second term, although pockets of dissatisfaction mean challenger Sam Osemene may draw some protest votes.

In her first term. Cole has been most successful as an African-American community leader. (In a longstanding aspect of local political etiquette, her Place 6 seat has been reserved for black candidates.) She worked with the city to develop mobile health clinics and a permanent clinic in Northeast Austin to combat afflictions common in the black community, such as sickle-cell anemia. She also has striven to diffuse gurgling racial tensions in the city, most recently in the wake of the hysteria surrounding the 2009 Texas Relays weekend. On affordability, Cole is proud of her work with the council asking for 25% affordable housing in transit-oriented development districts, all along the Capital Metro Red Line stops (detractors will point to the general lack of forward momentum on TODs). The crowning achievement of her

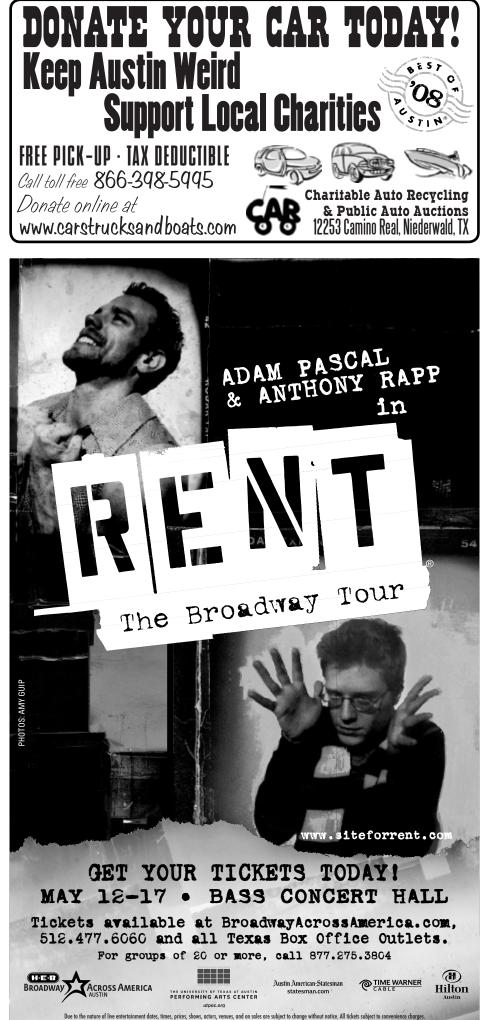
first term was getting long-Sheryl Cole dormant plans for the Waller Creek tunnel flowing by partnering with the county on the project, which will standardize flow of the creek and pull a million developable square feet out of the floodplain. It's a record she's proud of, telling the Chronicle, "You have to have development" to pay for the city's services. Cole also influences financial policy through chairing the coun-[⊑] cil's Audit and Finance Committee.

> On transit matters, Cole serves on the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board and the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District. In 2006, she sponsored a resolution with Lee Leffingwell assisting Austin CarShare by allocating to the start-up permanent parking spaces around town.

Challenger Sam Osemene is simultaneously a free-market-loving libertarian and small local business booster, seemingly unaware of the contradiction between his small-government, let-the-market-decide philosophy and his defense of city support for local business. "I strongly believe the City Council can help in promoting local businesses by keeping taxes, fees and utility rates low while at the same time promoting and maintaining effective reliable basic services," he writes, along with screeds on the Founding Fathers, the rule of law, and protecting the rights of citizens to petition their government. Osemene uses other issues as a cudgel to beat Cole; he claims her goal with the Waller Creek tunnel is to use eminent domain to force landowners out and "sell this property to developers to build condos."







L. NOWLIN GALLERY

A photographer takes her shot – at running a gallery

In the life of an artist, sometimes opportunities come only after months or even years of searching and scrounging for any possible leads. Then again, sometimes they fall into one's lap.

Earns

Austin photographer Lesley Nowlin says she didn't begin the year expecting to open her own gallery. "It wasn't me seeking out a gallery space. It was them offering it to me," she says.

In early March, local artist Wally Workman approached Nowlin about opening a gallery space in a few of the rooms adjacent to Workman's own gallery in the West End Gallery District, in a space that was previously the F8 Fine Art Gallery. Out of what seemed like the blue to Nowlin, she was faced with the choice to take up her own space in prime real estate or pass it up in favor of focusing on her own projects.

"At first I just wanted to do my own work," says Nowlin, 31. "Then I thought about it for half a day, and I thought: 'That's ridiculous. ... There's such a lack of photography galleries in Austin.'"



Young Weaver, San Juan Atitàn, Guatemala, by Lesley Nowlin

She accepted the offer and by mid-April was showing a visitor around the two rooms of Austin's newest photography gallery, opening Saturday, May 2, with a John Langmore exhibition, "Mexico." Plans are currently for the L. Nowlin Gallery to open a new show every other month, frequently showing Nowlin's own work but also featuring work by other local photographers.

Those active in Austin's art scene may note the name attached to the gallery. Lesley is the daughter of William and Bettye Nowlin, who are prominent arts philanthropists in Austin. The relationship is not one Lesley is seeking to exploit publicly, though. "I'd hope that people would care more about my work," she says with a shrug.

But she adds: "My parents encouraged me to be an artist and entrepreneur. That's really what they've shown me the last 31 years."

The L. Nowlin Gallery will concentrate on documentary photography: "Gritty, grainy, black-and-white, realistic, documentary, street photography," says Nowlin. "I don't want music; I don't want fashion." In her own work, Nowlin has developed a focus on black-and-white photography of other cultures, specifically those of Latin American countries. Plans are to feature a show later in the summer from Roberto Bear Guerra, another photographer who frequently works with Latin American subjects.

Nowlin hopes that other photographers working in a similar vein will approach her. "I really want people to come to me who fit that particular genre."

The timing may not have been her choice, but Nowlin says she's eager to make a go of it. "I look at this as more of an investment than a business," she says. "I look at this more as an experience than a profitable venture. I want to make a profit, but I don't know yet, to tell you the truth." – *Elizabeth Cobbe*

The grand opening reception for L. Nowlin Gallery, 1202 W. Sixth, will be held Saturday, May 2, 6-8pm. For more information, visit www.lnowlingallery.com (launching May 1).

AUSTIN ARTS HALL OF FAME Class of 2009

The Austin Critics Table has named the eighth group of individuals to be inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. As with the previous honorees, these seven Austinites have made significant contributions to the community over many years – some as artists, some as educators, some as patrons, some as administrators, some as a combination of these, but all as friends of and advocates for the arts. The 2009 class of inductees includes:

Bonnie Cullum (Vortex Repertory Company) - director, artistic director, company co-founder Mary Margaret Farabee (Texas Book Festival, Paramount Theatre, Charles W. Moore Foundation, et al.) - patron, activist Daniel Johnson (Texas Early Music Project/UT Early Music Ensemble) vocalist, instrumentalist, scholar, artistic director, company founder Sylvia Orozco (Mexic-Arte Museum) - artist, director, company co-founder Damian Priour - visual artist **Alexandra Nadal and Eugene** Slavin (Ballet Austin) - dancers, directors, educators

The new Hall of Famers will be recognized at the 2008-09 Austin Critics Table Awards ceremony, to be held on Monday, June 1, 7pm, at Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research. – *R.F.*

SYMPOSIUM ON EARLY TEXAS ART Discussing and displaying treasures of Lone Star art

Give Bob Rauschenberg his due. With his groundbreaking modernist combines, the Port Arthur native got a lot of people to stop thinking of Texas art as an oxymoron. If, however, that left anyone with the impression that art in the Lone Star State started with him, CASETA is around to set 'em straight. The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art exists to give many other Texas artists *their* due, from 19th century landscape painters to mid-20th century abstract expressionists. And its members will be gathering in Austin this weekend to do just that, convening their seventh annual Symposium on Early Texas Art on the University of Texas campus. In addition to presentations from scholars such as Dr. Ted Pillsbury of Heritage Auction Galleries; Ransom Center photography curator David Coleman: Museum of Fine Arts, Houston curator Bonnie Campbell; and independent curator Carl McQueary, the event will feature the Texas Art Fair, with works from 10 top-notch galleries from across the state; a free public screening of Kenneth Harrison's 1976 documentary, *Jackelope*, focusing on George Green, James Surls, and Bob "Daddy-o" Wade; and what should be a kickass artists' panel with Surls, Wade, David Bates, and Melissa Miller. Maybe most important of all is the opening of a new exhibit, "Texas Treasures: Early Texas Art From Austin Museums," which pulls together for the first time works from the collections of the Blanton Museum of Art, the Ransom Center, the Austin Museum of Art, and the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum. In two dozen samples of Texas art, curator Robert Summers, who chairs the CASETA board of directors, covers classical portraiture and landscape, social realism, and modernism, encapsulating into one show what's at the heart of CASETA's mission. You'll have until the end of summer to see it, but why wait when you can catch it while a host of Texas art's biggest fans are around to appreciate it with? *– Robert Faires*

"Texas Treasures: Early Texas Art From Austin Museums" runs May 1-Aug. 30 at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee Rd.

The seventh annual Symposium on Early Texas Art will take place May 1-3 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the UT campus. For more information, visit www.caseta.org.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY That time of year for gratis graphics

Panel 1: You, disgruntled, a dark cloud over your head. In the thought balloon to one side: "Nothing to read."

Panel 2: You, smiling, a lightbulb flashing over your head.

Panel 3: You, inside your friendly neighborhood comics shop, picking up a batch of comics that is absolutely free.

Whether you picture this scene penciled by Jack Kirby or Peter Bagge, Free Comic Book Day is bound to brighten your day. The annual graphics giveaway, now in its eighth year, will hand out more than 2 million comics across the United States, Canada, and England this Saturday, May 2. Drop by a participating comics shop, and you'll have your pick of 40 titles, from spandex slug-fests between superfriends to high school hijinks with Archie

and the gang. Marvel pimps its latest silver-screen adaptation with Wolverine: Origin of an X-Man and its current Dark Reign company storyline with a team-up of good-guy Avengers and not-so-good-guy Dark Avengers, while DC Comics primes the pump for its summer epic starring Green Lantern, Blackest Night, and offers a separate sampler of kid-friendly superhero stories from its Johnny DC imprint. In fact, Free Comic Book Day offers much in the way of gateway drugs for the younger set: Disney/Pixar's Cars, Andy Runton's all-ages indie series Owly, Sonic the Hedgehog, Teenage Mutant Ninia Turtles, Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Transformers, and G.I. Joe. For older readers, this year's highlights include a sampler from the Hernandez Brothers' Love and Rockets, a Bongo sampler with The Simpsons and Futurama comics, Erik Larsen's Savage Dragon, and a Dark Horse flip book with Aliens and Predator tales. To find the participating store nearest you, visit www.freecomicbookday.com. - R.F.

Outside the Bachs

Classical sounds new when Austin artists do the composing

BY ROBERT FAIRES

The Killer Bs must be proud of A-Town. The shades of Beethoven, Brahms, and Bach have to be busting the buttons off their embroidered tailcoats at the way Austin not only keeps the classical music of the past alive but creates so much new classical music for the present. The city is home to a phenomenal corps of local composers who seem to think they're in late-18th century Vienna and keep pumping out music for orchestras and symphonic bands, chamber pieces for instruments of all kinds, art songs, operas, cantatas, scores for dance and theatre works, soundtracks for films – several hundred over the past decade, and they keep coming. This year alone will see the premieres of three symphonies, two sets of art songs, a score to a new dance piece, a full score to a stage musical, and some two dozen chamber works. That's a staggering amount of music for a city this size.

Where does it all come from? Certainly, some credit is due the composition division at the University of Texas' Butler School of Music, where faculty composers Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham, Russell Pinkston, Bruce Pennycook, and Yevgeniy Sharlat have been busily producing their own new music even as they've been training young composers to produce theirs. But Austin wouldn't have half the new classical scene it does without the presence of Graham Reynolds, Peter Stopschinski, and P. Kellach Waddle, three composers whose talents are matched only by their prodigious outputs and shared passion for generating classical music that's as vibrant, accessible, and exciting as anything else on Austin's contemporary music scene. Alongside them are many other composers – Kathryn Mishell, Travis Weller, Rick Reed, William Meadows, James D. Norman, Brian Satterwhite, and Steve Bernal, to name a few – and groups such as the New Music Co-op, Audio Inversions, and the Austin Museum of Digital Art that work to keep locally generated new music being heard all the time.

Case in point: This weekend, the Austin Symphony premieres Dan Welcher's new symphony, while the Fusebox Festival premieres a site-specific chamber work by the Golden Hornet Project team of Reynolds and Stopschinski. And in two weeks, the Austin Chamber Ensemble will premiere Pulitzer Prize nominee Waddle's latest opus. What better time to start familiarizing yourself with Austin's 21st century counterparts to the Killer Bs – and to hear why their music is worth listening to?



After establishing his rock bona fides in the Nineties band Brown Whörnet, Stopschinski began allowing his classical side to show, first through original scores to silent films (Nosferatu, The Lost World, The Gold Rush, et al.), then through string quartets, symphonies, concertos, works for brass and percussion ensembles, choral works, dance scores, you name it. For 10 years, he and Graham Reynolds have headed the Golden Hornet Project as a vehicle for their composing works. Stopschinski teaches composition at the Austin Chamber Music Center and is resident composer at the Austin Waldorf School. where he wrote the cantata The Darkest Things Sing.

Recent Premieres: "A Cuckoo Clock in Hell": Description of an Insane Mind From Mother Night, by Kurt Vonnegut (cello/ bass duet, premiered Nov. 8, 2008; Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek); I've Never Been So Happy (workshop I) (musical score, book and lyrics by Kirk Lynn; premiered Dec. 4-13, 2008, Rude Mechs).

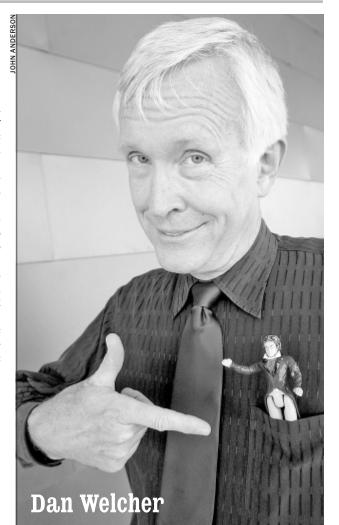
Coming Up: *PVC Surround*, for violin, cello, and piano, composed with Graham Reynolds; premiering Saturday, May 2, 2 & 5pm, in the lobby at 100 Congress; *Symphony No. 6*, premiering Sept. 26 (Golden Hornet Project); *A Tale of Two Cities*, premiering November (Austin Waldorf School).

Stopschinski: "This November I will be premiering a new musical adaptation of

Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities commissioned by the Austin Waldorf School. The script was adapted by Arthur Pittis, a longtime faculty member, and I am writing the music for orchestra, choruses, and many soloists and duets, etc. The high school students all study A Tale of Two Cities, so I have students coming up to me with suggestions: 'Sydney Carton and the seamstress should have a duet,' or, 'Make Madame Defarge really nasty!' Beginning in the fall, the entire high school will spend the second half of each day rehearsing, building the set, designing the lights, sound, etc. They will also gain the unique experience of working with the composer and writer firsthand

in the development of a new work.

"This project is really calling on all my skills as a composer. First of all, there are about 30 musical numbers and an extremely large cast so that as many students can have time onstage as possible. Second, the piece is for high school-level performers, so it can't be superhard. Third, the time period of the story requires a more refined musical language than I usually employ, and I am being asked to convey moods and emotions that are a bit of a stretch for me and require much trial and error to combine the old styles of the 18th century with a 21st century musical vocabulary without distracting from the tale."

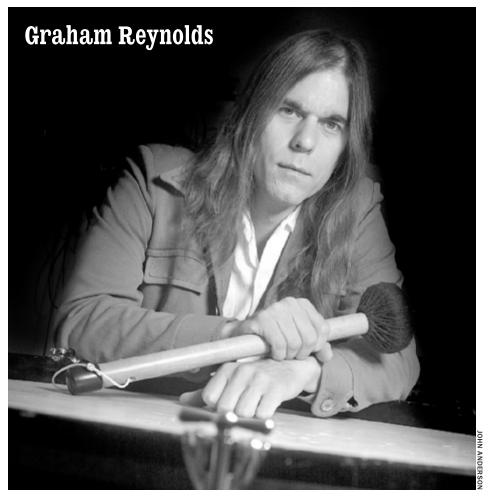


The godfather of new music in Austin. Upon arriving here, Welcher founded the New Music Ensemble in UT's School of Music and has devoted three decades to programming works by contemporary composers, including his composition students and composers on the UT faculty. All the while, he's been a most active composer himself, with more than 80 musical works to his credit, everything from symphony to opera, art song to piano solo. And those works have been performed by more than 50 orchestras. He is also the host of a weekly radio series, *Knowing the Score* (Sunday, 8pm, on KMFA 89.5FM).

Recent Premieres: *Four Personal Ads* (song suite, premiered July 11, 2008; Austin Chamber Music Center); *You Can Fool* ... (percussion quintet, premiered March 14; Percussion Galore! in Round Top); *Four More Personal Ads* (song suite, premiered April 29; Georgia State University). **Coming Up:** *Symphony No.* 5, commissioned by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, premiering May 1 & 2, 8pm, at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

Welcher: "My Symphony No. 5 is one of the biggest orchestral projects I've ever had and one of the few where everything was left completely up to me. That's why there's no subtitle and no 'storyline,' except for the fact that the Scherzo (second movement) was inspired by watching the Congress Avenue bat flight. This is a four-movement, 38-minute fleshand-blood symphony, in every sense of that word: There are themes that recur between movements; there is Big Emotion within a traditionally serious symphonic structure (not unlike that of Shostakovich or Sibelius); and at the end of the piece, the audience should feel a rush and a sense of having been on a real journey. It's like reading a contemporary novel, with characters, plot twists, and lots of atmosphere."





Soft-spoken and self-effacing, Reynolds' low-key demeanor doesn't prepare you for the intense, propulsive, jazz-energized music he cranks out so quickly and skillfully for the Golden Arm Trio and his other projects. And he's so open and willing to collaborate with anyone that he seems to be everywhere at once: scoring theatre for Salvage Vanguard or the Rude Mechs, scoring dances for Ariel Dance Theatre or Ballet Austin, scoring films for Richard Linklater or Luke Savisky, or writing symphonies, concertos, string quartets, and whatnot for the Golden Hornet Project, the musical vehicle he developed with colleague Peter Stopschinski 10 years ago.

Recent Premieres: Three Very Short Pieces for Kurt Vonnegut (cello/bass duet, premiered Nov. 8, 2008, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek); Whale Drum (premiered April 14, UT Percussion Ensemble); A Piece for Fifty Drummers (premiered April 23, Fusebox Festival); Between Steel and Stardust (Songs of Texas Women) (song suite, lyrics by Carrie Fountain; premiered April 26, Butler School of Music); Double Double: A Suite for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano (premiered April 26, Butler School of Music).

Coming Up: *PVC Surround*, for violin, cello, and piano, composed with Peter Stopschinski; premiering Saturday, May 2, 2 & 5pm, in the lobby at 100 Congress; *Trash Project*, score for a choreographed fleet of 20 trash trucks and sanitation workers with samples of Austin Solid Waste Services machinery, trucks, and people, plus a live trio of piano,

violin, and cello, premiering Sept. 12 (Forklift Danceworks); *Symphony No.* 6, premiering Sept. 26 (Golden Hornet Project).

Reynolds: "It's impossible to say how long my symphonies or other long-term compositions like my Golden Arm Trio albums take to compose. Really, I start thinking about them as soon as the previous effort is complete. Every project I do in between feeds into and serves these larger pieces that provide a chance to synthesize the vocabulary and ideas I've been working on. With every theatre or film score, chamber-music concert, or club show, I try to explore something I'm not completely comfortable with, whether it's a specific scale I'm interested in at the time or software that I'm new to or an instrument that I'm trying to understand more, in order to push myself, learn something, and stay fresh. In that way, my myriad projects overlap and support one another, as it's less like starting completely from scratch, and hopefully that results in a better end product for each. For the symphony, I might take a theme from a Rude Mechs play for one section, a riff from the ballet Cult of Color for another, and a drum beat from my UT Percussion Ensemble piece for a third. For other sections, the material will be completely new. The hope is that with the overlap in vocabulary, they won't feel like disparate ideas pasted together but rather an extended conversation consolidated into one statement. At least that's the idea. We'll know whether it works come September."

A whirlwind of composition who generates music the way you or I sneeze, Waddle already boasts close to 300 works on his résumé and may produce another 20 or so before 2009 is out. And in his case, quantity and quality play a sweet duet: Twice he's had music nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. In Austin, Waddle has made a mission of accessibility, creating the Music and a Movie series at the Alamo Drafthouse, the Library Concert series through the Austin Public Libraries, and the Synthesis of Music and Literature series at BookPeople. In addition, he plays bass with the Austin Symphony and is a published author and a serious blackjack dealer.

Recent Premieres: The Mist in the September Wine (solo for violin, premiered Sept. 30, 2008, Jessica Mathaes for Round Rock Symphony Orchestra); A Vonnegut Quintet: String Quintet No. 5 in Three Movements; Cereal Music: Sonatina for Bass and Harp; Romeo and Juliet and All Music Is Sacred: Homage to Prokofieff, Messaien, Berlioz, and Vonnegut for Solo Bass; and Espionage Whore: For Bass and Violin (premiered Nov. 8, 2008, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek); Your Midnight Blue Lies (solo for viola; premiered Jan. 23, Viola by Choice/ Audio Inversions).

Coming Up: *Of Cleaning; and From Off the Tree; and Dream Visions: Trio in Form of Four Surreal Still Lifes,* commissioned by the Austin Chamber Ensemble, premiering Thursday, May 14, Westlake United Methodist Church,

1460 Redbud Trail, and Friday, May 15, First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa; Welcome Simone, Now Please Go to Sleep: Lullaby for Solo Bass, premiering September, São Paulo, Brazil. Waddle: "Since I write so many short or medium-length pieces, a 40-minute, four-movement work was obviously a different undertaking. Definitely not like many of my solo instrument works that I often write in four to six hours! This piece is also much more dramatically surreal, with my still-tonal-based harmony going to even further boundaries of said harmony in order to create a

bit of a different sound world. "Writing for winds is *always* a challenge because as a string player, I am using all the chords and double stops for richness and added colors. For wind parts, this isn't practical so I have to strive to make the mate-

rial just as interesting without having that technique at my disposal. Plus, these pesky wind folk have to *breathe*! The bow can create an endless, unstopped sound. Even the most virtuosic circular breathers cannot completely duplicate that. Also, I am not a pianist. (Just like Berlioz and Wagner weren't.) So to also write effectively for the



keyboard without its ability to *alter* the sound once it's struck (no varying colors of vibrato or bow speed alterations to vary the color of the sound after it's heard) is always a challenge for me. Thankfully, I was writing two clarinet/violin/piano trios at once during this time. When it's something out of my usual vein, I always find writing more than one of a certain instrumentation of a piece is always a help and assists in getting *inside* the sound world of said given instrumentation.

"The biggest bummer for this piece? *I can't go to the premieres*! I'm playing with the Austin Symphony during the ACE concerts. Part of the double-edged sword of being such an active player outside my composition life."

WOODSBURNER: A NOVEL by John Pipkin

Nan A. Talese, 384 pp., \$24.95

Using a little-known event from the biography of Henry David Thoreau as a jumpingoff point, local author John Pipkin produces a novel that brings to life the pitfalls and power of unencumbered freedom. A free-

dom that the still-burgeoning young America of the mid-19th century used to its full advantage.

The opening chapter describes the factual beginning of a fire Thoreau started that raged until more than 300 acres of woods around Concord, Mass., were decimated. It's an event largely overlooked in biographies but one that Pipkin argues was a driving force for a great man struggling to find direction in life. But what starts as a pulse-quickening work of

historical fiction takes a turn to follow various characters affected by the fire.

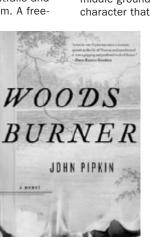
Subsequent chapters dilute the central action as we follow the likes of opium-addicted pastor Caleb Dowdy, oppressed family man Eliot Calvert, and Oddmund Hus, a lovelorn Norwegian immigrant. Pipkin takes care to round out each character, giving them backstories, and to paint a

RED APRIL: A NOVEL by Santiago Roncagliolo Pantheon, 288 pp., \$24.95

Moments before sitting down to write this review, I quite unexpectedly came across the morning's *New York Times* editorial concerning the sentencing earlier in the week of former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori to 25 years in prison for two massacres and two kidnappings during the gov-

ernment's 1990s campaign against Maoist insurgency group the Shining Path (or el Sendero Luminoso). The author of the piece, Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno. now a researcher for Human Rights Watch, expressed mixed feelings with the verdict as she recalled the chaos and subsequent fear experienced as an adolescent during that time and how relieved she felt when Fujimori's actions ultimately brought calm back to Lima. The trade-off, however, was death squads and blatant cor-

ruption. With this deliverance of justice from the court, Sánchez-Moreno suggests that in the future, Peruvians might be inclined to trust their democratic institutions, not autocratic leaders. But what happens when that violence and corruption has caused the institutions in which we put our faith to go foul? That's the disturbing crux of this compelling,



fiction

more complete picture of the New World. But it's not all doom and gloom. The fire is set up as the impetus for great acts of love, bravery, and, of course, one of early America's greatest written works.

The result leaves Thoreau to wallow in a middle ground between biography and fictive character that benefits neither the inter-

ested historian who can glean as much information of the Concord fire from a biography nor the reader who wants an interesting character to follow through the inferno. The book has an identity crisis that creates awkward transitions from the raging fire to the decidedly less immediate stories of how the characters came to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Despite pacing problems and a few ends getting tied up that could have remained loose, the America that Pipkin paints is a unique one: a

nation founded on freedom and citizens that find ways to shackle themselves or are confounded by the myriad options that America's seemingly unlimited resources engendered. There's nothing like a fire threatening lives

and livelihoods to get people out of their heads and into the woods. - James Renovitch

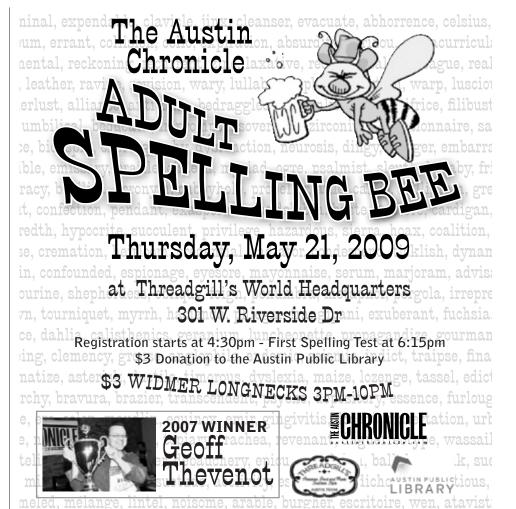
John Pipkin will read at BookPeople on Thursday, May 7, at 7pm.

2006 Premio Alfaguara de Novela award-winning novel from Peruvianborn, Barcelona-based Roncagliolo.

On its surface an exciting and fast-moving whodunit set during Lent and Holy Week of 2000, *Red April* revolves around the seemingly hapless, bureaucratic public prosecutor Félix Chacaltana Saldívar as he investigates an unusual death only to find that everyone

> he speaks to in his inquiry soon meets a grisly demise. The extreme brutality of the murders suggests there may be a resurgence of the "terrorists" (el Sendero Luminoso). It's not particularly difficult to sense otherwise, as early on, Roncagliolo is none too subtle in narrowing the field of would-be culprits. But that's hardly the point. We're given historical insight as to why this conflict was so ugly, but, more importantly, we're forced to confront the implications and aftermath of war and how

its brutality affects both the individual and the society at large. "We waged a just war, that is undeniable, but sometimes I have difficulty distinguishing between us and the enemy," bemoans Saldívar, "and when that happens, I begin to ask myself what exactly it is that we fought against." His concerns are, indeed, universal. – Jay Trachtenberg



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TELLIGENT

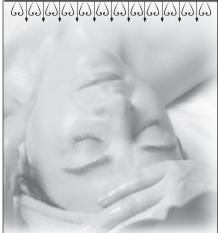
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THE ARTS STYLE

after a fashion by ANNE HARRIS

Your Style Avatar, **Stephen MacMillan Moser**, is taking a break. This week, enjoy recent posts from our style blog, **Chronique**, with guest editor (Avatarette?) Anne Harris.

PUFFY CHAIRS These days, shopping on **West Second** is quickly becoming more about home design and less about pricey chemises in miniature sizes. Elbowing in among neighbors Mercury Design Studio, IF+D, and Design Within Reach is worldwide purveyor of modern home furnishings Ligne Roset, which recently celebrated its opening in Austin. Founded in 1860 by Antoine Roset, it remains a family-run business that boasts 1,000 retail distributors and 200 exclusive stores. Billed as Ligne Roset's only "concept store," the Austin location is distinguished from its established showrooms in Dallas and Houston by a more hands-on, cash-and-carry opportunity for those new to the brand. With start-up costs higher than ever, it's a savvy gamble and a measured one, as the Rosets are betting that after one of their lovely Trojan horses makes its place in your Downtown aerie (or Central Austin metro spread), you'll be back for more. I find myself obsessing over Les Oiseaux, a vase

in white molded enameled ceramic with a blackbird "beaker," and the iconic Togo chair, designed in 1973, which reminds one of a 1930s satin comforter. Always a risk-taker, Ligne Roset has championed friendly design, which was rare for conceptual furniture in 1973, when "modern" meant hard plastic, shiny occasional chairs, and aorta-shaped light fixtures. Certainly one reason for Roset's consistency has been smart choices in collaborations with designers such as the Bouroullec brothers, who produce the practical fancy of **Clouds** for spring 2009. Teamed with Kvadrat fabrics, these modular fabric tiles can be put together to create everything from wall sculptures to room dividers. Reimagine the comfort of Grandma's sofa in the shape of an amoeba, and you'll see why Ligne Roset finds a great fit in Austin. It's hard to walk away from beautiful, organically shaped furniture in soothing, guest-room blue chenille. Napping may not be allowed in the store, but you'll be fighting the urge even as you splurge on a makeover for your own napatorium.



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). Our Chronique blog covers elements of style, including but not limited to fashion, shelter, graphic design, etc. Send tips, info, suggestions, comments, and air kisses to: chronique@ austinchronicle.com.

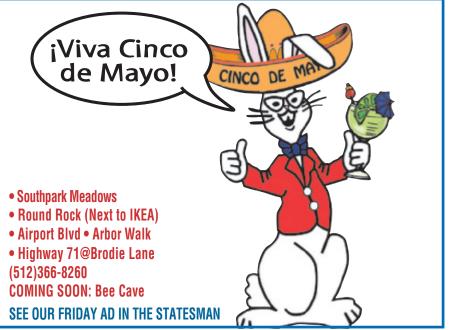
LOVE, WRIT LARGE Friends and I have stumbled upon this brand a few times and finally looked it up after I bought one of its black hoodies at **Hot Topic**. I liked the upbeat but stark graphics, and then I read the company's story. Started as a way to raise money for a friend's recovery by selling T-shirts, **To Write Love on Her Arms** (www.twloha.com) states its mission is "to encourage, inform, inspire and also to invest directly into treatment and recovery" for those struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury, and suicide. In this context, the name of the brand becomes self-explanatory. Ever stood before the black hole of a loved one's (or your own) despair, frustrated that there is nothing you can do? Now there is. Plus the clothes are cool.











SOUTH AUSTIN COMES TOGETHER FOR RUBEN RODRIGUEZ Tuesday, May 12, Antone's, 6pm-12mid

OYOYO

What would the South Austin culinary landscape be without chef Ruben Rodriguez, the man responsible for the famous chip tower surrounded by six tantalizing salsas? It would be too bland to contemplate. That's why, as soon as friends and customers discovered that the chef/owner of Evita's Botanitas has a brain tumor and mounting medical expenses, folks began lining up to help out. Susan Antone generously made her club available for a big party, musicians who frequent the restaurant (Steven Fromholz, the Sunset Valley Boys, Leeann Atherton, Zydeco Blanco, Gurf Morlix, the Texana Dames, Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights, and the Blue Tuesday band with a very special guest) volunteered to play, and auction items began to appear. Ruben himself insists on preparing a mouthwatering appetizer buffet, and Flan Queen Marta Guzman has agreed to come out of retirement and make flan for this one party. Local pie mavens will donate their best pies for the live pie auction, and the silent auction will feature gift items, services, cookbooks, restaurant meal packages, jewelry, and clothing. (Donations for the pie and silent auctions are still being accepted at food@austinchronicle.com.) Tickets for the benefit are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, and cash donations will

recently

reviewed

AMERICAN CAFE: THE GOOD KNIGHT

The mixology is right here, and so is the

menu. Fourteen items including meat

loaf and fried tomatoes transcend bar

not in the classic sense. More than 70

dishes are displayed in numerous food

stations, all prepared in-house and from fresh ingredients. 4715 Hwy. 290 W.,

fare. 1300 E. Sixth, 628-1250.

ITALIAN: CANNOLI JOE'S A buffet but

892-4444. www.cannolijoes.com

also be accepted. (Also, send checks to Ruben Rodriguez Medical Fund, 6400 S. First Ste. B, Austin, TX 78745.) Join us for great Austin music, fantastic food, and a South Austintatious opportunity to help a friend in need. – *V.B.W.*

VINHO VERDE

One of the nicest white wines for a spring quaff comes from the Portuguese region of Vinho Verde (veen-yo vare-djay). If you imagine the Iberian Peninsula as a head, the Vinho Verde region is at the forehead. The area makes the Seattle-Portland, Ore., axis look positively desertlike, so the grapes never get really ripe, rendering wines with bracing acidity and a low alcohol content, all the better for taking big sips. They also have just the slightest touch of fizz, just enough to tickle the tongue.

White Vinho Verde can be made from a blend of up to 20 grapes, though, in general, winemakers use Loureiro, Azal Branco, Arinto, Trajadura, and Alvarinho. That last grape has become quite famous (and expensive) in its Spanish version – Albariño from neighboring Rías Baixas. Which brings us to Vinho Verde's principal attraction: price.

Aff de One of the best versions coming to Austin is called **Twin Vines Vinho Verde**, a product of the José Maria da Fonseca winery, founded in 1834. All the charm you could ever hope for, with delightful light lemon and floral aromas and lovely flavors that will keep your attention, all for \$6.99. Bartholomew Broadbent is the son of Michael Broadbent, widely considered one of the world's top wine experts. That reputation buys a lot of access, so Bartholomew has been able to hunt the world for small

but incredible vineyards and wineries. His **Broadbent Vinho Verde** focuses on the Loureiro, Trajadura, and Arinto grapes, and he produces an even lighter wine, albeit one with subtle aromas and gorgeous balance. It runs

\$9.99. Try either wine with steamed clams, flounder, or all by itself.

Twin Vines is available at many of the area H-E-Bs, while the Broadbent Vinho Verde is at Spec's and Central Market. - Wes Marshall

Cinco de Mayo Event Menu May 3-9

- Start the holiday festivities early at Cuatros patio (1004 W. 24th, 243-6361, www.cuatrosaustin.com) with live music and special prices on pork and carne asada tacos, Mexican beers, and selected cocktails. Sunday, May 3, 11am-2am.
- Bars at Roaring Fork (701 Congress, 583-0000; 10850 Stonelake, 342-2700) and Eddie V's (301 E. Fifth, 472-1860; 9400-B Arboretum Blvd., 342-2642) restaurants tip their hats to our Mexican neighbors with a menu of cocktail specials to be served Sunday-Saturday, May 3-9.
- La Condesa (400-A W. Second, 499-0300) and Lamberts Downtown Barbecue (401 W. Second, 494-1500) celebrate Cinco de Mayo Mexico City-style with a block party between Guadalupe and San Antonio streets, offering barbecue, Mexican street fare such as roasted corn, tacos, raspas, Mexican beers, and margaritas, plus live music and a moonwalk. Some area shops will participate in the festivities, as well. Free. Tuesday, May 5, 5-10pm.
- Fish City Grill (4616 Triangle Blvd.) will donate 15% of its entire day's sales proceeds to benefit the nonprofit therapy-dog organization Divine Canines (www.divinecanines.org). Tuesday, May 5, all day.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

We have our bimonthly story meetings in coffee shops for convenience, and when we were gathered around a table recently at Fair Bean Coffee (2210 S. First, 444-2326, www.fairbeancoffee.com), one topic of conversation was the proliferation of coffee shops and coffee businesses in Austin neighborhoods. With the recent debut of Once Over Coffee Bar (2009 S. First, 326-9575, www.onceovercoffeebar.com), where serious baristas Jenée and Rob Ovitt specialize in the Frenchpress preparation of selected quality single-origin coffees, there are now three coffee shops on South First between Elizabeth and Oltorf and another four or five along South Congress between Riverside and West Mary. We stopped counting before considering the same stretch of South Lamar but can report that a new outlet of international chain the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (221 S. Lamar. www.coffeebean.com) is set to open just south of the river in June. Now, some of these places sell food and/or merchandise as well as coffee, but many really only offer coffee beans, coffee/tea beverages, and pastries they've purchased wholesale, so the question we were considering was this: Just how many businesses can survive on the proceeds of coffee beans, coffee drinks, and pastries while essentially offering free Wi-Fi and office space to legions of laptop users? I'm really curious about the answer to that question, but the coffee shop explosion does appear to be generating sales for local pastry shops and wholesale bakers... Speaking of new coffee businesses, two new roasting operations have set up in the midcity area. Longtime Austin coffee maven Travis Kizer has struck out on his own with Owl Tree Roasting (3421 N. I-35, 334-9211, www.owitreeroasting.com), in a converted 1950s Texaco station alongside the northbound freeway access road. Kizer is custom-roasting beans for Progress Coffee and other shops and considering eventually opening a retail location of his own. Also new is online delivery service Pilot House Coffee Roasters (www.pilothousecoffee.com), which custom roasts in small batches and delivers fresh-roasted beans directly to the customer via scooter in selected neighborhoods... Owners of the **Blue Bonnet** Cafe (211 U.S. 281, Marble Falls, 830/693-2344, www.bluebonnetcafe.net) celebrated the restaurant's 80th anniversary this week by publishing an expanded and updated version of their popular cookbook, Still Cookin' After 80 Years (\$12.95). Grab one the next time you stop in there for a great slice of pie!... I probably do spend too much time thinking about how much Austin has changed in the years since I took on this job, but the magnitude of the changes was brought into sharp focus with the passing of two legendary Austin restaurateurs in recent weeks. Ralph Moreland created a successful local chain of family-friendly restaurants in mid-20th century Austin known as the Holiday House. In addition to selling good, simple food at affordable prices, Moreland provided comfortable neighborhood hangouts for generations of young people and gave many of them their first restaurant jobs. And long before the Northwest Hills area became a busy Austin suburb, crusty barkeep Sarah "Nina" Ransom barked the same admonition to cedar choppers, hippies, and frat boys alike when they came to drink beer, play the jukebox, and appreciate the sunsets from her Dry Creek Cafe deck: "Bring that bottle back down here, or you won't get another beer!" They will both be missed.



46 La Condesa, Trading Post Wine Bar & Grill

48 Restaurant Roulette

e Evita 3 Botaintas

FOOD

LA CONDESA 400-A W. Second, 499-0300 Monday-Sunday, 11am-3pm & 5-11pm; bar service all day www.lacondesaaustin.com

Colonia Condesa is one of Mexico City's hippest neighborhoods, where legendary taquerias stand next to cool bars and restaurants that serve cutting-edge cuisine and cocktails, reflective of Mexico's regional diversity and current culinary trends. This style of cuisine, known in Mexico City as neo-Mexicano, has arrived in Austin at the aptly named La Condesa restaurant and bar in the 2nd Street District.

The modern building, designed by the dynamic local architect-designer duo of Michael Hsu and Joel Mozersky, screams cool from every corner. Inspired by Latin American architects and modeled after some of Mexico City's trendiest eateries, the ample space features concrete, stone, metal, and glass, softened with hanging drapes and lovely plant arrangements. The bar, situated on a second level to the right of the entrance, includes a mini lounge and a tiny balcony for alfresco cocktails. The coolest part of the building, however, is the carefully restored, historically protected underground vault, which belonged to the original J.P. Schneider general store, built in the 1860s. Be sure to ask for a tour.

The bar boasts a small but carefully curated wine list, a selection of more than 80 premium tequilas, and insanely good cocktails created by renowned mixologist Junior Merino. The cocktails feature a balanced combination of salty, sweet, sour, and spicy and are garnished with a variety of housemade infused salts. My personal favorite (at least at the moment) is the Alma Blanca: habanero-infused Chinaco blanco tequila, ginger essence, aloe vera-lemongrass syrup, pineapple juice, *hoja santa*, and a hibiscusrose-infused salt rim. For those looking for something a little simpler yet just as delicious, the Margarita La Condesa is made with fresh lime, Damiana liqueur, fresh pineapple juice, agave nectar, and a cactus salt rim. With the premium mezcales, the restaurant serves a shot of spicy *sangrita* and *sal de gusano*, a very traditional Oaxacan accompaniment of salt ground with dried agave worms. It's smoky, earthy, delicious.

La Condesa's cuisine draws from various regions throughout Mexico, using both traditional and current cooking techniques and ingredients, many of them locally sourced. Dishes range from authentic street food to classic cantina staples to sophisticated specialties. Chef Rene Ortiz, a native Texan who grew up in San Antonio, has honed his skills all over the world, including Europe, Australia, and New York City, where he opened db Bistro Moderne with Daniel Boulud and worked alongside Alain Ducasse at Mix and at Palladin with chef Jean-Louis Palladin. Before returning to Texas to open La Condesa, he was at La Esquina restaurant in New York, voted best new Mexican restaurant in Time Out New York's 2006 Eat Out Awards.

His menu begins with a variety of *botanas* meant for sharing. The *huaraches de hongos y huitlacoche* (\$14) are crispy, oval masa boats topped with wild mushrooms, huitlacoche, Oaxaca cheese, epazote, and truffle oil. All the taquitos are exquisite, but here's your chance to be adventurous and order the *chapulines* (\$12), a Oaxacan specialty of tiny fried grass-

hoppers (not crickets!) served the traditional way: on a hot tortilla with guacamole and green salsa (those Oaxacans sure like to eat their insects). The taquitos de médula con queso (\$8) are sinful and yet 100% traditional: roasted bone marrow with poblano strips and chile morita salsa. Another of my favorites is the tostadas de pulpo (\$11), three tiny, freshly fried tortillas topped with perfectly grilled octopus in a Veracruz-style sauce of tomatoes, green olives, capers, and chile piquín. A variety of ceviches is available, from the traditional Acapulco (\$12) to the nouveau hamachi v toronia (\$14), sashimi-style vellowtail with grilled grapefruit, lime, cilantro, and chicharrones – buttery, crunchy, citrusy, and refreshing.

I have also had a couple of stellar entrées. The costillas de puerco (\$18) are one of the least Mexico City-like dishes but finger-licking good nonetheless: sweet-spicy guava-glazed pork ribs, served with pickled red onions and a side of fried plantains topped with salsa verde, queso fresco, and cilantro. The killer, upscale version of barbacoa (\$26) is the real Central Mexico deal: no cow head here. Instead, spiced lamb chop and shoulder are baked to tender perfection in a maguey leaf, served with a side of *esquites* (a common street dish of corn kernel, onion, epazote, and lime juice), nopalitos salad, and a jalapeño-mint *recado* for a nontraditional touch. For a special occasion, with 72 hours notice, La Condesa will make *cochinillo*, a whole roasted suckling pig served family style.

Pastry chef Laura Sawicki is also creating some incredible desserts. A Culinary Institute of America graduate, she worked at various NYC restaurants before relocating to Austin.



For something completely different, try her *tarta de chocolate salada*: a caramel and ganache tart with coarse salt, crunchy sweet amaranth, and coconut ice cream. Brunch is served on weekends, and although I have yet to go, I am looking forward to it. I usually spend my time at the bar noshing on botanas and getting to know the fantastically efficient and friendly staff. Take it from a native of Mexico City – comparing La Condesa with any other Austin Mexican restaurant is comparing apples and oranges. They're actually resetting the bar for any eatery in Austin.





TRADING POST WINE BAR & GRILL 12701 Hwy. 71 W. in Bee Cave, 512/428-5727 Tuesday-Friday, 5-10pm; Saturday, 8am-noon & 5-10pm; Sunday, 8am-noon www.tradingpostbeecave.com

The community of Bee Cave is growing faster than Twitter, and the one small remaining outpost of antiquity was Jim Bob's Barbecue. Widely appreciated for making some of the best breakfast tacos in the town, Jim Bob's barbecue business tended to drop off as the day wore on. The owners decided to move on in life, but thankfully, the new owners, Jaime and Jennifer Sudderth and Buddy Bell, chose to keep the charming facade. They also brought a welcome upgrade to the interior and a new menu featuring high-end comfort food allied with a thoughtful wine list (all available by the glass or the bottle) and a full bar. The owners are obsessed with making sure the customers are happy, something that becomes apparent as soon as you walk in. No matter what the size of the crowd, both the Sudderths keeps their eyes on every table, casually directing the staff to pay attention to the details. The waitstaff seems to have been chosen based on friendliness and eagerness, with no whiff of stiff formality. Chairs and tables are comfortably sized and far enough apart, and the sound level is managed well enough for an intimate conversation.

We've been twice, once on a late Friday evening, the other visit right in the middle of the weekend rush. In both cases, all the tables were full. At the later arrival time, about 8:30pm, we waited only seconds before being shown to a table. At our earlier arrival of 6:30pm, there was a short line waiting to get in. Reservations are a good idea.

The food philosophy comes from the owners' backgrounds. Jaime had worked for his father's catering company, and then he and Bell each owned an Outback Steak House. They decided that the Bee Cave area was ripe for a place with simply prepared meats and fish, emphasizing the best ingredients they could get, offered at affordable prices. As a result, the menu here changes almost weekly, with additions and subtractions based on product availability and customer response.

The philosophy seems to be working. Jaiden's Crab Cakes (\$9.90) feature lots of perfectly fresh crab mixed with just enough filler to hold the cakes together, then lightly sautéed and served with a touch of simple red-pepper coulis. The two good-sized cakes paired with a salad make a delicious light dinner. For a meal big enough for a Lake Travis offensive lineman, there's the chicken portabella pasta (\$16.90), a huge portion of

penne pasta in a rich white-wine-and-cream sauce, loaded with tomatoes, olives, mushrooms, and grilled chicken breast. My wife made three very happy meals from one serving.

The tastiest entrée was a daily special of pork chops (\$16.90) with roasted garlic, sautéed mushrooms, and an unfussy Marsala sauce. The pork chops were cooked just past medium rare, velvety tender and very moist. Beef lovers should try the rib eye (\$20.90), 14 ounces of well-marbled beef, simply seasoned and grilled exactly right. There is no place for bad beef to hide when the preparation is this simple, and the steak here was as good as you'll find at most Downtown steak houses. The Trading Post TTP Salad (\$4.90) is a nice amalgam of spring mix, olives, tomatoes, and pine nuts, dressed in a vinaigrette. A smaller version comes free with the entrées.

The Trading Post wine list is made up of 25 nicely chosen wines with a few nice surprises, such as a Mapema Malbec (\$9.50 a glass/\$36 a bottle), a Becker Vineyards Texas Iconoclast Cabernet (\$5.50/\$20), and a Yalumba Viognier (\$8.50/\$32). People who love big-boned California Chardonnay should note the Trading Post offers the Rombauer (\$15/\$60), a wine that's usually snapped up by restaurants before it ever hits a store shelf. My choice for a tasty wine to complement all the courses is the Joseph Phelps Innisfree Cabernet (\$8/\$30). This is a junior bottle to Phelps' \$200 Insignia, and it uses grapes from the same vine-yards as well as the same winemaker. It's the bargain of the list.

The Trading Post is a welcome addition to the Bee Cave area. Given the recent move of Zoot to the area, local residents are feeling pretty well taken care of, and for those folks who miss Jim Bob's sumptuous breakfast tacos, the Trading Post has decided to keep selling them on weekends from 8am until noon. – Wes Marshall

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DOWNTOWN

- AMERICAN CAFE: CHARLIE'S AUSTIN Check out the Blue Plate Special at Austin's oldest gay bar, as well as the regular menu of burg ers and sandwiches. No food is served on Saturday, but come back on Sunday for free brisket from 11am to 2pm. 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com. \$
- BARBECUE: BOWIE STREET BBQ AT WHOLE FOODS MARKET All-natural Texas-style barbecue in a lunch-counter setting, featuring house-made beef andouille, chicken, pulled pork, baby back ribs, and beef brisket. Available both by the plat plate and by the pound. 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. www.wholefoodsmarket.com \$
- DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA specializes in the East Coast style of soft and gooey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner. 704 Congress, 480-8440. www.cozzolis.com. \$\$
- FINE DINING. FRENCH: AQUARELLE RESTAURANT FRANÇAIS Fine dining in a quietly understated atmosphere. Traditional French service and preparations, often using fresh, local ingredients. A special-occasion place with china, crystal, and romantically dim lighting. 606 Rio Grande. 479-8117 vww.aquarellerestaurant.com. \$\$\$\$
- FINE DINING, SEAFOOD: EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Fine dining in a supper-club atmo sphere and live music almost every night. Eddie V's specializes in fresh seafood, oysters, and prime beef. Try the Rose Flirtini. 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860, www.eddiev.com, \$\$\$\$
- offers American favorites prepared with local organically grown fruits, vegetables, and meats whenever possible. Let them throw some Texas pecan wood on the grill for you. 701 E. 11th, 478-1111. \$\$\$\$
- bistro serves a great selection of about 400 hand-picked wines, and the small menu offers fascinating food at reasonable prices. Don't miss the house bacon on either the charcute rie plate or the panini. 202 W. Cesar Chavez, 478-2783 www.tasteselectwines.com \$\$
- PUB GRUB: THE TAVERN Austin's most traditionpacked venue for sports viewing and a popular watering (and eating) hole for many decades. The building has been upgraded and so have the menu and food. More than 52 TVs. 922 W. 12th. 320-8377.

SEAFOOD: MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S This Portland, Ore.-based chain offers daily changing menus drawn from a fresh list of seafood flowr

in from around the globe. Great apple pie. 401 Congress, 236-9600. www.mccormickandschmicks.com \$\$\$\$ SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: TEXAS CHILI PARLOR An Austin legend serving good burgers, sandwich-es, Tex-Mex, and, of course, chili in many varieties to satisfy all tastes, even vegetarian. Laid-back

atmosphere with a very eclectic patronage. 1409 Lavaca, 472-2828. www.cactushill.com/TCP/home.htm. \$

breakfast business for 50 years, Cisco's still serves good migas, huevos rancheros, and hot hiscuits with healthy doses of Austin political history. 1511 E. Sixth, 478-2420. \$ BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: PROGRESS COFFEE

AMERICAN CAFE: CISCO'S BAKERY In the

- serves Fair Trade, shade-grown organic coffee in a revamped warehouse showcasing some of Austin's best artwork. The menu walks a tasty line between deli standards and gourmet innovation. One block east of I-35. 500 San Marcos, 493-0963. www.progresscoffee.com. \$
- BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: OUACK'S MAPLEWOOD **BAKERY** Find the same great pastry and sand-wich offerings as the Hyde Park location, as well as the addition of grilled sandwiches and pizzas. 1400 E. 381/2. 538-1991. www.quacksaustin.com. \$
- BARBECUE: LEWIS' BAR-B-Q Step up to the window of this unassuming concrete shack for a juicy chopped-beef sandwich or a link of smoky sausage, and then have a seat at the picnic tables. 1814 Harvey, 473-2225. \$
- INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: LAS CAZUELAS Look for a dozen egg dishes for early risers, as well as machacado and nopales, enchiladas potosinas, and plenty of Tex-Mex standards. 1701 E. Cesar Chavez, 479-7911. \$

SOUTH AMERICAN: CASA COLOMBIA Travel a mile east of I-35, and you'll find authentic Colombian flavors in freshly prepared beef chicken, and tilapia dishes. 1614 E. Seventh 495-9425 www.casa-colombia.com \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI This place is the royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul-food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600. www.eatatgenes.com. \$

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

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

TEX-MEX: TRES AMIGOS RESTAURANT & CANTINA Find all conceivable combos of menu items, plus specials such as chile rellenos, chimichangas, Veracruz fish, and steak tampiqueño. 7535 Hwy. 290 E., 926-4441. www.tresamigos.com. \$\$

LAKE

AMERICAN CAFE: POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL A place with music mojo and damn fine burgers This place channels old Austin music treasures like Soan Creek and Checkered Flag Don't miss the Poodie Burger. 22308 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0318. www.poodies.info. \$

FINE DINING: HUDSON'S ON THE BEND A lakeside fine-dining fixture for two decades special-izing in game of all descriptions: rabbit to rattlesnake, pheasant to frogs' legs. The ambience is romantic, too. 3509 RR 620 N., 266-1369. www.hudsonsonthebend.com. \$\$\$\$

ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original has been pleasing lake dwellers and Hill Country residents with its traditional Italian-American recipes for more than 50 years. 1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936. www.ciolas.com. \$\$\$

NORTH

AMERICAN CAFE: NORTH BY NORTHWEST

RESTAURANT & BREWERY Start with a beer-tast-ing tray, and then move on to roasted garlic bulbs with goat cheese. Don't miss Tuesday's special: bone-in pork loin, a dish that will make you proud to be a carnivore. **10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N.**, 467-6969. www.nxnwbrew.com. \$\$

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

ITALIAN: NORTH Don't miss favorites like jumbo lump crab cakes with basil and roasted redpepper aioli, oven-roasted Chilean sea bass with an eggplant napoleon, or jumbo shrimp with Port demi-glace. 11506 Century Oaks Terrace, 339-4400. www.foxrestaurantconcepts.com/north.html \$\$\$

JAPANESE: HAYASHI SUSHI & GRILL Fresh, neverfrozen fish is flown in daily for this sophisticated, upscale sushi house. 1019 W. University Ave., 868-9686. www.hayashigrill.com. \$\$\$

PAN-ASIAN: CHON SOM Go for the ahi tuna tapas or for a New York strip. The presentation is beautiful and so are the prices. 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy #109, 989-5559. www.chonsom.com. \$\$

PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. **12001 Burnet Rd.**, 832-5550. www.mangiapizza.com. \$\$

SEAFOOD: OPAL DIVINE'S MARINA This menu fea tures some seasonal seafood items in addition to favorite Opal's staples. 12709 MoPac N., 733-5353. www.opaldivines.com. \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: COOL RIVER CAFE An elegant steak house and grill with a ski-lodge atmo-sphere and a full bar. Menu items have a Southwestern flair. 4001 Parmer, 835-0010. www.coolrivercafe.com. \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: VAZOUEZ RESTAURANT Regulars would rise at dawn for the breakfast here, but they swear by the enchiladas as well. 915 E. Braker 837-2753. \$

VIETNAMESE: PHO HOANG The broth here is ter-rific, but it is meat-based, so this isn't a choice for vegetarians. Some say it serves the best pho in town. 2521 Rutland #400, 339-6002. www.pho-hoang.com. \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

AMERICAN CAFE: HYDE PARK BAR & GRUU Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, such as fish, chicken, and 4206 Duval St., 458-3168 www.hydeparkbarandgrill.com. \$\$

CONTINUED ON P.50







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Juli



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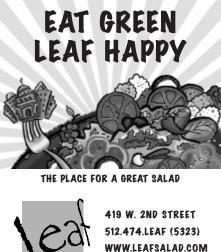
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RESTAURANT ROULETTE CONTINUED FROM P.48

BARBECUE: POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE The newest location of this Fifth Street favorite has the same great grub. Don't miss the desserts. 1000 E. 41st, Hancock Center, 302-1200. www.pokejos.com. \$ CHINESE JAPANESE PEI WEI ASIAN DINER A

sleek, diner atmosphere and affordable favor-ites keep us coming back for lunch and dinner. Choose your own combinations for no and rice bowls. 1000 E. 41st (Hancock Center), 382-3860. www.peiwei.com. \$ n combinations for noodle DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NEWORLDELI This con-

cept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than \$5. 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170. ewworlddeli.com. \$

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

PAN-ASIAN: MAMA FU'S ASIAN HOUSE Drop by this locally owned chain to eat in or take out; the ingredients are fresh, and the service is great. 4615 N. Lamar #307, 637-6773. www.mamafusaustin.com. \$\$ PIZZA: THE PARLOR HYDE PARK The jukebox may

be different, but expect the same fresh, innova tive pizzas at this new outpost of the popular punk parlor on North Loop. 4301 Guadalupe 323-0440. www.myspace.com/theparlor. \$

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

THAI: THAI VILLAGE Enjoy a classy but still afford-able meal and very artful food presentation. 6406 N. I-35 #1550, 452-3888. www.thaivillageaustin.com. \$\$ VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN

A welcoming vegetarian refuge since 1979, the completely vegetarian menu is a mix of Southern and Tex-Mex and includes a selection of soups, salads, and heartier fare. 4215 Duval St., 451-3994, www.motherscafeaustin.com, \$\$

heavy emphasis on local, organic vegetables here, as well as free-range, grass-fed, pastured, and hormone-free meat. 1807 South First St., 442-2500. www.somnioscafe.com. \$\$ BARBECUE: UNCLE BILLY'S BREW & OUE The barbecue sauce is outstanding on tender sau

sage and ribs. After a day at Zilker Park, enjoy great service and cold beer on tap by the folk Live Oak Brewery. 1530 Barton Springs Rd. 476-0100. www.unclebillysaustin.com. \$ CHINESE: CHINA EXPRESS CHINESE

RESTAURANT If you don't want to shell out more than six or seven bucks for a decent, filling Chinese dinner, this is a good bet, Try the sesame chicken. 1913 E. Riverside, 448-3633. \$

CHINESE: FIRE BOWL CAFE Asian stir-fried rice bowls featuring your choice of veggies, beef, chicken, pork, shrimp, or salmon. 5601 Brodie 899-8998. www.firebowlcafe.com. \$ CHINESE: TIEN JIN CHINESE RESTAURANT This

place will cook Cantonese any way you want it. Easy to reach from anywhere in town, the specialties are great service, good prices, and delicious chow. Don't miss the Hong Kong-style lemon chicken. 4534 West Gate Blvd. #105, 892-6699. www.angelfire.com/tx2/ alphaomega/TIEN.html. \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN TEX-MEX: POLVOS We're addicted to the tacos, rolled by hand and packed with tasty fillings (try the al pastor). 2004 S First 441-5446 www.polvos.citysearch.com. \$\$

JAPANESE: SEOUL RESTAURANT & DK SUSHI Beautifully presented, moderately priced sushi crafted from the freshest cuts of fish in spare, clean environs. The creamy vellowtail deserves the most attention. 6400-C S. First. 326-5807. www.dksushi.com. \$\$\$

SEAFOOD: CATFISH PARLOUR When the gang's hungry, take a crowd to eat in, or arrange to have them cater your next outdoor fish fry.
 4705 E. Ben White, 443-1698. www.catfishparlour.com. \$\$

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CAFE The menu features appetizers and salads, sandwiches, burgers named for local celebrities, and blue plate specials such as meat loaf and chicken-fried steak. Try a glass of Lasso Lemonade, made with Tito's Vodka. 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. www.patsyscowgirlcafe.com. \$\$ TEX-MEX: EL MESON TAQUERIA Plop down at the

table with a Modelo and some fiery salsas while you wait on the tacos al carbon and the chiles rellenos en nogada to arrive. 5808 Burleson, 416-0749 \$\$

UT

AFRICAN: ASTER'S ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT In addition to the vegetarian selections, you'll find fragrant chicken, lamb, and tender beef. Don't forget to take home the special Ethiopian sauces and a bundle of iniera bread. 2804 N. I-35. 469-5966. www.astersethiopian.com. \$\$

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD The bright, comfortable dining room is populated with students enioving Hyde Park fudge cake Hobbit Bread, hearty sandwiches, soups, and salads. Great for breakfast. **2900 Rio Grande**, 499-0544. www.texasfrenchbread.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 sand-wiches, by the plate, and by the pound. 512 W. 29th, 477-1651. w.rubvsbba.com. \$

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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.boomerangspies.com. \$

MIDDLE EASTERN: KISMET CAFE Serving Mediterranean-American cuisine, Philly subs, gyros, and salads. 411 W. 24th, 236-1811. www.kismetcafe.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. \$\$ TEX-MEX: HORNITOS TEX-MEX CAFE You'll get a

square deal and a fresh meal at this no-frills Tex-Mex spot. 3704 N. I-35, 524-4195. \$ THAI: THAI NOODLES ETC. HOUSE A good

selection of Thai street foods, including noodle souns dry noodle bowls and stir-fried noodles. 2602 Guadalupe, 494-1011. \$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: PANERA BREAD In addition to the sandwich-es, soups, and hand-tossed salads, you'll find tasty baked-egg souffles and pastries 2805 Bee Caves Rd., 732-0234. www.panerabread.com. \$\$

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

BURGER JOINT, PUB GRUB: SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL ESPN Gameplan every Saturday while you choose from an enormous list of imported beers and enjoy generous meal portions. Check out the 11-foot screen of any of the other flat-screens for both satellite and cable coverage. 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443. www.sherlockspub.com. \$\$

INTERNATIONAL: THE GROVE WINE BAR & KITCHEN The wine list offers 50 wines by the glass or 250 wines by the bottle, for either on-premise drinking or to take home. Make your selections, order the bruschetta plate (\$9.50) and you'll have a very nice small meal. 6317 Bee Caves Rd., 327-8822. www.grovewinebar.com. \$\$

ITALIAN PIZZA: ORIGINAL DAVID'S BRICK **OVEN** serves some of the best home-style, thin-crust pizzas in town with a personal touch 1608 W 35th 453-4330 www.brickovenon35th.com. \$\$

JAPANESE: FUJIYAMA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI BAR serves fresh seafood and Black Angus beef prepared on state-of-the-art smoke less hibachi grill tables. 4815 W. Braker, #580, 795-8333. ouse.com \$\$\$ amaiai









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52 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE MAY 1, 2009 austinchronicle.com

Tommy Wiseau (right), director and star of 2003 flop *The Room*, will appear at the

Alamo Ritz on May 6.

screens

MAKING 'ROOM' IN THE CULT CANON

Tommy Wiseau's so-bad-it's-sublime debut feature BY MARC SAVLOV

Tommy Wiseau, the enigmatic director, star, and co-executive producer of 2003's independently shot *The Room*, is emphatic when it comes to defending his hypnotically off-kilter un-mellow-drama. Its rapidly expanding cult audience ranks the film right up there with *Troll 2* and *Plan 9 From Outer Space* in terms of exquisite awfulness, but *The Room* – a bizarre love triangle of red-hot passions and stone-cold line readings – is far from the worst movie ever made ... or, at least, so says Wiseau, speaking from his home in Los Angeles in the same syntactically garbled Eastern European patois he uses in the film. Wiseau says it's French-ish, by way of New Orleans, but it sounds more like Udo Kier talking around a mouthful of loose fangs.

"I'll be honest with you," says Wiseau. "People don't want to give me credit for only one reason, and that is because they *know*, these critics who are part of a big elite, that what I am saying to you is, 'When the credit is due, give the credit.' Nothing happens by accident if you make the movie, especially if you look at the format."

What? Wait!

"Yes, in this case, *The Room*, we are shooting on 35 millimeter as well as HD, and again, that was not accident. The reason for it was because, long story short, people were confused, seven years ago, about when to use the HD. We did not have the info that we have right now, as you know. *The* *Room* is *only* feature movie shot in two format at same time. I'm just telling you because this is the fact!"

That blending you because this is the tast. That blending of crispy HD pastels and diffused, 35mm flesh tones – Wiseau, as the clueless cuckold Tommy, inserts his character into several seemingly endless softcore sex sequences – gives *The Room* the aura of Douglas Sirk meets early John Waters. There's also more than a little (presumably) Godardian experimentalism in the manic, hypersexual miasma that drifts through the narrative like a pall from a free-floating sexual-anxiety bonfire.

Does Wiseau claim Godard as a direct influence on his work? Does he claim *any* cinematic precursors?

"I influence myself; that's number one. I'm consistent with my answers. However, to answer your question, I'm fond of Tennessee Williams, Orson Welles, and the others. Directing is a provocation of the director directly to the audience, and the audience are sucking into it. It's extremely difficult to do. [Regarding Godard] I think I saw a couple of his movies, but you know, I am not familiar [with] his work so much, but I think I saw one of them."

It's true: There are no parallels or precursors to *The Room*. With characters who enter and exit scenes as though they were auditioning for *Seinfeld* on acid or who drop narrative bombshells (such as, for instance, cancer) in one sequence only to have the crucial plot point never mentioned again, the wild

world of Wiseau is more surrealist masterpiece – unintentional or otherwise – than most critics might like to admit. But you have to wonder if Wiseau is at all peeved that so many people consider *The Room* to be literally the worst film ever made. (The suspicion, born out of a hastily tacked-on "making of" chat that accompanies *The Room*'s DVD release, is no, he isn't.)

Wiseau: "I love it! Because you have to understand the director job and the actor job; it's two different things. The director job is to provoke the audience, and the actor job is to do the same thing but ... with the limitation of being based on the words, on the script. What's behind the words? That's the question the director asks as well as a good actor.

"You see, I believe in the Stella Adler method. I'm not the method actor, but I will do anything to act – I'll be honest with you. My question was, to myself, how to provoke the audience that will be different. *The Room* is totally different cookie-cutter from Hollywood. I studied Orson Welles! You have to do research. But again, I love the interaction. That's what *The Room* is about. You cannot compare it to a regular movie because it was not designed that way."

ColdTowne Theater presents The Room with Tommy Wiseau in attendance on Wednesday, May 6, 7pm, at the Alamo Ritz. For more info, visit www.originalalamo.com.

GOV. PERRY SIGNS FILM INCENTIVES BILL INTO LAW

Grindhouse met statehouse when lawmakers and filmmakers gathered at Robert Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios in East Austin on April 23 to watch Gov. Rick Perry sign House Bill 873, the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program reform bill. into law. Rodriguez was there; along with bill author Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin; bill sponsor Sen. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville; and Texas Motion Picture Alliance President Don Stokes, he received a commemorative signing pen for his bill-boosting efforts. Gaming guru Richard Garriott



Gov. Rick Perry (center), flanked by Rep. Dukes (far left), Robert Rodriguez (left), and other supporters of Texas film, signs HB 873.

showed up, as did Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, who was rustling up support for Senate Bill 1929, his tax-break bill for production facilities.

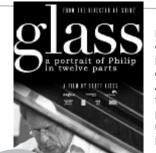
HB 873 puts \$62 million into the program (up from \$22 million last session) and also unties the hands of the Texas Film Commission, allowing it more latitude to finetune incentive packages for individual film, TV, commercial, and video-game productions. Before Perry signed, Dukes confirmed that one incentive recipient, *Friday Night Lights*, will stay in Austin for another two years, but that wasn't the only good local news. When the bill was originally introduced, it excluded Dallas and Austin from extra incentives for shooting in economically distressed areas: Those restrictions were stripped out, meaning productions at both Austin Studios and Troublemaker can compete with facilities in other poorer areas of the state. Dukes noted the work isn't finished until the state budget goes through the joint House-Senate conference committee, but with House Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, joining Dukes as a bill author, the outlook is good. *— Richard Whittaker*

GLASS: A PORTRAIT OF PHILIP IN TWELVE PARTS Koch Lorber Films, \$29.98

Here's a beautiful look into the life and creative processes of one of the world's foremost composers, directed and photographed by Australian filmmaker Scott Hicks - likely best known as the screenwriter and director of Shine, a much different movie about a much different pianist. The way Hicks films his subject - technically precise captures of light and shadow and the interplay along every surface, movement in one scene balancing the stillness of an adjoining one, entire suites of sequence flowing

like, hey, a Glass composition – he could be filming a commercial for a toilet-bowl cleaner, and it would be almost as beautiful. In fact, Hicks worked on TV commercials after *Shine* and before this expansive, intimate exploration of Philip Glass.

Glass himself, it's revealed near the beginning of this 2007 doc (which previously aired on PBS' *American Masters*), toiled in plumbing and taxicabs as a day job even after his work had been showcased at the Metropolitan Opera. You get to know these things in this documentary. You get to know of Glass and his family life, of his various wives, his sons, his brother and sister, his parents. Hicks provides the man in full – nearly as full as an outside perspective allows for a sometimes very private artist. (The second disc is



dvd watch

loaded with three hours of additional interviews, performances, and a director's commentary.) And, of course, you get to know the music that pervades, that emanates from the composer's life.

It's appropriate – hell, it's *necessary*

– that a documentary about Glass provide sound as crisp and clear as the sharpest images onscreen, and this one does, with aural textures you can almost feel against your skin. From the establishing scene of Glass rid-

ing Coney Island's Cyclone roller coaster (showing us from the get-go where the geographical center of the composer's universe is, while alluding to his music with the coaster car's wheels clacking rhythmically along the old wooden tracks' soaring hills and valleys), onward through his children-brightened living rooms, the city beyond, the New England seaside getaway, the various concert and rehearsal halls, all the way to Germany for the premiere of his score for the opera of J.M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*.

Glass, the film reminds us, has worked with Martin Scorsese and Errol Morris and Woody Allen, among other fine directors. His working – just being himself, documented – with Hicks on this film is hardly less satisfying for an interested viewer than any of those previous triumphs. – Wayne Alan Brenner

Trickery Flickery Mock

Master Pancake makes the movies hurt so good

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

Get an eveful of the tall, bald man in front of the blank screen where sci-fi mindfuck The Matrix has been suddenly paused in mid-Keanu at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. The man's nearly naked, nothing on his pale and lanky frame but a pair of tighty-whities, nothing in his hands but a live microphone. The theatre's packed on this Saturday night, and the audience is going wild. The audience is laughing itself into conniptions.

The bald man is John Erler: host of KOOP's Elk Mating Ritual Show, college-level professor of Latin, lead singer of Journey cover band Odyssey, and the more towering half of Master Pancake Theater. Now, the less towering and more abundantly coiffed half, Joe Parsons, sits next to Erler at a small table outside Quack's on 43rd Street. They're here for an interview. They're both fully clothed.

Years ago, there were three of them, and they were called Mister Sinus: John Erler and Jerm Pollet and Owen Egerton. They regularly performed an Austin-flavored live version of Mystery Science Theatre 3000 at the Alamo Drafthouse, drawing large crowds and helpless laughter with their mockery of classic (or classically bad) movies. Now it's just Erler and Parsons - and occasional guests such as Mac Blake, David Jara, Ben Bartley, Scott Chester, Buzz Moran, Mary Jo Pehl, Martha Kelly, Zack Carlson, and Leslie (yes, that Leslie) Cochran - bringing the wiseass disrespect and skits that redeem a bad movie and make a good movie even more enjoyable.

Austin Chronicle: So what happened with Mister Sinus?

John Erler: I don't know if I can go into every detail, because some of it's tied up legally. But the three of us had been doing the show for seven years. And it basically came down to we were sick of each other. Especially two out of three of us were sick of each other. And, I'm not gonna lie, there was a lot of conflict between ... two out of the three of us. And I realized, and maybe the other person realized, we weren't going to be able to move forward with the way things were. And we tried, too. We actually went into therapy a couple of times to try and work things out. AC: Seriously? Therapy?

Erler: Seriously. We'd go to therapy sessions, but after a while we'd lose interest or things would flare up between us, so it ended up going nowhere. And things were really, really bad. I liken it to a weird three-way marriage. I mean, we all knew we had a wonderful thing, but we just couldn't make it work. Another reason was, I think it started getting stale for some of us by that point. In Owen's case, he wanted to move on, to work on his writing. Which he's doing now, writing scripts for Hollywood, which is great. And Sinus was a full-time job, sometimes more than full time, sometimes a double-time job, depending on where we were in the performing process. So, because of the conflict, which was not fun, and because Owen had other aspirations, we

figured, well, this is probably as good a time as any to let it go. To move on. Joe Parsons: Just like in a marriage or any other kind of relationship, it didn't seem that there was any particular reason or event or anything like that. It was kind of, after six or seven years, you don't need somebody to *cheat* - or whatever, in the same metaphor. You get to a point where you just know it's not gonna work out; no matter how hard you try and hold on to it, it's not gonna work out. AC: And now there's Master Pancake. And how'd

you get involved in all this, Joe?

Parsons: Owen was the guy who started my comedic career entirely. He came to my high school when I was 15 years old and taught me improv. I joined his improv troupe after that, and I've been working with him ever since. So I wound up subbing whenever somebody was out during a Sinus show. I'd replace somebody, learn the jokes, that sort of thing. And eventually, especially while people weren't getting along, I subbed a *lot* – to the point where $\frac{2}{3}$ I knew the show pretty well. So when the new show was formed, it seemed like a good fit.

Erler: Joe was really good. He made voice appearances offstage before he started writing and performing the shows with us onstage. He'd be the voice coming from offstage, like when we did Flashdance and I pretended to be Stephen Hawking. I was doing a Flashdance sexy striptease as Stephen Hawking, totally immobilized - and Joe was the computerized robot voice. And he was really funny, because he did a really good Hawking, and he had a good attitude. He was like the sassy, kind of mischievous Stephen Hawking.

Parsons: So, the real Stephen Hawking. That arrogant, irresponsible son of a -

Erler: And then we did Showgirls, and Joe was the voice of Kermit the Frog. We had a gigantic Kermit the Frog puppet, who was sort of the bastard manager, the owner of the strip club. I was a dancer, and Owen was a dancer, and Joe did this great Kermit voice – in the persona of a real asshole manager.

AC: Showgirls makes perfect sense. I mean, you guys seem to strip down an awful lot in -

Parsons: I don't know about you guys ... [laughter]

AC: Okay, yeah. John, why are you always out of your clothes?

Erler: Well, there's a lot of angles to approach this answer from. Early on in the days of Sinus, about six months into the run, we did Xanadu, and it turned out to be a huge hit. It was our first big hit, out of nowhere, and we were like, "Why do people wanna come see Xanadu?" But they did, there were lines around the block.



Parsons: The first taste of success.

Erler: And for the halftime skit, I played Olivia Newton-John, and I had a dress that came up tight around my knees. And the first night, I sat down, facing the audience. And I'm not a girl, so I'm not used to worrying about my dress. But when I sat down I got this great reaction from the crowd; they were going crazy with laughs and hoots and groans. And I realized, "Of course – they can see my beaver [laughter]." And I'm not always the fastest guy, but I know when a laugh works, and I took note of that. And ever since then, I've been finding ways to, you know, peepshow the audience like that. But it's not that I just get it out of nowhere. It's in my personality: I'm something of an exhibitionist. I've been doing that since I was a kid, embarrassing my older sister. When her friends would come over, I would, like, flash people when I was 5 years old. So that exhibitionist streak's already there.

Parsons: And in his defense, it's not that it's premeditated, it's -

Erler: What defense? What defense? It doesn't really need any de -

Parsons: It's not that we necessarily *plan* to do it every time. Sometimes it's an accident; sometimes a thing will fall off. And sometimes it just works its way into the show without us really intending it to.

Erler: At this point it's become kind of a running gag. Some people are waiting for it.

So part of the fun is: When's it gonna happen, if it's gonna happen? So, when we did The Matrix, I was wearing this leather coat, and I had little leggings. I'd cut the bottoms off pant legs and put them over my ankles to make it seem as if I really had pants on, kind of toying with the audience. And then I took off my coat. And I had nothing on but underwear ... and these partial pant legs. It's become almost a meta thing. And for Lord of the Rings, we wrote the whole skit and planned it out, and Joe made these fantastic hobbit costumes where we'd use our hands as feet ... and the whole time I'm going, "Well, when am I gonna get nude? Where's my opportunity to flash the audience?" And they were like, "C'mon, John, you don't have to do it every time."

WEX It's true: He doesn't have to do it every time. But if you'd like to see more of Master Pancake ... if you'd like to, at least, read more of this interview and learn how the Pancake boys prepare for a show and what their favorite movies are and how Owen Egerton is peculiarly reminiscent of Popeye, then see our expanded article online at austinchronicle.com/screens.

Master Pancake performs regularly at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. See www.originalalamo.com for upcoming show information.

And Then There Was Maude

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

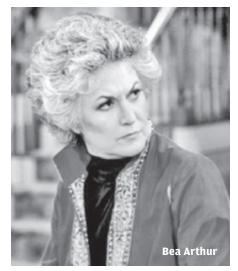
When **Bea Arthur** died last week, a response appeared on Facebook and the Twitter-verse instantly. An amazing thing since Arthur hasn't been a regular fixture on network TV for decades.

She had a career many actors dream of. Starting in live theatre, she gained a larger audience when she guest starred on All in the Family. That appearance earned her a spin-off series in 1972 as the title character in Maude, which ran for six seasons. Arthur made a couple of films and later starred in another hit TV series that now has a cult following, The Golden Girls. (She continued to do stints on sitcoms throughout the Aughties and was Emmy-nominated for her guest turn on Malcolm in the Middle in 2000.) After the news of Arthur's passing, a friend of mine posted the opening sequence for Maude on Facebook, pointing out how great Donny Hathaway's theme song for the series is. But as I was watching it, I was struck: Where, on contemporary TV, would you see a graying, "handsome" woman, with thick eyebrows and a less-than-girlish figure, who had something to talk about beyond an insular obsession with her personal life? A woman who actually had something to say about the world through her small piece of the planet? I thought of what was and is out there, now and in the recent past:

Kathryn Joosten's Mrs. McCluskey on Desperate Housewives: Sure, she issued some great zingers at the expense of Nicollette Sheridan's Edie Britt, but compared to the other women on Wisteria Lane, she was a joke. Joosten came to Housewives following her more distinguished role as Mrs. Landingham, President Bartlet's longtime secretary on The West Wing. That she was killed by a drunken driver made for great drama on and off the screen. After appearing in only 30 episodes, Mrs. Landingham was so loved by fans that the uproar over her death was loud and emotional. It caught the creators off guard, too, but the damage was done. Not even the writing wizardry of Aaron Sorkin could bring Mrs. Landingham back from the dead (save for the occasional flashback, of course).

Susan Sullivan on *Castle* and **Holland Taylor** on *Two and a Half Men*: Both play accomplished women and the mothers of adult men on their respective shows. As mothers, they're flawed – too flighty, too self-centered, too, well, pretty to be "real" mothers.

Cristine Rose as Angela Petrelli on *Heroes*: She's the antithesis to the flighty mother, this one being conniving and again, not really a "good" mother because she spends too much time with all that keeping-the-secret-of-the-



heroes-and-their-powers business. When she led her children on the creepy camping trip to dig up corpses, yeah, I pretty much called it quits. Yes, I realize others tuned out long ago, but I liked Angela, hoping that putting the show in her lap would steer it in an interesting direction. Alas, the creators don't seem to know what to do with a powerful, complicated woman like Angela Petrelli – or the rest of the cast, from what it now seems. **Sally Field** as perky matriarch Nora Walker on *Brothers & Sisters*: As the über-

mom of the lot, Field deserves a lot of credit for making an overbearing mother tolerable. However, earlier in the series, Nora had a strong, progressive streak, making for some spirited discussions between her and her conservative daughter, Kitty (**Calista Flockhart**). While I still watch the somewhat windswept machinations of the whitest Mexican fam-

ily on TV (more on that another time), it frustrates me that Nora has, over time, become mostly defined by baking cookies, hosting large family dinners, and meddling in her adult children's lives. Even her project to launch a Ronald McDonald-like facility has been shunted to the background so she can nest in her enormous home and fold her estranged son's laundry. Sigh.

Are there others? I can't think of any.

It's not that I have anything against the young and the lovely, but with Bea Arthur's passing, it's clear that what we're seeing on the aging end of the spectrum, especially aging women on TV, is narrow. While there was that initial sorrow at Arthur's passing from cancer at age 86, the grand dame had a great career. Let's hope the grandness, the vitality, and the backbone of the characters she embodied did not die with her.

As always, stay tuned.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com



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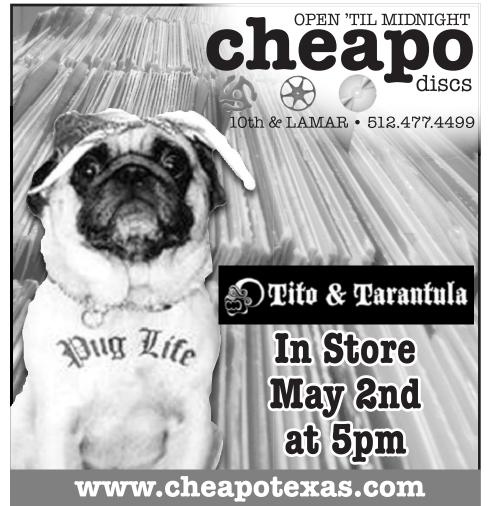
The food and funds collected at this event will help provide 693,583 meals for our hungry neighbors in Central Texas.

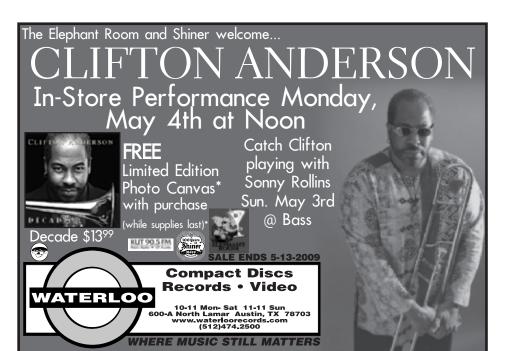
Dates for 2010 Austin Reggae Festival: Saturday-Sunday, April 17-18

Tickets on sale, February 1, 2010 Stay tuned to austinreggaefest.com for more info











Fight for Your Right

As the ongoing hullabaloo over FF THE RECOR by Austin Powel MUSIC NEWS May 5.

the Austin sound ordinance in regard to live outdoor music at restaurants has reiterated, music is politics here in the live music capital. Since the general economic downturn has dominated most political discussions, OTR polled the leading mayoral candidates - Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken and City Council Member Lee Leffingwell via e-mail on a variety of music-related local issues, beginning with his favorite Mojo magazine queries. Representatives for Carole Keeton Strayhorn didn't return requests for comment, while responses from David Buttross and Josiah Ingalls, along with the complete interviews with Leffingwell and McCracken, are available on the Chronicle Music blog (austinchronicle.com/earache). McCracken's plan to create a music economy headquarters at the site of the Armadillo World Headquarters is certainly worth the read. For more electioneering, scope the **Hustle for** Mayor (austinchronicle.com/hustle). Early voting goes through Tuesday,

Last great show you saw? Leffingwell: Dale Watson at the Broken Spoke

McCracken: Bruce Robison, twostepping with my wife on my birthday. Album that changed your life? Leffingwell: Willie Nelson, Stardust. McCracken: The Beatles, Revolver.

Last album you bought? Leffingwell: Iris DeMent, Lifeline. McCracken: Johnny Goudie & the Little Champions, El Payaso.

Saturday night party record? Leffingwell: Anything by Johnny Cash or Asleep at the Wheel, just add beer and a pool table. McCracken: MGMT, Oracular

Spectacular.

Sunday morning redemption record?

Leffingwell: Richard Wagner, Pilgrim's Chorus From Tannhauser. The most stirring and beautiful piece of music ever, in my opinion.

McCracken: John Prine, The Missing Years; Miles Davis, Kind of Blue.

Austin sound ordinance

Leffingwell: The council recently amended the sound ordinance to create a permitting process that allows for public input; included with these revisions is a one-year review to determine if the new process is effective. Getting the sound ordinance right achieving the best possible balance between the interests of musicians,

Not John Mayer: Lee Leffingwell (I) and Brewster McCracken last week at the Chronicle's Hustle for Mayor event, Mohawk

venues, and residents - is a work in progress, even after many years. We have to proceed with extraordinary caution on both sides and regularly gauge our successes and failures.

McCracken: I support the recommendations of the Live Music Task Force to provide a fair balance between creating entertainment districts where music venues have greater latitude to host live music and protecting neighborhoods from clubs outside of such districts where excessive sound levels are not appropriate.

Austin Music Department

Leffingwell: The hard truth is that we're facing a serious budget shortfall at the city as the result of dramatically declining sales tax revenue. If elected, my commitment would be to pursue the creation of a Music

Department at the first moment that our budget situation allows, but in our current circumstance, I couldn't support cutting basic city services or raising property taxes to do it.

McCracken: I support the creation of a Music Department or a broader **Creative** Sectors Department that includes music. film, video games, and digital media. While these sectors encompass the creative arts, they are also for profit. That's why placing authority for carrying out policies to promote music, film, and digital media in the Cultural Arts Division would be a mistake. I would fund a Music Department or Creative Sectors Department from two funding sources: from bed tax revenues and from the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO) budget.



Random Play

To borrow a line from Dr. Dre. hope you're ready for the Next Episode, the Chronicle's new MP3 and musicvideo blog, which launched this week. Download new music from White Denim, Voxtrot, and Loxsly, or check out footage of Lars Ulrich slaying "Freya" with the Sword in Paris. There's also a library of videos from Balmorhea, Diagonals, and Ume, along with the exclusive premiere of Leatherbag's "Wagon Wheel" from his forthcoming EP, Everything I Once Knew. Subscribe to the RSS feed at austinchronicle.com/earache. Bands looking to submit material for the Next Episode should contact OTR at offtherecord@austinchronicle.com.

Licensed to Ill

In the worst-kept secret since Metallica thrashed Stubb's at South by Southwest in March, Pearl Jam, Dave Matthews Band, and the Beastie Boys are headlining the 2009 Austin City Limits Music Festival. Oct. 2-4. at Zilker Park. Highlights from the second tier include Sonic Youth; Kings of Leon; Jack White's new digs, the Dead Weather; Ben Harper & the Relentless7; and Austin's Ghostland Observatory. Surprises this time around include Here We Go Magic, Grizzly Bear, Rodriguez, Girl Talk, Levon Helm, and Deer Tick, with the festival deserving kudos for its concerted effort to bring hip-hop into the fold with Mos Def, K'Naan, and the Knux. www.aclfestival.com

> Take me out to the ball game: Bob Dylan will be batting third behind Willie Nelson and John Mellencamp at the Dell Diamond in Round Rock Aug. 4, as part of the trio's summer tour of minor league baseball parks. Presale information is available at www.bobdylan.com.

The piñata capping off Latino Music Month in Austin, the Pachanga Latino Music Festival is set to spice up Fiesta Gardens May 30. The second annual event features Tejano hotshot Michael Salgado, Plastilina Mosh, and the Mexican Institute of Sound, along with local standouts Brownout, Ocote Soul Sounds, Charanga Cakewalk, and David Garza, among others: www.pachangafest.com.

Graveyard Shift

"They've got me held prisoner over here," whispers Scott H. Biram with restrained panic in an answering-machine snippet that opens his latest Bloodshot release, Something's Wrong/Lost Forever. "I need to get out of here." The recording comes from his hospital lockdown in 2003. after he was nearly killed in a head-on collision with an 18-wheeler (see "One in a Million," Dec. 16, 2005). "I had been on morphine continuously

for about two weeks," cackles the Dirty Old One-Man Band, who's currently nursing a broken leg he suffered on the last night of his European tour in March. "I thought I was locked in a feed store behind enemy lines." The message certainly sets the tone for the disc, an at times harrowing jukebox collection of bleary-eyed country, penitentiary blues, and bleak gospel redemption that marks his strongest work to date. "I feel like I hit rock bottom last year," Biram explains. "I was a mess, just playing and cussing. I think the spectacle of me being a drunk asshole was more upfront than the music. I haven't quit drinking, but I've definitely toned it down." Biram wheels into the **Continental** Club on Friday before another long haul across the country.





"Not to be sarcastic," offers Isidoro Lopez when asked if a language barrier keeps Austin's Latino music from assimilating into the town's mainstream, "but I can speak two languages."

Host of the long-running local cable television program *Fiesta Musical* on Channel 16 and the radio show of the same name on KOOP, Lopez is also a board member of the Austin Latino Music Association (www.austinlatinomusic.com). At 70, with medical difficulties that seldom prevent him from making the scene, he's an elder statesman fiercely devoted to his community in demanding its accountability from the outside while willingly acknowledging its internal shortcomings.

"I don't think the Latino community has the infrastructure of the Anglo community," admits Lopez. "Every now and then you find a label that does good, a Freddie Records or a Hacienda Records, but we need more. We can't walk into a bank and talk to our fellow Latinos. We always have to go in and explain ourselves from the roots up. People say, 'Why bother?'"

Lopez hardly rates as a new face on the scene, yet suddenly his voice is rising in a music community that's gaining steadily within the Austin mainstream. His wish list for the community includes: "a solid infrastructure more focused on Latin music. More venues, more club owners and promoters willing to take a chance. And another radio station. We didn't have a radio station for three years. If you don't have a radio station playing your music, people forget about you."

When things are tough all over, they're always worse in minority cultures. While the "brown dollar" (see "Outlaw Onda," Feb. 17, 2006) is difficult to measure economically and the infrastructure Lopez noted is shaky, both are holding

Fiesta Musical host Isidoro Lopez

When things are tough all over, they're always worse in minority cultures.

strong artistically. It's what makes Latino and Tejano music in Austin able to survive periodic trends, delivering a dazzling array of local talent while cultivating strong regional ties. This is the first installment of a three-part series exploring facets of exactly that throughout the month of May.

Organizations such as the Tejano Music Coalition, which successfully campaigned for KTXZ's return to the airwaves in 2008, and efforts such as the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau's focus on Latino music via projects such as its annual *Austin Music Mezcla* CD have reshaped the direction of the community since the *Chronicle*'s assessment six years ago (see "The Latin Flare," April 11, 2003). ALMA dramatically changed the face of local music by creating events such as Sonidos del Barrio and the Idolos del Barrios, Santana-rama, and the Trail of Tejano Legends and lobbying for the now fourth annual Latino Music Month.

Latino music's long underrated rock & roll connection reappeared recently with Ruben Molina's 2007 book, *Chicano Soul: Recordings & History of an American Culture* (see "A Browner Shade of Black," Dec. 28, 2007), which revived an appreciation for San Antonio's and L.A.'s pachuco cultures and their music. 2008's Pachanga Latino Music Festival gave Austin 180 degrees of talent and has just announced this year's upgrade set for May 30, yet what distances Latino and Tejano music from a wider audience is largely language, since every genre from hip-hop and punk to classical and traditional can be found within. That's why blues, with its roots in black culture, is readily embraced by the Anglo culture: The same language is spoken.

Lopez believes that before Austin gets to translate "live music capital of the world" into Spanish, "the media could pay more attention to Tejano and Latino music. For example, why don't the morning TV shows have more Tejano music performances? If the Latino community is 30 percent of the population, why aren't one of every three acts Latino? And if the word gets out, and they can't find acts, see me.

"Tejano music isn't just for Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis de Septiembre."

Latino Music Month

Tejano music "makes people look at Austin music in a different way," explains Rose Reyes of the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"Austin offers many things musical, but what we really have is a thriving, growing Latino music scene. Latino Music Month is a way to showcase its diversity and quality."

Latino Music Month kicks off Friday at the Gibson Guitar Showroom, celebrating the release of the *Austin Music Mezcla* 2009 CD, featuring prominent local acts including Tortilla Factory, Patricia Vonne & Rosie Flores, Brownout, A.J. Castillo, and Alejandro Escovedo. A few highlights from ALMA's full calendar (www.austinlatinomusic.com):

May 1

- Latin Music Month CD Release/Kickoff, Gibson Guitar Showroom, with Vallejo, Los Bad Apples. 7pm.
- Austin Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Fiesta Gardens, with AT Boyz, Da Krazy Pimpz, Gary Hobbs. 7pm.

May 2

Austin Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Fiesta Gardens, with Levelhill, Blues Mafia, the Daze, the Knights, Ballet Folklorico, A.J. Castillo, Jimmy Gonzalez y Grupo Mazz. Noon-10pm.

May 3

- Pecan Street Festival, Sixth Street, with Foco Rojo, Omar Lopez, Haydn Vitera, Santiago Jimenez Jr., Leti De La Vega, et al. 11am.
- > Tito & Tarantula, Emo's.

May 8-9

Grupo Fantasma, Antone's, with Greg Boyer, Bavu Blakes, Hacienda, Peligrosa All Stars. 8pm.

May 15

ALMA's Viva! Jose Alfredo Jimenez Mariachi Showcase at El Sol y la Luna. 8pm.

May 16

- > Chicas del Barrio, Jovita's.
- Nash Hernandez Orchestra, Donn's Depot. 9pm.

May 22

- > Trio los Panchos, One World Theatre. 7 & 9:30pm.
- Rick Trevino, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport 10th anniversary celebration.

May 23

- Conexion Rockera DJ Showcase, Beauty Bar. 9pm.
- 40th annual Fiesta Amistad, behind the McConico/Baca municipal complex (301 W. Bagdad, Round Rock), with Los Padrinos, Kristen Mari, Gabe Nieto & Jalapeño Express, Little Joe y la Familia.

May 24

40th annual Fiesta Amistad, behind the McConico/Baca municipal complex (301 W. Bagdad, Round Rock), with Los Texas Wranglers, the Latin Express Band with Alfonso Ramos, Grupo Fantasma.

May 30

Pachanga Latino Music Festival, Fiesta Gardens, starring Plastilina Mosh, Mexican Institute of Sound, Brownout, Ocote Soul Sounds, Mariachi Ias Alteñas, Cordero, David Garza, Charanga Cakewalk, Maneja Beto, et al. \$20 advance.

Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio

Down in San Antonio, that little ol' fiesta known as the Tejano Conjunto Festival enters its 28th year celebrating the best in conjunto and Tejano music May 5-9 (www.guadalupeculturalarts.org/xicanomusic/tcfhome.htm). This year, the festival honors legendary accordionist Esteban Jordan (see "Chac-Mool," Aug. 8, 2008) and delivers a dazzling array of performers all five nights.

Tuesday, May 5

Friday, May 8

Seniors Conjunto Dance, featuring Conjunto Music Hall of Famers El Pavo Grande Salvador García and Eddie "Lalo" Torres, Anita Paíz y Su Conjunto, Guadalupe Theatre, San Antonio, 9-11am.

Wednesday, May 6 **Best of the Tejano Conjunto Festival** CD Release, Guadalupe Theatre, San Antonio. 7-9pm, free.

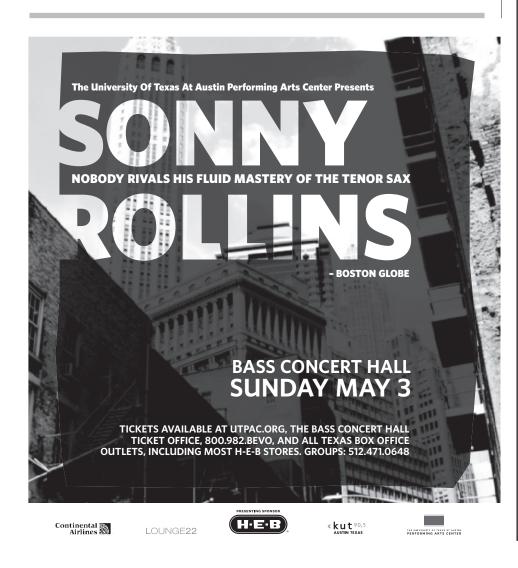
Thursday, May 7

Rosedale Park, San Antonio. 5:30pm, \$12. Los Hermanos De León (6pm), Los Badd Boyz del Valle (7pm), Sunny Sauceda (8pm), Sarah Fox & Joel Guzman (9pm), Esteban Jordan y Rio Jordan (10pm).

Rosedale Park, San Antonio. 7pm, \$13. Bene Medina y Su Conjunto Aguila (7pm), Los Monarcas de Pete y Mario Díaz (8pm), Ricky Naranjo y los Gamblers (9pm), Cuatro Rosas (10pm), Los Dos Gilbertos (11pm).

Saturday, May 9

Rosedale Park, San Antonio. 2pm, \$15. **Conjunto Heritage Taller/Conjunto Palo** Alto (2pm), Chano Cadena y Su Conjunto (3pm), Ricardo Guzmán y los Tres Aces (4pm), Conjunto Borrego de Jesse Borrego Sr. y Jr. (5pm), Johnny "El Brujo" Cruz & the Texas Chain Gang (6pm), Los Cuatro Vientos de Jimmy Bejarano (7pm), Eva Ybarra y Su Conjunto (8pm), Oscar Hernández & the Tuff Band (9pm), Ruben Vela y Su Conjunto (10pm), Mingo **Saldivar y Sus Tremendos Cuatro** Espadas (11pm).



MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

"...movement, drama, and a few surprises."

-Dance Magazine

Cinderella

May 8-10, 2009 | The Long Center

Choreography by: Stephen Mills Music by: Alexander Glazunov

Accompanied by the Austin Symphony Orchestra

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austinchronicle.com MAY 1,2009 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 59

Bare Necessities

Sonny Rollins, a man and his saxophone

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

Duke Ellington deemed them "beyond category," artists AC: Just the bare necessities, eh? whose singular talents transcend classification. Count tenor saxophonist Theodore Walter Rollins, 79, on that short list. Jazz's known universes, Art Tatum through Ornette Coleman, records protean blowers Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, and Sonny Rollins, but only the latter's full-force gale of cogitative melodicism survives today, huffing and puffing one of the genre's enduring voices.

More than a decade ago at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Rollins blew the house *down*, just as he's been doing since the late 1940s. Rollins' Road Shows, Vol. 1 in 2008 recedes only after 10 minutes of "Some Enchanted Evening" from the previous year, bebop's golden horn untarnished since the era that he and jazz's original punks changed the course of global culture with their musical asteroid.

"I'm a big Duke Ellington fan," muses Rollins by phone

from his home in New York, his voice oaken - ancient, textured. "I was sort of in his company once. I was coming offstage at a festival, and he was going on with his band. He sort of looked at me, not in a discouraging way, but I didn't know if he was taken aback or what."

Let Sonny Rollins' hot and cool air masses collide at the Bass Concert Hall this Sunday, and perhaps like Ellington, you will be.

still live there?

Sonny Rollins: No. I was about six blocks from Ground Zero. I saw the plane, saw the fire, the whole thing, you know? It was quite a scene.

AC: You were forced to give up that place in the aftermath? SR: Yes, I was evacuated the next day, and even though my wife and

I kept the place a little while longer, we never slept there again. AC: That must have been a big blow.

SR: Well, we had lived there almost 30 years. Fortunately, we also had a place here in the country. I had a lot of music, I had a lot of records, I had a lot of clothes, and I had a lot of books, a lot of things I eventually had to leave there because of the contamination.

AC: Accounts have you evacuating with your saxophone.

SR: That's right. I got my saxophone, my briefcase, and I think a little backpack that had some things in it. We had to walk down 40 flights of steps because there was no electricity, of course.

SR: Bare necessities.

"I'm sort of an

in my mind, and as I

said. I'm searching.

I'm still searching

for something."

AC: You've lived your whole life in New York. SR: Yeah, I was born in Harlem, and I've lived here all my life.

I love to travel and so on, and I've lived in a couple of other places, but even then I was a New Yorker.

AC: Do you miss your old running buddies, Clifford Brown, Thelonious Monk?

SR: Yeah, I think about them all the time. I think about them to the extent that I don't miss them, because I'm always thinking about them. So it's almost like we're all still together doing what we did then. So that makes it pretty easy as far as feeling lonely. I feel very close to Monk and Coltrane, Clifford Brown, guys that were my contemporaries. I played with all of them. I think about playing with them someplace, some of the experiences we had together. So that's very good for me. I don't feel

they've gone anyplace really.

AC: How much difference is there in your having been a working musician in the experimental person 1950s and 1960s and your being a working musician now?

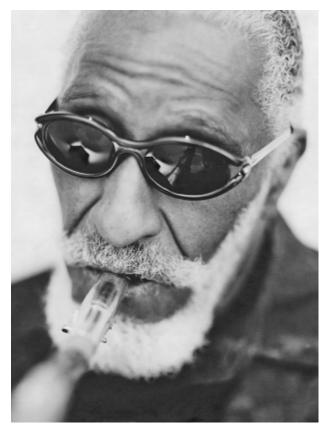
SR: As far as I'm concerned, there's not much difference, because I'm still applying my trade. I'm still trying to improve myself. I still practice every day, and I'm still trying to find the lost chord. So to me, it's the same, what I was doing then and what I'm doing

Austin Chronicle: You were near the epicenter of 9/11. Do you now. I'm still performing, and that performance means there's really not a lot of difference. I'm still trying to get better.

AC: How does your playing today compare to your playing of the past?

SR: [Laughs] You're not really asking me that!

AC: [Laughs] Musically, piano players become so rich with age. They express their entire lives on these keys. Is it the same for horn players? SR: Well it's certainly true for me, because I'm not a good enough musician to be able to repeat things that have been successful to the point that I can just go to work and not think about it. "Play this; this works. Play that; that works." I'm sort of an experimental person in my mind, and as I said, I'm searching. I'm still searching for something. So although I'm not 20 years old anymore, I think I have learned something. It's great to be young, so they say, but I certainly wouldn't want to be 18 years old again and start my life again. I did a lot of things. But I think I've learned something now, and, musically, I'm trying to prove that to myself all the time. It's really a great pursuit.



AC: Writers sometimes worry about running out of words. Do you ever worry about running out of things to say on the saxophone? **SR**: During my career, a couple of times, I've run into a brick wall, but it hasn't lasted long. Of course now, no, I don't have that experience at all. I don't have the physical strength to practice endlessly like I used to practice, 18 hours, just all day, but I try to practice two hours every day. There's always something to do, so I end up not having enough time. I find sometimes that I have to leave it off. Which is good, because then I have something tomorrow. I always have something to learn tomorrow.

AC: I don't think you've played Austin in decades. Any impressions of the area?

SR: I remember in Austin, we used to have a lot of fun playing at a place called the Armadillo. We played there several times, and it was always great. Of course I know Ornette [Coleman], and I played Fort Worth one time. But Austin and the Armadillo are always near to my heart.

AC: Keep the flame burning for us.

SR: I'm going to try. I'm going downstairs to practice right now. Sonny Rollins blows down Bass Concert Hall, Sunday, May 3. Tickets: www.utpac.org. For more of this interview, see austinchronicle.com/earache.

Five-Star Rollins By JAY TRACHTENBERG

Saxophone Colossus (Prestige, 1956)

"St. Thomas" was the "hit," but "Blue 7" is the masterpiece. If you must pick

only one, this is it. Way Out West

(Contemporary, 1957)

The Claxton cover is priceless, and Rollins tears up these "Western" songs. A Night at the Village Vanguard, Vol. 1-4 (Blue Note, 1957)

The template for pianoless trios is forged on these stunning performances. Hubbard and Coltrane sidemen.

Freedom Suite (Riverside, 1958)

The 19-minute, socially relevant title track was way ahead of its time. The Bridge

(RCA/Bluebird, 1962) After dropping out and blowing alone on NYC's Williamsburg Bridge, Rollins returns with guitarist Jim Hall. East Broadway **Run Down** (Impulse, 1966)

Tour de force with trumpeter Freddie





Best of the Rest

Tenor Madness (Prestige, 1956) Miles' rhythm section and a joust with Coltrane. ****

Volume 2 (Blue Note, 1957)

"Wail March"! Horace Silver and Thelonious Monk play on two Monk compositions. $\star \star \star \star$

Our Man in Jazz (RCA/Bluebird, 1962) Rollins, trumpeter Don Cherry, and drummer Billy Higgins really stretch out. ★★★≯ Sonny Meets Hawk!

(RCA/Bluebird, 1963)

Rollins and his idol Coleman Hawkins on this symbolic passing of the torch. $\star \star \star \star$

Next Album (Milestone, 1972)

Another return from hiatus, with a brilliant solo on "Skylark." ★★★≯ G-Man (Milestone, 1986)

Live soundtrack to the film Saxophone Colossus. ★★★≠

Global Warming (Milestone, 1998) "Freedom Suite" 1998. ★★★★

Road Shows, Vol. 1 (Emarcy, 2008) Choice live performances 1980-2007. ****



PIRATES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NEW ORLEANS MUSIC PRESENT:



austinchronicle.com **MAY 1,2009** THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE **61**

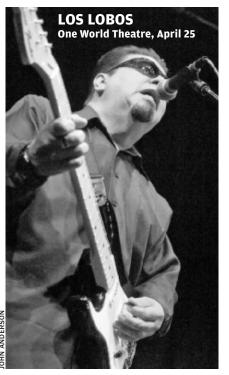
live shots BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

ETTA JAMES Austin Music Hall, April 24

Etta James doesn't walk well anymore. Singing isn't a problem. After a painful hip sway to her seat front and center, the 71-year-old R&B survivor held court in reading glasses while drinking Cognac for a mercifully brief, if at times still intoxicating, eight-song main set at an intimately configured Austin Music Hall. Backed by a sevenpiece



"Roots Band" in no danger of being mistaken for Philly's hip-hop combine (except possibly in advertisements), James played the cougar, opening with Harold Arlen's "Come to Mama" by sucking her thumb ("Let me be your pacifier") as if it were anything but a thumb and writhing in her chair like a lap dance. "A lot different not being at Austin City Limits," lamented the singer, her 2005 taping at the local PBS calling card one of its jewels. "But I love Austin." In the succeeding "I'd Rather Go Blind," glass in hand, James felt around for Austin's sweet spot, exploring the crevices of a bottomless soul that curled, stretched, and elasticized phrases, verses, and wordless vocals. Words were superfluous during "I Want to Ta-Ta You Baby," as James sustained her "A"s and arched her best Jennifer Beals at the Flashdance. Harsh acoustics spanked the tune equally. Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart" comes with boozy built in, but in the following take on greatest hit "Sugar on the Floor," the grand dame wobbled noticeably on familiar ground. Struggling to her feet, supporting herself on the stool, diaphragm finally loosened, James rallied for a two-song encore, taunting Beyoncé with a perfect reading of signature pledge "At Last" and bringing one of Lou Ann Barton's defining songs back full circle on "Baby, What You Want Me to Do." Etta James might not walk the walk anymore, but the talk still sings.



"Say hello to Roky Erickson," nodded David Hidalgo. By that point, the Los Lobos singer/guitarist had already had a shot or two, his Stella Artois chaser about to sustain a workout in the last third of a 90-minute set that ended with one of rock & roll's purest tenors looking a little bleary. worse for wear and tear. Wearing and tear-

ing had been the name of the game, too, Hidalgo and Louie Pérez, who spent almost the entire set - the second of two sold-out shows Saturday night – out from behind la batería on third guitar, throwing down blues solos like Buddy Guy and Jimmy Page, respectively, on what had begun as the Temptations' "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone." Traffic haunt "Dear Mr. Fantasy" became the beloved East L.A. institution's "Chuco's Cumbia," classic rock and traditional Tex-Mex honked as one between Hidalgo's accordion. Steve Berlin's baritone sax. and Cesar Rosas' wolfish vocals and predatory Strat. "A tribute to Ritchie Valens!" called out Hidalgo, La Bamba's "Ooh! My Head" fatback and lo-fi and delivered at a gallop before one of the lifetime guintet's best Mexican nationals, "Estoy Sentado Aquí," raised 1988's La Pistola y el Corazón. "Cumbia Raza" rocked harder than the Fillmore, Such hallowed halls are generally bigger than the 300-capacity One World Theatre so that even the five Los Angelenos seemed taken aback by the venue's intimate size. Dizzying opening run "Let's Say Goodnight," "Los Ojos de Pancha," "I Got to Let You Know," "Kiko and the Lavender Moon," "I Wan'na Be Like You (The Monkey Song)," and mean "Dream in Blues" demonstrated Rosas' Jungle Book brute ready and able to rattle the cage of such a tony room. Closing the night nodding to the Grateful Dead with the explosively hoary one-two of "Not Fade Away" into "Bertha," Los Lobos became King Kong.

NAPALM DEATH, CATTLE DECAPITATION/PACK OF WOLVES, LIONS OF TSAVO Emo's/Red 7, April 26

South by Southwest Sabbath, 2009: Red 7 hosts a metal assembly longer than your average workday as headlined by Chicago instrumentalists Pelican (at Emo's May 19 with Isis and post-SX bill mates Tombs) and stolen in swirling red smoke and candelabra fury by Olympia, Wash.'s Wolves in the Throne Room (Emo's also, June 7). A month of Sundays later, Red River hosted a measly seven hours of metallic shitstorm, starting with a free dinner and show at Red 7. Locals Curse the Heavens demonstrated the efficacy of three, the density of the trio's lumber balanced by its modulation of speed and tempo. Austin quartet Lions of Tsavo upped the ante exponentially with two guitarists pushing a sonic firewall powered by drummer Josh Dawkins' punishing assault, which brought to mind early Mastodon. More agro, Pack of Wolves goes for the throat with frontman Trey Ramirez's larynx shred, the River City fourpiece debuting new material that relegated current LP Betrayer to mere warm-up for vicious bursts of convulsive rhythm kitted by pounder Adrian Carrillo. Closer "Swine Flu" killed. Emo's could only muster nine bands on two stages over five hours, not including the Anarchy Championship Wrestling beat-down in the venue's courtyard beforehand. Swine Horde, "the only local band on the bill" according to one of the under-21 quintet's two singers, excelled at nascent bolt-throwers screaming butchery. Louisville, Ky., trio Coliseum opened the outside stage in an oft-galloping metallic punk paradigm, while back indoors. Ohio's Woe of Tyrants practiced Euro metal arpeggios. In the big room, early faves Toxic Holocaust pumped classic 1980s thrash (Megadeth, Exodus)

DENGUE FEVER Mohawk, April 27

"Psychedelic surf cumbia," by a Brooklyn sixpiece named for Incan corn liquor and trafficking in accordion-driven 1970s slink based in the Peruvian Amazon, and late-1960s Cambodian psyche pop from an equally Anglo L.A. quintet are ultimately distinguished via one crucial difference: Chhom Nimol. While Chicha Libre opened with 50 minutes' worth of indigenous electro-tingle ("Sonido Amazonico" and even Moog novelty "Popcorn"), Dengue Fever's hour and 10 minutes of high-energy Khmer rock rode the unforgettable cry of its petite Southeast Asian oracle. Sleepwalking Through the Mekong, the group's



retrofitted for contemporary headbanging by the Portland, Ore., trio's bedroom-mirror hair god Joel Grind on "War Is Hell" and "Nuke the Cross." Cincinnati scream mongers Rose Funeral and Montreal's generic death metalers Kataklysm only delayed their respective stages' headlining sets. Inside, San Diego guartet Cattle Decapitation pancaked speed prog into the evening's most arresting execution of ear-shattering metal madness. That left the last set to uncontested gig schoolers Napalm Death, whose patented grindcore shuddered with mouthpiece Barney Greenway shaking and jowling like Richard Nixon as the Birmingham, UK, quartet compressed woodchipper metal with Black Sabbath underpinnings and lyrics "95 percent written in South Austin." New track "Life and Limb" sacrificed nothing less to an annihilating night shift.



new rock doc, finds Zac and Ethan Holtzman not only winning the musical lottery to their Khmer fetish when Nimol answers an open call for a Cambodian singer, but in the film's journey back to Nimol's homeland flows a tributary of cultural, historical, and musical indelibility. Nimol, dressed here in 3-inch heels and a mermaid-green sequin dress that didn't allow 45-degree angles from the torso, could be the doll face of any DVD, but as the voice of a pop genre all but eradicated by the Khmer Rouge, she's a world ambassador. "Lost in Laos" first celebrated Austin's Cambodian weather clearing for Mohawk's brimming patio, yet third song "New Years Eve" exploded, Ethan's Farfisa-aping keyboard meeting brother Zac's snaking guitar lines. Nimol's a cappella intro to "Hold My Hips" met with rockist obedience, while the heavy "Seeing Hand" linked the organ overdrives of Procol Harum and the Benevento-Russo Duo as if led by a sitar in the singer's whinny. "A Go Go" put the crowd to singing as the Holtzmans traded solos, followed by a clinic in universal garage rock: "Pow Pow," "Sni Bong," and "One Thousand Tears of a Tarantula," jammed by Chicha Libre along with a closing collaboration between the two groups, "Mr. Orange." One last song, one final glimpse of Nimol, and even the rains two hours later couldn't wash away the contagion of Dengue Fever.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



When Alcoa Inc. prepared to build an aluminum smelting plant in Iceland in 2004, the government forced it to hire an expert to assure that none of the country's legendary "hidden people" lived underneath the property. The elflike goblins provoke genuine apprehensiveness in many of the country's 300,000 natives (who are all, reputedly, related by blood). An Alcoa spokesman told *Vanity Fair* writer Michael Lewis (for an April 2009 report) that the inspection (which delayed construction for six months) was costly but necessary: "We couldn't [as a company] be in a position of acknowledging the existence of hidden people." (Lewis offered several explanations for the country's spectacular financial implosion in 2008, including Icelanders' incomprehensible superiority complex that convinced many lifelong fishermen that they were gifted investment bankers.)

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

Buddhist monks continue to add to their 20-structure compound near the Cambodian border using empty beer bottles, according to a February feature in London's *The Daily Telegraph*. Their building program, begun in 1984, already uses 1.5 million bottles, mostly green Heinekens and brown, locally brewed Chang, both of which are praised for letting in light and permitting easy cleaning.

A group of an estimated 10,000 believers is attempting to reverse American Christianity's declining birthrate by shunning all contraception in obedience to Psalm 127, which likens the advantage of big families to having a "quiver" full of "arrows" (the group calls itself the QuiverFull movement). "God opens and closes the womb," explained one advocate to National Public Radio in March, noting that in her own church in Shelby, Mich., the mothers average 8.5 children. "The womb is such a powerful weapon ... against the enemy," she said. "The more children I have, the more ability I have to impact the world for God."

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Among the lingering sex-based customs in Saudi Arabia is the restriction on women's working outside the home, which forces lingerie shops to be staffed only with males, who must awkwardly make recommendations on women's bra styles and sizes. The campaign for change, led by a Jeddah college lecturer, has enlisted even some clerks, who are just as embarrassed about the confrontation as the customers, according to a February BBC News dispatch.

Only in Japan/Only in Sweden: 1) Sega Toys Co. reported in January that, in just three months, it had sold 50,000 units of the Pekoppa, a "plant" consisting of leaves and branches that flutter when "spoken to," the success of which the company attributes to the epic loneliness of many Japanese. 2) Advocates for children complained in April that Sweden's national library, acting on a standing order to archive copies of all domestic publications, has been gathering books and magazines of child pornography from the years 1971 to 1980, when it was legal, and, as libraries do, lending them out. The Natural Resources Defense Council and Greenpeace commenced campaigns in February critical of the peculiar preference of Americans for ultrasoft or quilted toilet paper. In less-picky Europe and Latin America, 40% of toilet paper is produced by recycling, but Americans' demand for multi-ply tissue requires virgin wood for 98% of the product. The activists claim that U.S. toilet paper imposes more costs on the planet than do gas-guzzling cars.

QUESTIONABLE JUDGMENTS

Australian Marcus Einfeld (a lawyer, former federal judge, and prominent Jewish community leader) was once decorated as a national "living treasure," but he suffered a total downfall in 2006 by choosing to fight a \$77 speeding ticket. By March 2009, he had been sentenced to two years in prison for perjury and obstructing justice, because he had created four detailed schemes to prove that he was not driving that day. His original defense (that he had loaned the car to a friend who had since conveniently passed away) was accepted by the judge, but dogged reporting by Sydney's The Daily Telegraph revealed that lie, plus subsequent elaborate lies to cover each successive explanation. Encouraged by those revelations, the press later uncovered Einfeld's bogus college degrees and awards and an incident of double-billing the government.

A high school student in Oakton, Va., was suspended for two weeks in March when she inadvertently brought her birth control pills to school (her prescription for which was approved by her mother). It was only then (with two weeks off to research it) that the girl discovered that, in comparison, county rules required only one week's suspension for bringing heroin to school. Officials told the *The Washington Post* that birth control pills are particularly objectionable because they countermand the school system's "abstinence-only" sex education classes.

FERAL AMERICANS

Recent Human Biting: 1) Sheila Bolar, 49, was arrested after biting a transit driver because she only wanted to ride in a hybrid bus (New York City, January). 2) Aleyda Uceta, 30, was arrested for biting her son's principal during a parent-principal conference (Providence, R.I., March). 3) Curtis Cross was arrested for allegedly biting off another motorist's ear in a road rage incident (New Castle, Ind., April). 4) Lyndel Toppin, 50, bit down on his fiancée's arm, resulting in nerve damage, because she had arranged the cheese incorrectly on his meatball sandwich (Philadelphia, April). 5) Blaine Milam, 19, and Jessica Carson, 18, were arrested for performing an exorcism on their baby daughter that resulted in 20 bite marks (Rusk County, Texas, December).

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

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2009 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE





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^y Snow	Canopy	The Round About Players	Kona Isle Dancers	Jack Byrd, Juggler Magnifique
ne Ravers	Many Birthdays	Magical Mystical Michael	Salero & Salsa Candela	Rexus Plexus, The Tye- Dyed Troubador
evival ra	Foot Patrol	The Austin City Showgirls	The Raspas	Schave and Reilly, Baggy Pants Comedy
e Hit	No Mas Bodas	South Flavas Poetry Slam	El Tule & Salsa Candela	The Bobby Cordell Magic Show
a Choffel	Public	The Austin City Showgirls	Kouto Beat and The Batikum	
king Lesson	Night Viking	The Buddy and Babe Juggling Show	The Spirit of Flamenco	
ps	Kingdom of Scuicidal Lovers		Latin at Heart	
\altese	Tunnels		The Stick in the Mud Band	
nurs			Belaharr Drum and Fire Dancing Show	

TIN STAGE	AUSTIN	PERFORMING ARTS	INTERNATIONAL	CHILDREN'S
a	Phoenix Hart			
ojo	Federal State Local	The Banjo Club	Sarah Temple	Ian Varella, Comedy Ventriloquist
opez	Wino Vino	Magical Mystical Michael	Igical Mystical Michael Joel Laviolette	
Energia	Attic Ted	The Austin City Showgirls	Ortega Children's Choir	Rexus Plexus, The Tye- Dyed Troubador
Vitera	Low Red Center	South Flavas Poetry Slam	Twyla & the Star Ensemble 3	Schave and Reilly, Baggy Pants Comedy
ancia	Ich ni san shi	The Austin City Showgirls	7 Seals and the Wingless Angels	The Bobby Cordell Magic Show
/Z	Aliens	The Buddy and Babe Show	Los Bad Apples	
jo Jimenez Jr.	La Gurerilla		Flying Balalaika Brothers	
	Leti De La Vega			

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THURSDAY **30**

AMERICAN WHISKEY FESTIVAL Want

to know why whiskey tastes so good? Or maybe you already know. Either way, this tasting and seminar will have you imbibing whiskey and whiskey knowledge. 7pm. Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. \$30. www.opaldivines.com

* AMIGOS DE LAS AMERICAS BENEFIT Food

by El Chile and music from the Crying Monkeys entertain, with the money earned funding community development and volunteering trips to Latin America for high school students. 6:30pm. Austin Museum of Art - Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 914-8096. \$35 (\$30, advance). www.austinamigos.org.

BACK TO CLASS WITH (CL)ASS Win, win, win in OCH's Student Body Strip Off doing what you do in the locker room every day. This week for Splash, it's swim trunk night: Enter and you get a free ticket to the sold-out Lady Gaga show! Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

EAST NIGHT PeopleFund, which gives money to low-income communities to trigger greater economic opportunity, celebrates 15 years by recognizing hardworking entrepreneurs. 5:30pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 472-8087. \$25. www.peoplefund.org.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LECTURE This month, a panel discusses the evolution vs. creationism debate Is Texas the new Kansas? 7pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 345-4435. Free. www.centerforinquiry.net/austin.

🗮 GOING NATIVE IN THE GARDEN SEMINAR

Pick the right native plants that meet your specific garden's needs. 7pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 854-9600. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

LADIES LUV 'POWER' TOOLS Pammyla Brooks wants to share five sources of power and strength at her book launch/signing for Choose Power: Tools and Techniques for Home and Work. 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.pammvla.com

LAST DAY OF STD AWARENESS MONTH Last day to check yo'self fo' you wreck yo'self! Planned Parenthood and MTV team up for low-cost STD testing. Planned Parenthood, 201 E. Ben White, 800/230-PLAN. www.ppaustin.org.

NERD NITE Do you have encyclopedic knowledge about something obscure? Share your dorkiness with people who appreciate an obsessed mind. This week learn about Roombas. robots, and the end of the world, 7pm, Buffalo Billiards, 201 E. Sixth. Free. www.nerdnite.com

WORLD DANCE PERFORMANCE Music and dance performances entertain the crowds while the money , goes to Casa Marianella and its efforts to assists homeless immigrants and refugees. 7pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 554-9722. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.onyourfeetworld.org.

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.)

Well Hung Jury Reunion! The Hideout Theatre

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Peter Brötzmann, Eric Revis, Nasheet Waits Victory Grill

Joel Guzman's Birthday Show Threadgill's World HQ

FRIDAY 01

ACTING UP & SPEAKING OUT A one-

woman show featuring straight talk about

ties, discussion groups, and the occasional game

420-8557. mp_austin@sbcglobal.net, www.qboyz.org.

night. Like tonight's. 6pm. Q Center, 3408 West Ave.,

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA Fiestas Patrias of Austin

brings three days of music in celebration of French

2101 Bergman, 538-1351.

defeat. Latin sounds are the order of

each day, culminating with a conjunto fest

on May 3. Barbecue and salsa cook-offs

ensure the proceedings stay spicy while

See Club Listings, p.94, for a complete

lineup. Fri.-Sun., May 1-3. Fiesta Gardens,

www.cincodemayoaustin.com/2009Poster.html.

the kids are kept busy at the minicarnival.

YOUNG ONES 👑 GAY PLACES

FEMME ATX Membership in the Austin Femme Mafia accepted now. From their lips to yours: "Femme Mafiattes only from 9-10pm. After 10. all our allies. friends, and hired hands are welcome!" First Fridays, 9pm. Rio Rita Cafe y Cantina, 1308 E. Sixth, 524-0384. Free. allison.stelly@gmail.com.

*** JOHNSTON RAMS UNIFORM SALE** Now that Johnston High is Eastside Memorial High, all sports uniforms must go. Get soccer, track & field, football, baseball, or basketball gear with the proceeds going to the new high school's athletics booster club. Fri., May 1, noon-4pm; Sat., May 2, 8am-4pm. Eastside Memorial High School, 1012 Arthur Stites Rd., 220-1417.

LABYRINTH WALK Facilitators will be on hand to guide you through this ancient form of meditation. 6-8pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 610-3500. Free.

MARCH FOR HUMANE IMMIGRATION REFORM and support reforms to improve the quality of life for immigrants. 6pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress

305-8400. www.austinirc.org. NATIONAL NO PANTS DAY And you'll know us by

our trail of pants. www.nopantsdav.com.

PEOPLE UNITED discusses the struggle for immigrant justice, including the march later today. 1pm.

SPLASH HOWDY PARTY Come start Splash with a splash with DJ Bryan Konrad and DJ Bang. What is 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. www.splashday.com

STUDIO 54 Hey kids, you may think you know "oonce-oonce," but if you never shook it in Studio 54, you only know "oonce-oonce"s grandbaby. Tonight, Charlie's goes back, waaaaaay back, and invites you to dust off them polyester pants. Charlie's Austin 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com.

VIVA! CINCO DE MAYO San Marcos shows its Mexican pride with a downtown parade, live music, Little Miss Cinco de Mayo Pageant, ballet folkloric, food vendors, carnival rides, and more. The festival is free, but the live music is going to cost you. Fri.-Sat., May 1-2. Hays County Civic Center, Civic Center Loop, San Marcos, www.vivacincodemavo.org

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Mexic-Arte Museum

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Monarchs EP Release Emo's Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit Antone's Midgetmen Seventh Anniversary Mohawk Coma in Algiers, Baby Robots, the Dark Water Hymnal Lamberts

HIPPIES ARE NOT HOLLOW One of my fondest and most-Austiny memories is taking to the cove at Hippie Hollow during Splash on a blow-up float with friends who were working at MS. gayplace@ austinchronicle.com. MOP (the Men Who Have Sex With Men Outreach Program, back in the day). There we were, paddling around, like a pack of austinchronicle.com/ nutria that didn't make it on to the ark. Our job was to pass out condoms. Paddle and pass. Paddle and pass. We passed out so many condoms, it would've made a nun blush. Hippie Hollow is a magical place, especially on those rare days when you don't find other

BY ASH BELL AND KATE X MESSER *gayplace* humans wallowing around, sunning their buns. Well,

that will not be the case this weekend. No, siree, bob. This weekend, piles upon piles of queers shall line the rocks and bob in the cove in LGBT solidarity. Oh, hell. Not really. Everybody just wants a piece of ass. And all the bars will be throwing parties to offer up the scraps. Fine. But listen, if you are in the party barge, educate

EITER

yourself to some basic physics, and please do not congregate all to one side of the boat at the first sight of nekkid people. (See Friday, Saturday, Sunday.)



66 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE MAY 1, 2009 austinchronicle.com





L - R: JOHNSTON RAMS UNIFORM SALE (SEE FRIDAY) | WORLD'S BIGGEST DISC GOLF WEEKEND (SPORTS, P.71) | 'THE METHOD GUN' (ARTS, P.72)

Send gav bits to

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gayplaceblog.



AUDIO-DESCRIBING TRAINING Quick

thinkers with creative vocabularies are invited to this training session to help the blind enjoy theatre, art, and cultural events. Call to sign up. 9am. Austin Groups for the Elderly Building, Rm. 101, 3710 Cedar, 454-9912. Free. www.vsatx.org.

this week's

community

listings

AUSTIN GIFTED SPRING GALA Food, auctions. and a live performance from Kelly Willis earn money for this private school. 6-9pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 206-4070. \$50. www.austingifted.org.

AUSTIN'S TOP DOG is an exhibition and sale of canine-oriented visual art. To top it off, our fourlegged friends hit the catwalk for a fashion show. Talk about domestication. 7-10pm. Pump Project, 702 Shady Ln., 351-8571. Free. www.pumpproject.org.

BIG SQUEEZE SEMIFINALS Come and root for your favorite young accordionist, or just dance the after-noon away to the sounds of local pros showing off their skills. 2-5pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St., 478-6222. Free. www.texasfolklife.org.

W BIGGER, BOLDER, BROADWAY(ER) One singular singsation! It's the final concert of the Cap City Men's Chorus 20th anniversary season. They croon; you swoon, 8-10pm, Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Dr., 801-3380. \$20. ww.ccmcaustin.org

and Colitis Foundation of America. Fri.-Sat., May 1-2, 8pm. Sam Bass Community Theatre, 600 N. Lee, Round Rock, 512/244-0440. \$15. www.my13miles.com. BOARD GAME NIGHT AT Q You need only one letter to find Austin's HQ for guys 18-29: Q. Social support, coming-out support, health education, par-

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 TO THURSDAY, MAY 7

KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org. Splash? See Sunday. 10pm. Oilcan Harry's, gastroenterological disorders benfitting the Crohn's

calenda





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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD **daytrips**

South Padre Island Dolphin Research & Sea Life Nature Center in Port

Isabel features a sea robin that has "wings like a bird, feet like a crab, and a face only a mother could love" in its collection of

marine animals.

Donna Colley chuckles nearly every time she tells that joke as she gives tours of the 30 fish tanks at the center. The aquariums house a representation of the sea creatures that live in the Gulf of Mexico off the southern tip of Texas.

The sea robin got its name because it flaps winglike fins when it skims across the bottom of the ocean. With a pair of eyes high on a narrow head, the fish has a sharp nose and a permanent scowl. One of the cutest members of this aquatic collection is the striped burrfish, a member of the puff-

er fish family. With a snub nose and big, blue-green eyes, he looks like a puppy in a pet-shop window. Each tank is a window to the underwater world off the Texas coast. Scarlet and George Colley,

Donna's parents-in-law, started the nonprofit organization as an educational facility for visitors to South Padre Island. "The kids, and we're all kids at heart, love the touch tank, where they can pet a starfish," Donna says.

The Colleys also offer boat tours to meet the bottlenose dolphins of the area. The 90-minute tours into Laguna Madre offer a personal encounter with the kings of the sea. "We never touch or feed the dolphins," Donna says. "[Scarlet and George] have been giving the tours so long that the dolphins know them and come right up to the boat."

In addition to educating the public about the sea life, the Colleys are also called upon to help rescue stranded dolphins. Donna says that several times a year they will help transport the marine mammals to medical facilities in Port Aransas. One of the most common injuries to sea life is caused by discarded fishing line. "Trash is about the worst problem we see on the beaches and in the water," she says. "We want to encourage everyone to help keep the waters clean for humans and animals."

The Sea Life Center is at 110 N. Garcia, across the street from the Port Isabel Lighthouse near the South Padre Island causeway. The aquarium is open daily from 10:30am to 6pm during the summer and until 5pm (closed on Tuesday) from September through May. Admission is \$3 per person, and feeding times at 11am and 2pm can be extra exciting.

The dolphin tours are by reservation and are \$20 "per nose, no matter how old that nose is," Donna says. There is a minimum of two and a maximum of six passengers on the tours. The Colleys also do birding tours that last between two and three hours which are \$45 per person. For more information, call 956/943-6626 or go to **www.spisealife.org**.

930th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

outoftown

GEN. SAM HOUSTON FOLK FESTIVAL provides a guided tour into the 19th century with folklife demonstrations, ethnic food, entertainment, kid events, and arts & crafts. *Fri.-Sun., May 1-3. Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Huntsville*, 936/294-1832. www.samhoustonfolkfestival.org.

CENTRAL TEXAS AIRSHOW begins with a pyrotechnics show on Friday evening and presents static and aerobatics displays throughout the weekend. *Fri.-Sun., May 1-3. Temple Airport, Temple, 800/479-0338.* www.centraltexasairshow.com.

FRONT PORCH DAYS offers family fun with a Scout Soapbox Derby, pie-baking contest, washers tournament, kids games, and two stages of music. Sat., May 2. Fergus Park, Plum Creek Neighborhood, Kyle, 512/557-2728. Free. www.frontporchdays.com.

TEXAS WILDFLOWER DAYS fills the day with everything wildflower – art, fun, music, and food – plus pick up maps to the best wildflower viewing spots in the area. Sat., May 2, 9am-6pm. Courthouse Square, Johnson City, 830/868-7684. www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com.

COUNTRY FLAVORS FESTIVAL includes all the Blue Bell Ice Cream you can eat, plus samples from local wineries and sausage factories, as well as games, shopping, and live music. Sat., May 2, 10am-5pm. Downtown, Brenham, 888/273-6426. www.downtownbrenham.com.

ST. STANISLAUS PARISH FESTIVAL is sponsored by the second oldest Polish parish in the U.S. and includes barbecue plate lunches, auctions, raffles, music, and more. *Sun., May 3, 11am-5pm. Mansfield Park, Bandera, 830/460-4712.* www.sttanislaus.us.

SAWS GARDEN JAZZ PARTY & PLANT SALE fills the garden with music and the smells of cooking food while you learn about saving water and shop for plants. Sun., May 3, 10am-2pm. Botanical Garden, San Antonio, 210/829-5100. www.sabot.org. **BIRD WALK** The folks at Travis Audubon show you how to walk and bird-watch in style. 8:15am. *McKinney Falls State Park*, 5808 *McKinney Falls Pkwy.*, 300-2473. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION PANEL Experts from Dallas, Houston, and Austin discuss why the State Board of Education is important. 11:45am. Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Dr., 371-3853. Free.

BUS RIDERS UNION MEETING Add your two cents, and help improve the bus system. *First Saturdays*, 11am. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.busatx.org.

CELEBRATION OF FAMILIES While the kids might not be excited by the more than 120 exhibits on site, they will no doubt be wooed by the moonwalks, maypole, family relays, toddler zone, entertainment, and live music geared to the kiddie set. How you split your time is between you and your child. This year's theme is Focus on Fitness, because being *Wii Fit* isn't enough. 10am-3pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 478-5725 x215. Free. www.familyconnectionsonline.org.

CONSTABLES OFFICE OPEN HOUSE Not sure where your constable lives or even what a constable does? Now's your chance to see where all the magic happens or at least where Justice of the Peace Richard Scott and Constable Danny Thomas work. Food and activities for the kids sweeten the deal. 10am-2pm. Precinct 1 Offices, 1811 Springdale, 854-7510. Free.

CREATING A WILDLIFE GARDEN Learn to choose plants that make your yard appealing to critters. 10:30am. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 854-9600. Free. www.tcmastergardeners.org.

DENA TAYLOR FUNDRAISER The Blues Posse Band kicks out the jams to help defray Dena Taylor's medical bills. 2-6pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 278-1975. Donations appreciated.
 ENGINEERING SATURDAY Hands-on activities

ENGINEERING SALURDAY Hands-on activities for the kids every week. Saturdays, 10am. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50. www.austinkids.org.

FIRST SATURDAY ART FESTIVAL Arts & crafts for adults and kids alike are the order of the day, but music and demos ain't too shabby. First Saturdays, 10am-5pm. Train Park, First & Main, Smithville, 512/629-2213. Free. www.lostpinesartisansalliance.org.

FLAMINGO-A-GO-GO Pink boas, pink flamingos, pink drinks, and great music and food give you even more reasons to help out Planet Cancer in providing resources to kids struggling with the disease. 7pm-12mid. Monarch Luxury Living Apartments, 801 W. Fifth, 452-9010. \$85. www.flamingoagogo.com.

FOOD & FABLES COOKING EVENT Local author Brian Beveridge discusses Food and Fables France, while French-cooking demos heat up the library. 10am. Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/218-7000. Free. www.foodandfables.com.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY It's that simple. Head to your favorite comic-book store, and get yourself a free comic book. If that seems immature to you, feel free to pick up your "graphic novel." See "Free Comic Book Day," p.37, for a list of titles up for grabs. www.freecomicbookday.com.

GARDEN TALK Every week local gardening professionals share their knowledge to make Austin's collective thumb greener. Saturdays, 9:30am. Gardens, 1818 W. 35th, 451-5490. Free. www.gardens-austin.com

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR Four seminars help you dig through the roots of your family tree. 8:30am-3pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. \$55. www.austintxgensoc.org/seminar.php.

GI BILL COLLEGE FAIR Local veterans looking to explore their higher-education opportunities via the GI Bill are invited to either of the two seminars. Attendees will have the chance to talk to admission representatives from local universities or with VA counselors. *8am-noon & 1-4pm. Austin Community College, Cypress Creek campus, 1555 Cypress Creek Rd., Bldg. 1000, Cedar Park, 512/619-5555. Free.* **marco@grandecom.net**.

HANDMADE AUSTIN WOMEN SPRING SHOW Local handcrafters put their creations on display for your enjoyment and possible purchase. Marionette shows on Saturday and live music on Sunday make the perusing all the more enjoyable. Sat.-Sun., May 2-3. Ginko Studios, 800 Gullett, 293-9505. Free. www.handmadeaustinwomen.com.

HANSEL AND GRETEL The Scottish Rite folks have created another kid-friendly theatre experience. This time about siblings and their adventure in the woods. Your kids will never eat gingerbread again. Through May 31. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2pm. Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$10 (\$7, children). www.srct.org.

HRC'S HATS, HORSES, & ROSES Few things rival the pageantry of the Kentucky Derby; we bet a few queens will try. Throw on your best hat, grab a julep, and come on down to watch those ponies with family. 3pm. Rusty Spurs, 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002. \$15. hrcofaustin@gmail.com, austin.hrc.org.

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

KIDZ ART WORKSHOP Bring your kids to the library to enjoy arts & crafts and to exercise their creativity and problem-solving muscles. 1:30pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org.

LAW OF PARTIES PROTEST Help repeal the arcane and barbaric law that allows for the death penalty without the accused having killed or intended to kill anyone. A little solidarity with the human race is in order. 1pm. Texas Capitol, 1100 Congress, 305-8400.

LITTLE LOUNGE LIZARDS Bring the 10-and-under set for a night on the town. Well, more like an afternoon, but there will be dancing to a live DJ. More than that, you'll be dancing on live sharks under the dance floor. All kids must be accompanied by an adult. First Saturdays, 1-4pm. Qua Bottle Lounge, 213 W. Fourth, 472-2782, \$10-12, www.littleloungelizards.com.

MAIFEST DANCE with the sounds of the Cloverleaf Orchestra. 7:30pm. Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto, 249-0263. \$12.

MAY DAY Celtic artists, family activities, and a maypole ring in the new month. *Noon-9pm. Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000.*

OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL After 31 years, this street festival of arts & crafts vendors and live music knows how to throw a party. But this year it's also being responsible by going green and shooting for 75% waste diversion. But it will need your help to keep the recyclables out of the trash. E-mail **staff@oldpecanstreetfestival.com** with a three-hour stretch of time that you can yolunteer. See Music

stretch of time that you can volunteer. See Music Listings, p.88, for more info. Sat.-Sun., May 2-3, 11am-8pm. Sixth Street, from Brazos to I-35. Free. www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com.

PILATES DAY means free pilates classes all over town. Go online for a list of participating businesses and engage your core. 417-5115. www.pilatesdayaustin.com.

RITUAL FOR THE FEAST OF BELTANE Bring flowers, drums, and an open heart to this celebration of May Day as you revel around the fire. *8pm. The Vortex*, 2307 *Manor Rd.*, 478-5282. *Donations appreciated.* www.tejasweb.org.

SOLAR FIRST SATURDAY Can you afford solar? See if some of Obama's stimulus money can help you get on the green track to lower energy bills. *9am. Habitat Suites*, 500 *E. Highland Mall Blvd.*, 751-7716. \$50. www.imaginesolar.com.

SPLISH SPLASH PREPARTY Come out the night before Splash, and get your wristband for the party barge as DJ Licious spins you into a frenzy. What is Splash? See Sunday. 10pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823. www.splashday.com.

SPRING CRAFT FAIR Vendors will be hocking their beaded, sewn, and altogether crafted goods. 9am-3pm. St. Luke, 1306 W. Lynn. www.stlukeumcaustin.org.

SPRING GARDENING SERIES showcases garden art at its finest. 7pm. Great Outdoors, 2730 S. Congress, 448-2992. Free.

TEXPLORATIONS FAMILY STORYTIME See where your imagination will take you. 2 & 3pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with exhibit admission.

www.thestoryoftexas.com.

THE PRINCE WHO WANTED TO FLY Bring the kids for some theatre that teaches self-confidence in the face of adversity. 10 & 11:30am. Round Rock Higher Education Center, 1555 University Blvd., Round Rock, 512/619-5327. Free.



THING IN THE PARK Violet Crown Community Works helps build unity in the Brentwood and Crestview neighborhoods with this free day of arts & crafts, live music, displays, and kids activities. 11am-6pm. Brentwood Park, 6710 Arroyo Seco, 470-5427. Free. www.violetcrownfestival.com.

WHEELS OF WONDERLAND You've probably seen Austin Bike Zoo's massive, bike-mounted creatures at First Night Austin, and now they've put together this traveling theatre performance for your drop-jawed enjoyment. Lewis Carroll gets the two-wheeled treatment with the help of the Texas Juggling Society, members of the Minor Mishap Marching Band, and the 999 Eyes Freak Show. All ages. 6pm. Red River, south of Cesar Chavez. Free (donations appreciated). www.austinbikezoo.org.

WOOFSTOCK The Texas Veterinary Medical

Foundation brings pets, people, vendors, demos, contests, and live music together for a day that both you and your pet will enjoy. *10am-5pm. Waterloo Park*, 403 E. 15th. Free. www.woofstockatwaterloo.org.

YOUTH ARTS FESTIVAL Theatre Action Project presents an exhibition of of art created by local kids. Visual art, film, music, theatre, and more show off the prowess and promise of the next generation of artists. *2-5pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 442-8773. Free.* www.theatreactionproject.org.

ACTING UP & SPEAKING OUT (See Friday.)

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA (See Friday.)

JOHNSTON RAMS UNIFORM SALE (See Friday.)

VIVA! CINCO DE MAYO (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) South Austin Museum of Popular Culture

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) Jackelope @ AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center Amphitheatre, 6:30pm PowerFlicker Short Film Showcase @ Alamo Ritz,

3pm The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid Wiener Takes All: A Dogumentary @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Ume, True Widow, the White White Lights La Zona Rosa

Over the Rhine, Lucy Wainwright Roche Texas Union Ballroom Pecan Street Festival Downtown Austin

U18 Austin Music Showcase Threadgill's World HQ Uncle Lucius Saxon Pub Soulive With the Shady Horns Antone's



A LEGACY OF CHANGE FAMILY

DAY Little art lovers will be treated to the current exhibition and a performance by the kids of Ballet Folklorico Mexikayotl. Hands-on activities and a scavenger hunt sweeten the deal. *1-4pm. Mexic-Arte Museum, 419 Congress, 480-9373. Free.*

BANG BANG GO LOCAL CHILI COOKOFF Brace your taste buds for the chili onslaught: celebrity judges, live music, and all the chili you can eat while it lasts. Noon-8pm. The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. Fourth, 524-1932. \$10 (kids, free).

www.myspace.com/shotgunpartyproductions.

BIKE DRIVE Bring your used bikes to REI for donation to the Yellow Bike Project. Yellow Bike will fix them up and get them back on the road for one of its ongoing youth education programs. *11am-7pm. REI*, 601 *N. Lamar*, 482-3357. www.austinyellowbike.org.

CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH PARTY Free breakfast tacos puts the right foot forward for the new church on the block. 9:30-11am. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146. www.thecityaustin.com.

DISCOVER ENGINEERING DAY Hands-on activities get the kids exercising their math and science muscles. Noon-5pm. Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$4.50-6.50 (first 800 visitors, free). www.austinkids.org. ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN Russ Jones of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition talks legalization. 10am. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 835-9008. Free. www.esoa.org.

FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT! Nicole Whiteside, Hello Lovers, Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, Le Sexy, Little Stolen Moments, food, folks, and fundraiser, all hosted by Rebecca Havemeyer. 6-10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$5-20 suggested donation.

FLYING THEATER MACHINE'S WILD,

WILD PUPPETS Puppets, actors, and your 4- to 10-year-olds work together to tell tales from the Old West. Don't forget your improv skills. Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$5. www.flyingtheatermachine.com.

PRIME TIMERS LIKE FINE WINE Mature gay men meet monthly. Hellillillooooooo, daddy. 2pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.austinptww.org.

EXAMPLE 2 READING + SIGNING WITH BÁRBARA RENAUD GONZÁLEZ González explores the

RENAUD GUNZALEZ GONZAIEZ explores the meaning of home in her new book, Golondrina, Why Did You Leave Me? 3pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

SPLASHI Bods, bods, bods. Lotsa semi- and not-at-all clad queers in the sun, taking over Hippie Hollow. Watch out for the spray tans and binoculars. *Hippie Hollow, 7000 Comanche Trail,* 397-1463.

SPLASH PARTY BARGE Oilcan Harry's, Rain, Rainbow, and Rusty Spurs come together to present the gayest place to be on a Sunday: their party barge. Location details and all the nitty gritty online. www.splashday.com.

SPLAFTER PARTY! You got wet? Well, get wetter. DJ TJ will make you trip and drip. Rainbow Cattle Co., 305 W. Fifth, 472-5288. www.splashday.com.

TEXANS AGAINST REAL IDS This gathering of concerned citizens will discuss how best to stop Real IDs, one of the many ill-conceived riders from the war on terror legislative blitz of 2005. First and third Sundays, 3pm. Brave New Books, 1904 Guadalupe Ste. B (downstairs), 480-2503. Free. www.beatthechip.org.

TOTALLY 80'S NIGHT AT RAIN Rad! The first Sunday of every month is Totally 80's Night at Rain with DJ Dallas. Come in that Madonna costume in the back of your closet. 10pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.

WHEELS OF WONDERLAND See Saturday for show info. 6pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free (donations appreciated). www.austinbikezoo.org.

WHO'S YOUR HERO? The Center for Survivors of Torture brings the work of local artists together for ogling and auctioning purposes. It wouldn't be Antone's without live music. 6-10pm. Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 358-4612. \$25 (\$20, advance). www.cstnet.org.

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA (See Friday.)

HANDMADE AUSTIN WOMEN SPRING SHOW (See Saturday.)

HANSEL AND GRETEL (See Saturday.)
 OLD PECAN STREET FESTIVAL (See Saturday.)

VISUAL ARTS (See Arts Listings.) Incidents at the Two Two Hotel: The Porter

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) The Least of These @ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 12:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Over the Rhine, Lucy Wainwright Roche

Texas Union Ballroom Richard Lloyd Room 710 Pecan Street Festival Downtown Austin Sleepytime Gorilla Museum Red 7 Gulf Coast Extravaganza Threadgill's World HO



MANTIE MONDAYS Get your undies in a

wad for the Wet Underwear Contest. Kelly Kline hosts, and the Manwatch Dancers set the standard for the competition. *Mondays. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca,* 474-6481.

TASTE OF SIXTH STREET Enjoy a five-course meal with each course provided by a different Sixth Street eatery. The proceeds go to 6ixth Street Austin, which strives to preserve the neighborhood's history and character. 7:30pm. El Sol y la Luna, 600 E. Sixth, 203-7280. \$75. www.6ixth.com.

i totally cool totally art student exhibition

Check out the creations of the TCTA kids. Photography, dance, short films, painting, and sculpture are all on display through *May 13. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4025. Free.* www.cityofaustin.org/tcta.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) Banff Mountain Film Festival @ Paramount, 7pm Rock 'n' Roll High School @ Alamo Ritz, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Plutonium Farmers Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735 MV & EE Mohawk

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 15 issue is Monday, May 4**. 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:



AMÉRICO PAREDES LITERATURE & LETTERS AWARD is presented to Ana

Castillo for her contributions in the field of Mexican-American studies. 5pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 471-4557. Free. www.utexas.edu/depts/cmas.

BETTING ON BOWLING The Austin Gamblers: Your bowling league, friend. And, you're just in time to get in on the summer session! *Tuesdays*, 8:30pm. Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover, 350-3241. austingamblers@yahoo.com, austingamblers.com.

BIRDING TUESDAYS mean two hours of trail-walking and bird-watching with the Travis Audubon Society. Go online for specific directions to the meeting point. Bring your binoculars. 8am. Mary Moore Searight Park, 907 Slaughter Ln., 300-BIRD. Free. www.travisaudubon.org.

CINCO DE MAYO Music, games, arts & crafts, and great food: Everything you expect from a CDM celebration. 3-5pm. Montopolis Recreation Center, 1200 Montopolis, 385-5931. Free.

EARLY VOTING ENDS Voting early does not reward you with more voting opportunities, but it will go a lot quicker. Not sure who to vote for? Trust us and

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

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com. James Renovitch (everything else):

calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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

A Taste of **PICC** benefiting Austin Pride

Friday, May 8 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Great Outdoors Nursery 2730 South Congress Avenue

featuring **GRRLZ WILL BE BOIZ** and other festival performers

www.austinpride.org//taste

tickets are available online and includes Pride VIP pass

our endorsements (p.4). Want to be informed but don't want to leave the house? You can keep up with all the latest election news at austinchronicle. com/elections. www.citvofaustin.org/election.

ENGAGE SPEAKER SERIES Local experts discuss how to make a positive impact in your community. 7:30am. Chez Zee, 5406 Balcones, 499-0435. \$25 (\$20, members). www.leadershipaustin.org.

LONESTAR MENSA MEETING Everyone's invited, and everyone can feel like a smarty pants. Bill Bunch talks about his efforts to preserve local water resources. 7pm. Old Quarry Branch Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 491-9881. Free. www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

SIERRA CLUB MEETING Denise Lawungkurr Goodfellow is your guide to Australia's exotic birds. 7pm. Texas State Teachers Association. 316 W. 12th, 877/275-8782. Free. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

STEAK, CHOCOLATES & STRIPPING Steak night every Tuesday, now featuring filet mignon and enchiladas. Save room for Chocolates for Charity, courtesy of the United Court. Stay late for Jame Perry's original amateur strip-off. Tuesdays, 6pm & 12mid. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.charliesaustin.com

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) Banff Mountain Film Festival @ Paramount, 7pm Evilspeak @ Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm My Family, Mi Familia @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Michael Martin Murphey Saxon Pub



AAIM HOPE AWARDS honor local people and organizations that "put hope into action." Mayors Will Wynn and Bill White (Houston) keep hope alive as introducer and keynoter, respec-

tively. 6pm. UT Alumni Center, 2110 San Jacinto, 386-9145. \$125. www.aaimaustin.org ACCESSIBLE ARTS RECEPTION Check out work

from this year's Accessible Arts Program and the creative kids with developmental and learning needs behind them, Noon-6pm, Access Gallery, 3701 Guadalupe #3, 323-6626. Free. www.vsatx.org.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN TEXAS Jere Locke, director of the Texas Climate Emergency Campaign, discusses what needs to be done if we're to avoid nature taking the reins again. 8pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

HIGH NOON TALKS The director of the Humanities Institute at UT, Dr. Evan Carton, presents four poems from the collection that helped shape the story of Texas. Noon-1pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with admission to museum. www.thestorvoftexas.com

MEET THE CANDIDATES This is one of your last chances to meet the candidates backed by the Better Austin Tomorrow public action committee. 5:30pm. El Sol y la Luna, 600 E. Sixth, 573-6194. Free. www.betteraustintoday.org.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB hosts a candidate forum with Perla Cavazos and Chris Rilev. 7am. Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, UT Club, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15. www.mbcaustin.org.

SCIENCE UNDER THE STARS Learn all about ants at this outdoor lecture series. 8pm. Brackenridge Field Lab, 2907 Lake Austin Blvd. Free.

www.biosci.utexas.edu/ib/ScienceUnderStars/index.html.

W4W Is it a coincidence that CP's ladies night falls on Hump Day? Dollar burgers, dollar drafts. Wednesdays, 9pm. The Cockpit, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. www.cockpitaustin.com

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) The Pope's Toilet @ St. John Library, 6:30pm The Room @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Wye Oak Mohawk



SPLASH! (SEE SUNDAY)

THURSDAY 07

100% EXHIBIT RECEPTION This art

show features works from all walks of life: professionals to emerging artists to students to moms and dads. Visual arts in the key of Austin. 6pm. Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free. www.carvermuseum.org

ADULT OPEN COMPUTER CLINIC Learn the computer basics in a one-on-one environment. 9:30am. Austin Free-Net, 2209 Rosewood, 236-8225 x13. Free, www.austinfree.net.

FAN DRIVE TEAM CAPTAIN KICKOFF If you are interested in organizing a fan drive at your business or organization, come out to this orientation event and learn how. Family Eldercare's Summer Fan Drive supplies fans to the elderly, so they can enjoy summer instead of fearing it. 5:30pm. Threadgill's Old No. 1, 6416 N. Lamar, 483-3557. www.familyeldercare.org.

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

FOOD JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES Learn the effects of conventional food production on the environment, 7nm, MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free.

www.fairfoodaustin.blogspot.com

INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP Meet with other families that have lost a pregnancy or had an infant die, 7pm, St. David's Round Rock Medical Center, 2400 Round Rock Ave., Classroom 3, Round Rock. 512/341-1395. Free.

LAFF The upcoming Ladies Are Funny Festival is still accepting volunteers. The lineup so far includes Sara Benincasa, Jill Bernard, and locals Holly Lorka, Luna Tart, Kerri Lendo, and more. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.,

474-7886. ggg@austinimprov.com, laff.austinimprov.com. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Join in on the prayer

and praise music. When you're done, stop by your representative's office, and tell them you're praying for them. Noon. State Capitol Rotunda, 11th & Congress, 228-4223, www.aroundtherotunda.com

W ROCK YOUR WORLD WITH THE DIVINE MOTHER Mothers? Divine! Sondra Ray's book

shall be signed and discussed. Perfect for those looking for a good mama. 7am. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com

🕍 BACK TO CLASS WITH (CL)ASS (See Thursday, 4/30.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Impulse @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Chubby Checker Threadgill's World HQ

now ...

TALK TIME features conversation practice for English-language learners hoping to fine-tune their skills in a nonthreatening atmosphere. Call or go online for a schedule of times and locations. 974-7529. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

DONATION REQUEST FOR ARCH Serving 400 homeless a day, the soap desk at the ARCH is in need of all manner of toiletries (feminine-hygiene products, disposable razors, etc.), magazines, activity books (crosswords, etc.), gift cards, and phone cards. Check the website or call for specific items. ARCH, 500 E. Seventh, 305-4174. www.frontsteps.org.

HILL COUNTRY PHOTO CONTEST Start exploring the 17 counties that make up the Hill Country, and find one of the myriad natural and picturesque spots. Snap it, and submit it to the Hill Country Alliance online, where vou will also find a complete list of rules. Deadline for submissions is May 31. 560-3135. www.hillcountryalliance.org

GARDENING & GREENING CLASSES at the Great Outdoors nursery cover topics from seasonal planting to sustainable eating. Many meetings are free, making it that much more inviting to go green. Great Outdoors, 2730 S. Congress, 448-2992. www.gonursery.com

FINANCIAL COACHES NEEDED Nonprofit Foundation Communities is looking for a few good financial advisers to help low-income families get their money situations under control. Foundation Communities, 3036 S. First #200, 447-2026 x41. christopher.alberts@foundcom.org, www.foundcom.org.

 $\ensuremath{\textbf{OUTDOOR}}\ensuremath{\,\textbf{YOGA}}\xspace$ Forget the studio. Try hatha yoga in lovely Butler Park. See www.outdoorvoga.org for a schedule of instructors and the exact location. Mon.-Fri., 6pm; Sat.-Sun., 11am. \$5 suggested donation.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST Two contests - one for high school seniors and another for college students over the age of 21 - offer scholarships for the best posters and slogans. Go online for complete details. The submission deadline is May 8, 535-3679. www.texashospitalityassociation.com

LIFEWORKS LITERACY PROGRAM VOLUNTEEERS **NEEDED** Volunteers are needed to tutor adult basic education and English as a second language classes. No prior experience or knowledge of a second language needed. 2222 Rosewood, 478-7323. kirsten.hollis@lifeworksweb.org, www.lifeworksweb.org.

ZILKER ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG An archeological dig has begun in our very own Zilker Park. Early testing showed artifacts dating back 10,000 years. Tours of the site for schools and youth groups are available by reservation. Individuals can help screen for artifacts. Zilker Park, 974-1444. www.archeologyatzilker.com www.cityofaustin.org/publicworks/zilker.htm.

VOICES FROM SAN JACINTO displays artifacts and historical documents that illuminate the last battle of the Texas Revolution, Through Sept. 30, Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

GET READY TO MAKE During the months of April and May, bring in 20 plastic bottle caps, 20 round plastic container lids, or 2 yards of fabric (at least 8 inches wide), and gain access to the Austin Children's Museum for free. Austin Children's Museum. 201 Colorado. 472-2499. www.austinkids.org.

COMMUTER CHALLENGE Get a group together, and start biking instead of driving. Sign up online, and compete to see which group logs the most rides. The handydandy route mapper can help, as can the posts from other riders sharing their bike-commuting tips. www.austincommuterchallenge.com.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES always seems to be donating a portion of its sales to some local charity or another. So, why not browse its Fair Trade imports and do Austin and the world a favor. Ten Thousand Villages. 1317 S. Congress, 440-0440. www.austin.tenthousandvillages.com

VOLUNTEER CALL FOR PIONEER DAY Be a part of history, or the re-creating of history anyway, by volunteering to teach visitors of Round Rock's yearly festival in the ways of butter churning, candle dipping, and other old-timey activities. Thu.-Sat., May 7-9. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/943-1670. mross@williamsonmuseum.org, www.williamsonmuseum.org

WI GLBT CATHOLIC SUPPORT GROUP Join the Rev. Ed in exploring what it means to be Christian and gay. Nonjudgmental, safe, and accepting; no "reparative therapy" nonsense here. Just 100% openhearted fellowship. Call for time and location. www.utcatholic.org

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL AWARDS DEADLINE Know someone who's been beautifying our city and is worthy of recognition? Your neighbor finally mowing the lawn doesn't count. The deadline is June 15, so go to www.keepaustinbeautiful.org, and read up on the criteria and categories before downloading the nomination form. Winners are recognized at the KAB awards luncheon in October. 391-0622.

VIETNAM TO AUSTIN: RESTORING COMMUNITY This exhibition of historic photos, documents, and more tells the story of endurance and triumph that illustrates the incredible journeys of Vietnamese people to our fair city. *Through July 17. Austin History Center*, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7394. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc.

& later

ACCESS U TRAINING INSTITUTE For all you tech-industry types looking to ensure your Web designs and programming are accessible to people with disabilities. Sign up now. Mon.-Wed., May 11-13. St. Edward's campus, 305-0310. \$295, one-day; \$760. three-day intensive. www.knowbility.org.

CANCER CONNECTION VOLUNTEER TRAINING is for cancer survivors and their loved ones who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. Apply online at www.thecancerconnection. org. Fri., June 5, 5:45-9pm; Sat., June 6, 8:45am-4pm. 342-0233. \$25 (scholarships available).

DIPLOMACY IN MOTION The International Hospitality Council of Austin brings a fundraiser on rails. Jump on the train in Cedar Park and travel to Bertram, Texas, and back surrounded by food and festivities from around the world. The money goes to international students studying at local universities. Sat., June 13, 6-9pm. 505-4079. \$35-75. www.ihcaustin.com

DON'T HIDE YO PRIDE Pride's just around the bend. Sign up now as a sponsor or volunteer. And while you're at it, get a booth and a position in the parade. AGLCC makes it easy to access online (you can even Facebook 'em, Dano). Check the site or e-mail today! Sat., June 6. www.austinpride.org.

KNT'S LUCKY 7 Happy B'day Kings N Things! Party with the burlesque stylings of Vivienne Vermuth (from Dallas), Sugar Push (from Houston), and cheers from Austin's own Queertastiks. Fri., May 8, 9pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$10. allison.stelly@gmail.com, www.kingsnthings.org.

PROM-O-RAMA OutYouth annual alternative prom. where attendees are treated to the star treatment, and awards, a red carpet, and paparazzi abound. Sat., May 9, 20 and older, 6-8:30pm; under 20, 9pm-12mid. Adora Hall, 12200 N. MoPac, 419-1233. \$25. www.outyouth.org.

SING Six sins? We know of at least seven. Join sexy celebs Elizabeth Keener (L Word). Jamie Lauren (Top Chef), and supa sassay spinnah DJ Dirty Kurty for a night of naughty (21+). Sat., June 20, 9pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 680-8864. Free. rfindlay@girlsgoneclean.com, www.missmanagedproductions.com, www.ticketalternative.com.

UT TRASH TO TREASURE DRIVE It's coming up on move-out time for UT students. So what are you going to do with that couch and lamp you found on the street back in October? Donate it to Trash to Treasure, where it will be sold at a low cost for students moving in. Kinda like delayed recycling. Call 232-7840 to schedule a pickup of large items, or bring your smaller items to the LBJ Library parking lot or other donation drop-off spots around town. Go to the website for more info on special deals and volunteer opportunities. May 13-25, 8am-6pm. LBJ Museum Parking Lot No. 38 and San Antonio & 23rd. www.trashtotreasureut.com

WHIPPIN' IT OUT FOR PRIDE! What's that? A superspecial Pride pullout supplement for Austin Pride 2009? Yup. The Chronicle shall throw it down. Join us? If you are hosting an event for Pride, send us info ASAP for the special Pride edition of the Gay Place. We'll also be updating our gAyTX Fun Guide. Who loves ya, baby? All listings are free free free free free. The first weekend in June. 454-5766. Free. gayplace@austinchronicle. com, austinchronicle.com/gayplace,

austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog, austinchronicle.com/gaytx.

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BY THOMAS HACKETT **playingthrough**

A few years ago, I spent a lot of time hanging out with professional wrestlers - at first with a sense of derision but ultimately in admiration. Don't get me

wrong: I still always thought most pro wrestlers were drug-addled narcissists captive to pathological delusions. but for all that I rather liked them.

Liked their unabashed enthusiasm. Liked their high tolerance of one another's foibles and failings. Despite all the taunting in the ring, professional wrestlers may be the least judgmental people on the planet. They're also the least cyni-

cal. They may not believe in personal hygiene or basic

social etiquette, but they believe in the importance of making perfect spectacles of themselves, whether in front of the WWF multitudes or a few fish-head fans in some dreary suburban rec center.

"Wrestling has taken a dramatic change since its peak 10 years ago," says Darin Childs, owner of Anarchy Championship Wrestling, which last Sunday at Emo's staged its 50th show in two years. Referring to the dozens of professional wrestling deaths, usually by suicide or drug overdose, he adds: "We've learned that we have to respect and love Please write each other, 'cause let's Mr. Hackett at face it: We're all a bunch plavingthrough@ of misfits who basically austinchronicle.com had no where else to go. Here, we've found a lot of acceptance from the fans - fans who are looking for that acceptance themselves. They want something they can believe in and belong to. That's what this is all about. As selfish and evil as people can be, to

succeed, wrestling has got to be a loving environment." Hanging out backstage at Emo's, I would say Childs has created that

environment. I saw none of the insecure assholishness you see at most indie shows, and the game and spirited crowd of about 100 could feel it, too - the love, the respect.



Jacob Ladder and his son, Sterling

"It's always been a scummy business," says Arik Cannon, who works the independent scene all over the country, flying from Minneapolis to San Francisco to Milwaukee to Austin in the last two days. "What people don't know is how much the guys really just love wrestling. For most of them. there's no money in it at all. It's the starving artist thing. We do it because we can't imagine doing anything else."

No doubt, most of the guys working for the ACW have ridiculous fantasies of somehow launch-

ing themselves into the stratosphere of celebrity, à la the Rock. It is safe to say that will never happen. They lack the camp charisma, the holy-shit physicality. Some of them

shouldn't stand shirtless in front of a mirror, let alone a bunch of paying customers. But, you know, whatever. They don't seem to know that. And in pro wrestling, it's the fantasy that counts, never the reality. "It's the best drug in the world," Scott

"Mr. Showtime" Summers tells me. "I've done everything, partywise. But getting out in front of a bunch of people, entertaining them, I don't care how many that is, whether it's 30 or 3,000, is the best high there is."

THE MAIN EVENT * WORLD'S BIGGEST DISC GOLF

WEEKEND Here in Austin we take our disc golf seriously, and this is a serious family-friendly event, featuring free disc-golf instruction, prizes, a putting contest, a silent auction, live music, and much more, all while benefiting four different charities. Sat., May 2, 8am-6pm. Circle R Ranch, 11801 FM 2325. Wimberlev: Sun., May 3. 8am-6pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 512/970-9001. \$25-35. dg@moment.net, www.wbdgw.com

THE HOME TEAMS

TXRD LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS Calvello Cup champions the Holy Rollers are out for blood as they battle the Rhinestone Cowgirls on the banked track. If you can't make it to the bout, follow the action with the live webcast. Sun., May 3, 6pm doors (bout at 7pm). Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. \$15 (\$13, advance). www.txrd.com.

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS The Texecutioners welcome the Atlanta Rollergirls' Dirty South Derby Girls to town for a little flat-track Roller Derby, Austin-style, The Austin Derby Brats of the Texas Rollergirls Junior League will be making their flat-track debut before the bout. Sun., May 3, 6:30pm (doors). Plavland Skate Center, 8822 McCann Dr. \$15 (\$12, advance), www.txrollergirls.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Baseball Vs. Baylor: Fri., May 1, 8pm. Vs. Texas Southern: Wed., May 6, 6pm. Disch-Falk Field, 1300 E. MLK. Softball Vs. UT-San Antonio: Thu., April 30, 5 & 7pm. Vs. Texas A&M: Sat., May 2, 6pm. McCombs Field, 2001 Comal. Track & Field Texas Invite: Sat., May 2, 1:30pm. Mike Myers Track & Soccer Stadium, Red River & Manor Rd, www.texassports.com

TEXAS STATE Softball Vs. North Texas: Thu., April 30, 6pm. Baseball Vs. Texas-San Antonio: Fri., May 1, 6:30pm. Bobcat Baseball Stadium, San Marcos, www.txstatebobcats.com

RECREATION & FITNESS ASA TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN WATER STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS This

2,000-meter downhill straightaway is open to all Texas high school students grades 9-12. Held in conjunction with the Money Box Cap 2K. Sun., May 3, 10am. Lady Bird Lake, 327-2260. www.americanswimmingassociation.com

ROCK CLIMBING WORKSHOPS Learn

everything you need to know about getting started as a rock climber in UClimb's two-day workshop. Sat.-Sun., May 2-3. Enchanted Rock. www.uclimb.org

T'AI CHI-ATHON Workshops, demonstrations, contests, and prizes are featured at this tai chi-athon benefiting the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Sun., May 3, 10am-4pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. www.northaustintaichi.com

THE GREAT PING-PONGATHON 2009 Kirsten and Kris Schultz will attempt to play ping-pong for 24 hours straight and will dedicate all proceeds to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Drop by, drop some money in the donation boxes, and maybe challenge one of the Schultz's to a game. Sat., May 2, noon. Pure Austin Fitness, 907 W. Fifth. 698-3331. Free (donations accepted). pocarmokid@yahoo.com



COLORADO RIVER WALKERS LOST

PINES XVIII consists of 5- and 10-kilometer walks on paved roads and hiking trails in beautiful Bastrop State Park. Sat. Sun., May 2-3, 8am. Meet at the Refectory in Bastrop State Park, 3005 E. Hwy. 21, Bastrop. www.coloradoriverwalkers.org.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNEY and silent auction will benefit the Onion Creek American Legion Post 326. Thu., May 7, 7am. Onion Creek Golf Club, 2510 Onion Creek Parkway. www.alegiononioncreek.org

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE "Try before you buy" new and used golf equipment. There will also be putting and closest-to-the-pin contests and free 30-minute golf lessons. Sat., May 2, 8am, Harvey Penick Golf Campus. 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.

MONEY BOX CAP 2K OPEN WATER RACE AND PLEDGE SWIM This swim from Red Bud Isle to the Texas Rowing Center will benefit Swim Safe Austin and Deep Eddy Pool. Sun., May 3, 10am. Lady Bird Lake, 327-2260. www.cap2k.com

GOLF FOR THE ARTS Hosted by KVUE's Tyler Sieswerda, this event is being held to help support TexARTS arts education and scholarships. Sun., May 3, 1:30pm shotgun start. Flintrock Country Club, 1213 RR S. 620. \$135. www.tex-arts.org

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

SHINER GASP starts in Austin and finishes at the historic Spoetzl Brewery in Shiner. Benefits the American Cancer Society. Sat., May 2, 7am. Starts at the MetCenter, at the intersection of highways 183 & 71, 512/771-4609. www.cancer.org.

CINCO DE MAYO 5K After the race, stick around and enjoy food, music, dancing, and awards. Sat., May 2, 9am. Colorado River Park, 515 S. Pleasant Valley, 472-3254.

MAY DAY 5K SCHOLARSHIP RUN Proceeds will be used for scholarships for local high school students. Sat., May 2, 8am. Hernandez Intermediate School, 333 Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos. 393-6100. \$20. www.sanmarcosrunners.org.

WALK LIKE MADD A 5K walk to raise funds for MADD's programs. Sat., May 2, 9am. Old Settlers Park, 2800 Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, www.walklikemadd.org.

SHOES 4 KIDS 5K AND KID'S 1K Kids need shoes, and you most likely need some exercise, so it's a win-win. Follow a lovely course around the Austin State School while raising money for Shoes for Austin. Sat., May 2, 8am. Austin State School, 2203 W. 35th, 479-7463. 5K \$25, kid's 1K \$10. www.shoesforaustin.org.

SKEESE GREETS WOMEN'S TRI

Beginner and advanced triathletes are welcomed equally. Sun., May 3, 8am. TX Ski Ranch, New Braunfels, 6700 N. I-35. www.skeesegreetstri.com

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN AND LITTLE

BUN RUN Austin's longest-running 5K features an average of 5,000 runners per year and raises money for Austin's Sunshine Camps. Kids under the age of 13 can enjoy the Little Bun Run following the 5K. Sun., May 3, 8am (10am for the Little Bun Run). Auditorium Shores, 773-5240. www.bunrun.com

THE MAZE 30KM/10KM This is the first of three races in the Rogue Trail Series. Sun., May 3, 7am. Walnut Creek Metro Park, 12138 N. Lamar, 294-6456. www.tejastrails.com/Rogue.html.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the May 15 issue is Monday, May 4. 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

Ouestions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, List ings editor, at brenner@austinchronicle.com

BY NICK BARBARO SOCCET watch

Eddie Johnson was named USL-1 player of the week after netting two goals and a gorgeous assist in the Austin Aztex's historic first win Saturday, 3-0, over the Cleveland City Stars. The Aztex conclude their opening home stand next Friday, hosting the top team in the league, the Puerto Rico Islanders. That's also Fox Soccer Channel's USL game of the week, so it's being cablecast live nationwide - let's hope for a good loud crowd to show its support. Friday, May 8, 7pm, Nelson Field, 7400 Berkman. \$18-22.

In European Champions League semifinals this week, Barcelona had the best of the play hosting Chelsea but had to settle for a goalless draw, and Manchester United completely dominated Arsenal but came away with just a 1-0 first-leg win. Return legs are next week: Tuesday, Barcelona at Chelsea; Wednesday, Man U at Arsenal; both 1:30pm live on ESPN2.

Our own continent's Champions League final, meanwhile, has been delayed two weeks by the swine flu outbreak in Mexico. Atlante won the first leg last week, 2-0, at **Cruz Azul**; the return leg in Cancun is delayed until May 12. This week's Mexican League games are going on as scheduled but behind closed doors, with no one allowed in the stadiums. The U-17 CONCACAF championship has been canceled, and Mexican teams competing internationally in the Copa Libertadores are under scrutiny as well.

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





Should I begin this review with a question? Answer: Rubik's Cube. Or any puzzle of sufficient complexity. Life itself will do, as an example.

Given that so much of our inner lives and the outer vastness of life in general - can feel like a Rubik's Cube that's always just a few too many moves away from being solved. Given that the creative arts, at their best, provide not only a welcome distraction from the grave toward which we all plummet but may also evoke the feeling that, oh, here's one of those moves that helps solve the Cube, that makes just a bit more sense of my life, of the larger world and its confounding patterns of chaos. Given that, is it any wonder that some artists eventually deconstruct their art, those smaller cubes designed to reiterate relevant sections of that largest puzzle, in an attempt to discern the most effective parts?

No, this review should have started with a statement.

Such as: There's that one episode of Star Trek, the original series. It's called "Shore Leave"; it was written by Theodore Sturgeon, and there's a tiger in it. There's a tiger in the Rude Mechanicals' The Method Gun, too. It's a coincidence, I'm pretty sure. I doubt that Kirk Lynn, who wrote the script – or Shawn Sides, who directed it, or the other Rudes and their friends who collaborated fiercely on the project for years - was watching that episode of Star Trek and thought, "Boy howdy, let's have a tiger in our show, too!"

And yet there's a tiger in The Method Gun for the same reason that there was a tiger on the seemingly paradisiacal planet to which our heroes beamed down for some much needed R&R. The planet in "Shore Leave" is a highly sophisticated amusement park, see. (If that's a spoiler, I'm sorry, but you've had more than 30 years.) And the tiger, unknowingly conjured by Lt. Sulu, is just the sort of danger to add a necessary excitement to the idyllic landscape. But that's not why there's a tiger in The Method Gun.

Sometimes the move you thought would be a potentially Cube-solving turning point turns out to only make things worse. Thus, rehearsals. Thus, first - and second and third - drafts. Whatever it takes to find your way in the forest of the night.

'The more complex the mind, the greater the need for the simplicity of play," says James Tiberius Kirk, flaunting his captainly epiphany regarding the amusement-park planet's raison d'être. Which is where, in the midst of the Rudes' explorations and deconstructions of theatre artist Stella Burden's "Approach" method of acting, the tiger in The Method Gun comes in. Look: It's not a real tiger.

Oh God, it's one of the actors in a tiger suit. And it's the cutest tiger suit you ever saw! And it's a clever tiger! And it talks with a funny accent! Maybe it's a Tigerish accent!

'Tigers are good for plays because of the simple fact that we are a symbol," it gleefully informs the audience. "Tigers represent both life on this planet and death. ... And I am this play's tiger!"

Each diversionary appearance of the tiger, that playful simplification of life and death. is greeted with audible delight from the audience, even as that audience is drawn deeper into the Rubik's Cube of the Rude Mechs portraying a troupe of actors who are attempting to re-create Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire without any of the main characters(!), using the Approach as taught by Stella Burden - herself a vanished puzzle constructed by those same Rudes. The re-creation of the Streetcar re-creation is a fascinating show to watch, especially if you've ever been involved with or enchanted by theatre, more so if you've also watched yourself being yourself on the less defined stages of life and been unsure of your performance there. But, after a while, this could get to be a bit much, yes?

A danger is that there are too many layers, too much thespian navel-gazing going on, too intense cerebral machination needed to appreciate this whole ... whoops, here comes that tiger again! Oh, the ferocious thing! Oh, it's adorable!

Is this the part of the review where I mention that Kirk Lynn is a fucking genius and that the other Rude Mechs are also geniuses? Or does that come later?

Also: Never mind the Rubik's Cube. In the first place, you'd have to splice its genes with the genes of a hall of mirrors for it to work as a metaphor for The Method Gun, and as neither cubes nor mirrors have genes, the whole thing's far too strained before we even begin. Think, instead, about your favorite caper film. Rififi, maybe. The Italian Job. Ocean's Eleven. There's a goal to be reached, much fine loot to be gained, if only you can suss the system and time the diversions and jimmy the locks and make it through those crisscrossed laser beams - that lattice of amplified light, the breaking of which will trip the alarm, and that's it, hero, so close to heaven, and now you're hella fucked.

The Method Gun is the Rude Mechanicals looking at theatre in the ways, approximately, they've looked at punk rock in Lipstick Traces, Nikola Tesla in Requiem for Tesla, the Wild West in El Paraiso, and soap operas in Decameron Day 7: Revenge: through theatre. Now they're looking directly at theatre through theatre, at what it has to offer the people who perform it and the people who watch those performers. The difficulty is in reaching the goal, in making the looking as entertaining as what they're looking at, making what they're looking at as entertaining as theatre can be, making it all come together in front of an audience that wants to be entertained but would also appreciate the feeling that, oh, here's one of those moves that help solve the Cube. (Okay, the Cube is back.)

I tell you that the Rudes have done this. The writer, the director, the designers, and especially the five performers: Thomas Graves, Heather Hanna, Jude Hickey, Hannah Kenah, and Lana Lesley. They've sussed the system and timed the diversions and iimmied the locks. I tell you that the Rudes do this every night they perform The Method Gun and that, during the final minutes of the show, they do the whole thing over again - this time between swinging pendulums of light, the laser-caged caper finale gone Newtonian old school.

The show is a fake; the acting's pretense; the danger is real; it's impressive as hell. But even without the lights framing symmetry in perfectly timed arcs and the Rudes stepping or bending or fighting or dancing expertly between them, the best danger of theatre was already there: the danger that something real will emerge from this stage of fakery and pretense, and it may have teeth.

Tiger, shmiger. The Rude Mechs are burning bright. - Wayne Alan Brenner

theatre

OPENING

AUSTIN CABARET THEATRE: TOXIC AUDIO This award-winning five-member group of a cappella sing-ers has been drawing critical and popular raves around the country as it explores the boundaries of the human voice. *Thu.-Fri., April 30-May 1, 8:30pm.* Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. www.austincabaret.blogspot.com.

HOUSE No, dammit, Hugh Laurie has nothing to do with it. This is the return of the hilarious Daniel Maclvor show, masterfully embodied by Hyde Park Theatre's Ken Webster, that played to sold-out crowds at HPT in 2001. Circus tents, supermarkets, Ramada Inns, sewers, dreams: one man, one very fucked-up adult life, a thousand incredulous laughs. Recommended. Thu.-Sat., April 30-May 30, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$18 (\$16, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.hydeparktheatre.com

AMERICAN BUFFALO David Mamet's drama (about three small-time crooks and their latest attempt at a glorious heist) is performed by the Modern Drama Collective – Jeff Britt, Michael Ferstenfeld, and Steven Alford, as directed by Lindsay McKenna - within the iconic Cathedral of Junk. Through May 2. Thu.-Sat., 7pm. Cathedral of Junk, 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. \$10-20. www.moderndramacollective.com.

NO SHAME THEATRE RETURNS! On the first Friday of each month. Gnap! Theater Projects presents Austin's pre-eminent open-mic performance forum. Script-in-hand or memorized, funny, dance-based, bad, weird, or just what-the-hell, all styles of performance are welcome. M'aidez, m'aidez! Fri., May 1, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$3. www.gnaptheater.org.

THE TEMPEST The Baron's Men theatre company presents Shakespeare's fantastic classic of magic, love, and redemption amid the ragings of an imperfect storm. Out there in the wilds near the Curtain Theatre on the good Lord British's estate, prithee bring something comfortable to sit thy tender arse upon. Fri.-Sun., May 1-10, 7:30pm. 7400 Coldwater Canyon. 474-8497. \$20 (\$15, seniors, students, ACoT).

MATERNAL INSTINCTS PROJECT offers the first performance of a reader's theatre created from the stories of real mothers. Fri.-Sat., May 1-2, 8pm. The New Movement, 1819 Rosewood. Sun., May 10, 4pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. \$5. www.maternalinstinctsproject.blogspot.com

MIKE SUPER: MAGIC & ILLUSION Magic. Illusion. Don't confuse the two, nor forget that Super is the man who won the Phenomenon competition on your TV screen. This acclaimed performer takes modern conjuring to new and surprising territory in his popular stage show - now at the same venerable venue that once hosted the great Houdini! Fri.-Sat., May 1-2, 7:30pm, Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress. 472-5470. \$23-50. www.austintheatre.org.

FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT: THE

FUNDRAISER! This is an electrified cornucopia of performances in support of the upcoming sci-fi musical – yes, it's called Faster Than the Speed of Light that'll be brought to you by Stanley Roy Williamson and friends. Performances? Wow: Le Sexy, Little Stolen Moments, Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat, an *aerial performance* by **Nicole Whiteside**, a selection of songs from the show, and more, all hosted by the faaaaaaaabulous Rebecca Havemeyer. Food and drink, an art auction, and raffles are all included in the night's manic mafficking. Sun., May 3, 6-10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$5-20. www.salvagevanguard.org.

THE DIONYSIUM returns with its monthly slate of debate, lectures, and aesthetically invigorating entertainments. There's a presentation on the arts anthology Minerva's Wreck from yours truly, a curated animation from Lance Myers, who knows what manner of debatorial smackdown, and more - as presided over by Buzz Moran and L.B. Devo, abetted by the live keyboards of Graham Reynolds. Wed., May 6, 7pm. Alamo Drafthouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. \$8. www.originalalamo.com.

CLOSING

A FLEA IN HER EAR Georges Fevdeau's classic farce. predicated on suspicions of marital infidelity, is directed by Don Toner for Austin Playhouse and features Andrea Osborn, David Stokey, and a fine cast of char-acters in period costumes by Buffy Manners. *Through* May 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$26-30 (half price for students), www.austinplavhouse.com

THE METHOD GUN In case you missed this show's premiere at the Long Center last year, here they go again, those Rude Mechanicals, deploying the best of their abilities to make theatre relevant and irresistible in these hypermediated, calamitous times. It doesn't get more recommended than this. (See review, p.72.) Through May 2. Thu.-Sun., Bym. The Off Center, 2211.A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$12-25 (pay what you can, Thursdays & Sundays). www.rudemechs.com.

FUSEBOX FESTIVAL Sometimes creative people offer a few different shows under the same umbrella of publicity and scheduling for the purpose of calling it a festival and thereby, the reasoning seems to be, increasing both excitement and attendance. This 10-day event, however, is beyond such merely hopeful labeling. This time, even more than in previous years, the indefatigible Ron Berry and his Refraction Arts posse have wrangled an impressive diversity of shows and presentations (contemporary theatre, dance, film, music, writing, and visual art) from all over the world. to push the boundaries of cross-disciplinary and multimedia artistic expression. (And there's so fucking much of it, OMG, do these people never sleep?) Do see the Fusebox website (www.fuseboxfestival.com) for details, please, but here are a few highlights to help guide your plans.

LeeSaar the Company: Geisha Contemporary Israeli choreographers Saar Harari and Lee Sher conjure an intense display of kinetics and emotion. *Thu., April* 30, 7pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd.

Cuppola Bobber: Way Out West, the Sea

Whispered Me This UK-based troupe studies the action of the sea, both as mythology and as presence, and presents its destructive magnetism via a homespun minimal aesthetic and poker-faced absurdist charm. *Fri., May 1, 8pm. Blue Theater,* 916 Springdale.

Forced Entertainment: Quizoola! is a live negotiation of what is real and what is performed. Sometimes whispered, sometimes yelled, a barrage of questions are asked – from pop trivia through personal secrets, via pub-quiz and twisted philosophical search. The audience comes and goes throughout the night; the quiz goes on. Sat., May 2, 6-11pm.

ONGOING

GOLF THE MUSICAL: A COMEDY REVUE Tex-Arts presents a formerly Off-Broadway musical that exhausts every quirky term, cliché, and double entendre that you could possibly think of relating to golf. *Through May* 10. *Thu.*-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2 & 7pm. Morris Theatre, 2300 Lohmans Spur. 512/852-9079 x101. \$30-34. www.tex-arts.org.

EXIT THE BODY Out in Leander, there's a comedic murder mystery written by Fred Carmichael and directed by Karen S. Miller for the Way Off Broadway Community Players. *Through May* 9. *Fri-Sat.*, 8pm. Extra show: Sun., May 3, 3pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/259-5878. www.wobcp.org.

RECREATING THE DOMAIN is a set of artist-created recorded walking tours of the Domain, that everso-tony shopping center/residence/office-park thing in North Austin. Visitors can download the walking tours and attend the exhibition on their own time, making this experience a permanent exhibition. This project, incorporating the creations of five audio artists, is curated by Alex Keller in conjunction with the always intriguing Church of the Friendly Ghost. Downloads available at: www.recreatingthedomain.org.

THE AGE OF AROUSAL *Mrrrowwwl*, arousal ... Linda Griffiths' new period comedy fuses the political battle of 19th century suffragettes with the personal battles of the sexes to explore love, desire, and the cost of equality. Featuring Babs George, Jenny Larson, Cyndi Williams, and more. Directed by Lara Toner. (See review, p.74.) *Through May 10. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Austin Playhouse,* 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$20 (half-price for students). www.austinplayhouse.com.

SUNDAY IN THE PARK Out in Bastrop, they're offering this family entertainment featuring turn-of-the-century songs and dances. *Through May 9. Fri.* Sat., 7:30pm. Bastrop Opera House, 711 Spring St., Bastrop, 512/321-6283. \$5-10. www.bastropoperahouse.com.

A NUMBER Different Stages presents Caryl Churchill's so-damned-close-it's-hardly-the-future drama about a man who discovers that he's a clone. Featuring Marc Balester and Norman Blumensaadt. Directed by Bob Tolaro. (Bonus: Most shows will include a post-performance discussion with acclaimed playwright C. Denby Swanson.) Through May 13. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 474-8497. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages. **THE TEXCENTRIC SHOW** The madcap jesters of Esther's Follies branch out with this send-up of old-time radio shows: sketches, skits, live music, and so on, to enhance your dining pleasure. Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe, 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020. www.patsyscowgirlcafe.com.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH The famed Steppenwolf Theatre fashioned a masterpiece with Frank Galati's adaptation of Steinbeck's great novel. Now Dave Steakley directs that epic version for Zach Theatre, with a huge cast and a live fourpiece band re-creating Depression-era music. Check your retirement funds, and feel an instant resonance with those Joads. Through May 10. Wed.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.

LET ME DOWN EASY Conceived, written by, and starring Anna Deveare Smith, this is a fully staged production (soon heading for Broadway) based on the interviews the playwright developed at Zach Theatre. From survivors of the Rwandan genocide to the head coach of the UT football team, this show, this talented woman, captures it all. Directed by Leonard Foglia. Through May 10. Tue.Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 7pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. www.zachtheatre.org.

DINNER THEATRE

MURDER ON THE MOVIE SET Gary Payne and his madcap Capital City Mystery Players present a humor-laced, interactive murder mystery in which you, the audience, play extras on a Hollywood movie set. With full-course Italian fare to dine on. Saturdays, 7pm. Through May 30. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$33.50. www.meatballs.com.

AUDITIONS

AN INSPECTOR CALLS This J.B. Priestley drama will be directed by Norman Blumensaadt for Different Stages in June and July. Seeking: men (ages 26-60) and women (ages 26-55). All ethnicities encouraged to apply. Actors are encouraged to read the script (which may be checked out from the ACoT offices) before auditioning. *Mon.-Tue., May 4-5, 7-9pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery.* www.main.org/dlifstages.

THE ODYSSEY: A ROCK MUSICAL Freddy "Pigman" Carnes has left the acclaimed kiddie shows behind, temporarily, and is looking for actors for his newest work. Men and women are needed to embody the Homeric heroes and heroines, to be presented for adult audiences this summer, and there will be much singing (even a power ballad or two). Call for appointment. Sat., May 9, 10am-2pm; Mon., May 11 & 18, 6:30-9:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 891-8387. www.citydaustin.org.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

SUMMER ACTS: AUSTIN THEATRE FESTIVAL Want to stage a show for less dough? City Theatre is taking submissions for this two-week (*July* 6-19) play festival. Thirty-six performances, six performances per company. You'll get the City stage, an experienced technical and management staff, free publicity, 100% of the box office, and more. See website for details. Deadline: *June 5. City Theatre*, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. www.citytheatreaustin.org.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

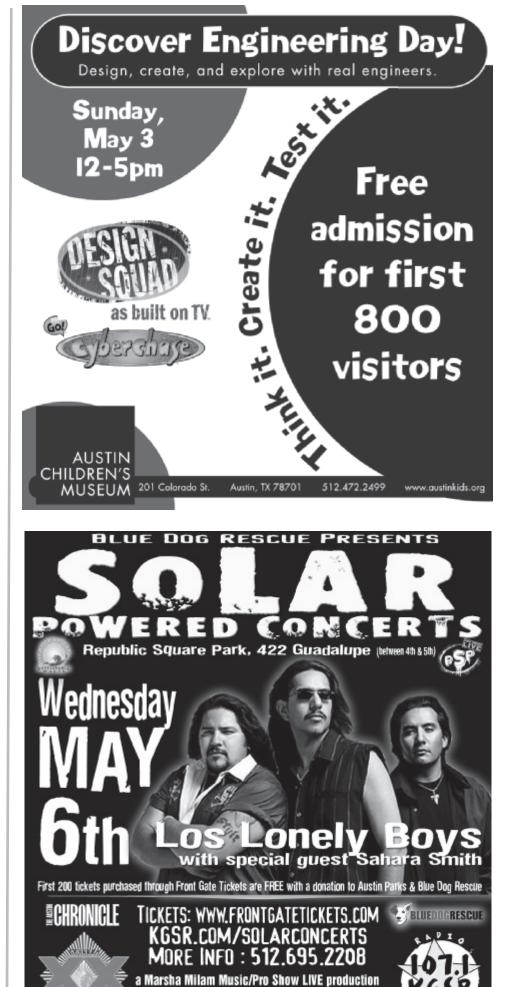
The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 15 issue is Monday, May 4**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for 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.



Wahoo's

DOS HOUIS MODILE Cricket



Larry L. King Theatre at Austin Playhouse, through May 10 Running time: 2 hr. 15 min

For the pillars of the women's suffrage movement, Victorian England is ripe for revolution. There are a half-million more ladies than gents in that fair country, opening up occupational

and financial opportunities for the graduates of Mary Barfoot's school. And to prove just how far women have come, the school opens its doors to the destitute Madden sisters: Monica, a coldhearted nymphomaniac; Virginia, a lush; and Alice, a 40-year-old virgin. Suffice to say they are not going to make the dean's list anytime soon.

But how does the wheat pull the chaff up to its enlightened heights? How does the enlightened woman make peace with her base physical instincts? These questions are at the heart of *Age of Arousal*. In it, Mary and Rhoda play the master and apprentice of the suffrage movement as well as lovers. But when Mary's relative, Everard, falls in love with Rhoda, the apprentice must chose between love and liberation, because the two cannot be intermingled.

Arousal doesn't shirk from its subject matter's ideals, but it doesn't drown in them either. It approaches the lofty heights of something like Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* but without getting lost in headiness – everything is about the women's suffrage movement, and yet it's tempered with bags of action, wit, and absurdity. A passionate struggle between two conflicted lovers, full of legitimate concerns over the ideals that they're giving up for love, is cut with "I've got a boner so hard it's going to burn through my trousers."

Ridiculous? Definitely. Irreverent? Surprisingly not, given some of its absurdly written characters. By showing the extremities of a situation, the problem becomes more galvanizing to the audience. It reminded me of a friend's advice that a good way to play a Shakespearean soliloquy of decision is to show how appealing each option is (i.e., Hamlet really wants to be and really wants not to be). Arousal's characters are both positively and negatively affected by their desire to be independent women as well as their desire to be just women.

Playwright Linda Griffiths pushes this inner turmoil to the surface of the play. Her characters speak in a multitude of midscene asides, the expressions of personal fears and desires somehow akin to midscene soliloquies. It might sound like a stilted device, but in performance, the technique brings audiences closer to the tormented characters (and is pretty damn funny), like a combination of Beatrice and Benedick with the internal questioning of *Annie Hall*.

Arousal's characters are painted with broad, dynamic strokes, their fiery personalities sown into every word they speak. It's a testament to Lara Toner, who directs Austin Playhouse's production, that she not only handled these characters but let them flourish in her fine actors. The energy pops, voices boom, actions are swift. It's not rare to see talented actors in our city, but it's rare to see such talented actors work so hard.

In Arousal, an assertion is made that a strong difference exists between intelligent unhappiness and unintelligent unhappiness. In looking for a lover, the former cries out for both sides of a human being – the side that looks past gender, as well as the side that wants the docile female or dominant man. It is perhaps an impossible expectation. Age of Arousal does a far better balancing act than its characters, blending absurdity and drama, serious figures with madhouse loons, the ideals and the instincts in a way that still speaks to our sensibilities. – Avimaan Syam

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

Greg Giraldo Here he is, more or less crispy fresh from *Stand-Up Nation* and *Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn*, the much-televised comic you've been totally yearning to see live onstage. Do we assume wrong, friend? Pffft. *April 30-May 2. Thu.*, *8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm*.

Brendon Walsh One of the funniest people in Austin – as his pwnage of the 19th annual FPIA contest proved beyond the shad roe of a doubt – returns to the Cap City stage, with Andy Ritchie opening. May 5-9. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri., 8 & 10:30pm.

Funniest Person in Austin Competition They're battling it out on Monday and Tuesday nights at Cap City right now, to see who'll reign supreme over the Austin scene this year. You want to witness the Hopeful (and often Hopeless) Newbies doing their best against the Hoary Old Veterans of Funny? Of course you do – it's sometimes hilarious, sometimes painful, always a good time with, like, a dozen different comedians each night. Recommended. *Through May 18. Mon-Tue., Bpm.*

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.

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

This week: The unstoppable Parallelogramophonograph brings its best to bear on unscripted shenanigans, now with Level 5. Thu., 8pm. Golden Ghetto Warlock Eagle Ah, that's Golden Eagle and Ghetto Sketch Warlock, tag-teaming the stage with their devastating comedy antics. Batten th' hatches! Thu., 10pm, Proctor The ColdTowne improv school faculty unleash themselves. Fri., 8pm. Residencies features the nocturnal ne'er-do-wells of Midnight Society, Fri., 9pm, Punchline The weekly collection of stand-up goodness continues. Fri., 10pm. Stool Pigeon features Dave Marsh, manager of the Capitol Area Rural Transportation System. jump-starting the improv with a thrice-told tale. Sat., 8pm. Cage Match Two improv teams wreak that sweet old havoc upon each other for your grins and giggles. Sat., 9pm. Cold, Cold Improv The house troupe does its thing with, this week, the brutally Frank Mills. Sat., 10pm. Free Stool Pigeon on a Sunday? Yes, is the answer, with Zoe Cordes Selbin, music industry mover and sh-sh-shake Sun., May 3, 7pm. More Free Improv with Murphy and Unfurled Sun., May 3, 8:30pm.

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

Esther's Follies The most popular troupe in town says, "Yes, we can ... entertain the hell out of you!" with its new spring show of musical comedy and sketches, now with the Unleaded Supremes singing "The Big Three Bailout," Espie Randolph as Barack Obama with some special words for our beleaguered nation, and the EF regulars slicing and dicing the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Bernie Madoff, and Octomom. Also, whoa, a new illusion (called "Wink and a Smile") from master magician Ray Anderson. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-fromthe-headlines events turned into comedy gold! Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-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.

Thursday: It's **Threefer Madness** time, in which three different troupes, drawn from the best in town, battle for improv supremacy. *8pm. OMG, it's only \$3*! **Friday: Double Barrel** has two teams of improvisers competing for your laughter and applause. *8pm. \$10.* Next comes the eminently topical **This Week Tonight** show, working its wild improv off the news (of the weird, of the wonderful, of the just plain newsworthy) of the past seven days. Holy current events, anchorman! *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: Hyperlinks puts *you*, the audience, in full control of what the Hideout's top improvisers must do onstage. Mwa ha ha ha! Dance, puppets, dance! *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: **Amber Bixby**. *Thursdays*, 10pm.

Matt Golightly really does go lightly, they suggest: No swearing, no brutal dissing of this or that, just sweet, laugh-out-loud humor stylings directly from the town center of Squaresville. "Daddio" isn't even implied. Bonus: Lucas Molandes and Amber Bixby open. Fri.-Sat., May 1-2, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.

BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!

THE AUSTIN COMEDY TRAINWRECK Stand-up comedy – 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.

COMEDYSPORTZ Competitive improv? Well, of course – and maestro Les McGehee and his talented friends bring it in full force every Saturday night to this newest little coffeehouse in the 78704. *Saturday, 7pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary.* www.comedy7.com.

WELL HUNG JURY REUNION! Drop whatever you may have already planned for this evening. I mean, okay, if this is the only night you have to see the Rude Mechs' *Method Gun*, then go, but if it's not *that*, you owe it to yourself to see this definitely wildest and possibly most talented group of improvisers to ever confound our city with antics and innovations. The Well Hung Jury's old stalwarts are returning for one night only, jetting in from L.A. and Chicago and maybe even corrugated-steel shantytowns somewhere in Senegal, to join the remaining Austin-bound savants for a night of mind-warping comedy improv. You get the idea this show's recommended? Smart feller. *Thu., April 30, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688.* \$10. www.hideouttheatre.com.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL Gnap! Theater Projects presents this double whammy of uncanny improv, featuring two handpicked improv troupes certain to make your Saturday sizzle. This week: Lucky town, you've got the chance to see **Firth & Arjet** and **Girls Girls Girls**. *Sat., May 2, 10pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10.* www.salvagevanguard.org.

dance

TWO LEFT FEET

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.

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.

CHADDICK DANCE THEATER: CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASSES Cheryl Chaddick conducts classes in contemporary dance at several locations around town. These classes integrate the styles and techniques of Jose Limon and Martha Graham with a heavy influence of ballet and jazz. See website for details. 371-7146. www.chaddickdancetheater.com.

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.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Each night features a variety of ballroom and Latin dances; each month sees the start of a new course. No partner necessary. Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

DANCE ASSOCIATES AND AUSTIN PARD: DANCE

CLASSES Kids (ages 24 months and older) can participate in dance, gymnastics, and movement classes all over town, courtesy of Dance Associates and the city's Parks & Recreation Department. See website for details. 323-6838. www.danceassociatesaustin.com.

FLAMENCO CLASSES Beginner: Thursdays, 8-9pm. Synergy Dance Studio, 3425 Bee Caves Rd. Intermediate: Mondays, 8:15-9:15pm. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. \$14 per class. 923-3270. www.myspace.com/chloebrevelle. FREE SALSA LESSONS AT APL Various branches of the Austin Public Library host weekly salsa lessons. Raul Ramirez teaches the steps and spends a little time filling you in on the history and background of the music and dance. Lessons take place throughout the week at the Carver, Cepeda, Pleasant Hill, and University Hills branches. See website for times. 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

ZUMBA DANCE The Latin-inspired international music and dance steps are designed for everyone. *Tuesdays*, 5:45am; *Thursdays*, 7pm. Brushy Creek Community Center. E-mail for details. zumbaaustin@yahoo.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.

EGYPTIAN BELLY-DANCE CLASSES WITH

DRAKON Beginners to advanced dancers are invited to learn from one of Austin's favorite belly dancers. *Various locations*, 295-2036, 750-7037. \$15 per class or six for \$75. www.desertpassion.com.

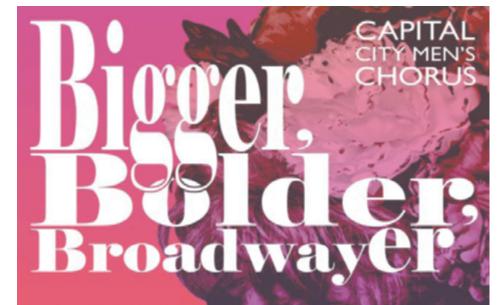
FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Live music by be the Lost & Nameless Orchestra, dances called by Rich MacMath. *Fri., May 1, 7:30pm (beginners* lessons) & 8-11pm (main dance). Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members and first-timers).

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.

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.

DANCE CLASSES FOR BIGGER BODIES A plussized professional dancer leads classes based on having fun moving your body, and exploring jazz, ballet, ballroom, hip-hop, and other types of dancing. Open to anyone who is size-positive regardless of size! Saturdays. Beginners, 2pm; intermediate, 3pm; performance team, 4:30-6:30pm. E-mail for location. www.danceswithfat.org.

ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES Laura Pellegrino offers ongoing classes for beginners, experts, and you in-betweeners in her country's sexy dance of record. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh. Full-time university students receive 50% discount. www.tangointexas.com.



Don't miss a **show** like only the guys from the **chorus** can deliver. We may even sprinkle in some sprinkle in some real dames tool

Tickets available at: **CCMCaustin.org** or buy in person

Sat. MAY 2ND @ 8:00 PM Northwest Hills U.M.C. 7050 Village Center Drive



from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowmant for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves preat art.



Annual 2nd PILATES DAY

The 6th Annual Austin Pilates Day is a city-wide event to promote the many benefits of Pilates. Join us on May 2nd by contacting any of these participating studios for your FREE Pilates class. For more information, visit: www.PilatesDayAustin.com



austinchronicle.com MAY 1,2009 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 75



'Camp Bosworth: Three Day Bender and Other Stories From the Big Bend'

Yard Dog Gallery Through May 31

Camp Bosworth sounds like a location; actually, it's just short for Campbell Bosworth, who is an artist from Marfa. Along with the selectivity and taste to choose a cool nickname, he demonstrates a sharp wit with his wooden sculptures.

The 27 pieces on view at Yard Dog gallery are painted wood, tabletopsized, and hand carved. His macho subjects include various tequilas, beers, 9mm bullets, Glocks and other pistols, drug money, and mariachis. *Three Day Bender* is made up of oversized silver pull tabs curled off beer cans. One tenet of pop art is if you make an object big, then it's funny, like a Claes Oldenburg. Bosworth also displays carved and hand-painted bundles of \$100 bills with wrappers that say \$10,000. I like that they cost \$100 each, and you can buy one or a whole suitcase full of "drug money." The accessories of drug running and black markets are represented throughout the show. One piece, *Viva Mexico Glock*, which comes with a gold bullet, is strikingly direct, as is the wall-relief sculpture called *Cocaine Sheriff*. I like how the crafty hand-hewn qualities of this show mingle with political commentary.

The artwork seems to divide evenly between guns and money linked with illegal drugs and a convincing love of the legal drug, booze. Eleven works deal with alcohol. Bosworth lovingly portrays oversized Cazadores and Herradura bottles. Each of the objects is blocky, then carved with hand tools, with indented lettering that looks a bit like a woodblock print. These detailed surfaces feel a little like cowboy whittling. The artwork is animated and has similarities to kids' toys. They are not perfect – a little off-kilter, loosely rendered, which gives them all a laid-back, not-trying-too-hard, fun pose. I felt a strong desire to touch them and see how much they weighed in my hand, but I resisted.

The Yard Dog website counts among his influences Red Grooms, and that's an apt reference point. In particular, *Viva la Revolution* features two large old-timey ammunition belts that feel Grooms-inspired to me. Both artists present art that is dramatic, action-packed, with rather jocular notions of violence and the Wild West. Bosworth seems to be cultivating a broad love of slang, as well. When you choose your weapon, you can pick between various machine guns engraved with "Beeyotch (Tec 9)," "Glock," "Bustin' a Cap," "Cap Yo' Ass," and "Viva Mexico."

As far as I can tell, plenty of men in Texas love guns and beer, and so does Camp Bosworth. Whoever gets the most "drug money" wins, right? – *Rachel Koper*

ESQUINATANGO Lots going on at EsquinaTango as ever, including ongoing classes in Argentine tango, salsa, Brazilian samba, salsa aerobics, and more. See website for details. *EsquinaTango*, 209 Pedernales, 524-2772. www.esquinatangoaustin.com.

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.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn a variety of couples and line dances from around the world. All levels of experience welcome. No partner required. Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons) & 8:15-11pm (open dance). Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.alfd.cc.

KICK BUTT BLUES DANCE Ass-kickin' blues for you to shake your booty to! Food and beverages available. Fridays (except third Friday each month), 9pm-1am. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 736-2662. \$5. www.kickbuttcoffee.com.

ON YOUR FEET: INTERNATIONAL MUSIC & DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA Dance and music from places as far away as Africa and as close to home as Austin's Eastside include performances from Govinda, salsa dance champ Jose Santoyo, music video vixen Robyn Chance, percussive Buscando El Monte, salsa-rhythmed Ritmo Tres, Africa-based Lannaya, belly-dancing Sabaya, Aqua Drums, and Atash. *Thu., April* 30, 8pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 554-9722. \$20 (\$15, in advance). www.onyourfeetworld.org.

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.

classical music

OPENING

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Miro Quartet Anton Nel, piano, joins the quartet for works by Haydn, Elgar, and Kevin Puts. *Fri., May 1, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall.* \$20 (\$17, seniors, UT faculty & staff; \$10, students). **UT Symphony Orchestra and Choirs: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9** features Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann conducting a wealth of choirs and soloists. Also, *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 35 in D Major* by Tchaikovsky with soloist Soo Jin Nam, violin. Sat., *May 2, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall.* \$20 (\$17, seniors, *UT faculty & staff;* \$10, students). **New Music Ensemble** Dan Welcher leads NME through works by visiting composer Sebastian Currier. Also, Travis Jefford's "Shot in the Dark," a composition created using those searching romantic blurbs of the same name from back of your humble weekly newspaper; maybe you'll find your soulmate in song. *Tue., May 5, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. Free.* 471-5401. **www.music.utexas.edu**.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY: SARAH CHANG This violin prodigy already has an illustrious recording and performance career; in Austin she'll play Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26. Also on the bill, the world premiere of local composer Dan Welcher's Symphony No. 5 (celebrating Peter Bay's 10 years at the helm of ASO – congratulations, maestrol); Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien, Op. 45 rounds off the evening. Come early for Bob Buckalew's Concert Conversation, previewing the evening's musical selections. May 1-2. Fri-Sat., 8pm (Concert Conversation, 7:10pm). Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 476-6064. \$19-48 (student rush tickets available 20 minutes before performance for \$5 cash). www.austinsymphony.org.

CONSPIRARE: SONGS AMONG FRIENDS The Conspirare spring fundraiser invites you to help the group honor Conspirare board Chair Fran Collman with wine, dinner, and songs performed by Craig Hella Johnson and special guests. Call for reservations. *Fri., May* 1, 6pm (concert starts at 8pm). UT Alumni Center, Connally Ballroom, 2110 San Jacinto. 476-5775. \$150-500. www.conspirare.org.

PKWPRODUCTIONS: SYNTHESIS OF MUSIC AND

LITERATURE P. Kellach Waddle and his musical cadre present a live musical tribute to F. Scott Fitzgerald with four world-premiere compositions inspired by the author. Sun., May 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. Free. www.bookpeople.com

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY SEU Madrigal Chamber Choir & University Chorale in Concert Sun., May 3, 7:30pm. Main Building, Maloney Room, 3001 S. Congress. Free. 428-1297.

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: GRAND FINALE CONCERT The semester's last hurrah for local student musicians of the youth concertante, sinfonietta, intermezzo, philharmonic, and symphony orchestras. Sun., May 3, 2:30pm. Westlake Community Performing Arts Center, 4100 Westbank. 463-9595. Free. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.

THE SECRETS OF MUSIC: BARTON STRINGS For this intimate concert, the "busiest professional string quartet in Austin" welcomes guest David Perkoff. *Sun., May 3, 3pm. Blackerby Hall,* 1111 E. Anderson. 825-4193. \$12 (\$10, in advance).

visual arts

EVENTS

CASETA: TEXAS ART FAIR & SYMPOSIUM ON EARLY

TEXAS ART The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art presents its seventh annual weekend celebration of Texas art and education. Much fine work on display and many speakers from around the country to pimp (in a scholarly manner) the visual offerings. May 1-3. Fri., 6-8pm; Sat., 8am-6pm; Sun., 8am-2pm. AT&T Conference Center, 1900 University Ave. \$10 (for the fair; the various symposia are substantially pricier). www.caseta.org.

INCIDENTS AT THE TWO TWO HOTEL: THE PORTER is a performance installation by Wura-Natasha Ogunji, brought to us courtesy of Co-Lab, the new media project space. Large-scale drawings of a future world, stitched by the artist into translucent sheets of architectural sketch sheets and handpainted paper. Sun., May 3, 7-11pm (performance at 8pm). 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.wuraogunji.com.

TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS Join artists Lordy Rodriguez, Liliana Wilson, Tien Nguyen, Eduardo Xavier Garcia, and Terrence Moline as they discuss how their experiences of immigration and place have informed their identities and work. Call for reservations. *Thu., April 30, 7-9pm. 1800 Congress,* 936-8746. *Free.* www.thestoryoftexas.com.

PETER MAX APPEARANCE AT RUSSELL COLLECTION In conjunction with his current "Colors of a Better World" show at this posh gallery, the acclaimed painter and pop-art icon stops by for a talk and print signings. Call for reservations. *Reception: May* 2-3. Sat., 6-9*pm*; Sun., noon-3*pm*. 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440. www.russell-collection.com.

OPENING

EARLY TEXAS ART FROM AUSTIN MUSEUMS features 24 masterworks of early Texas art that have been rarely available to the public. *Thu., April 30, 6-8pm. 605 Robert E. Lee,* 445-5582. Free. www.caseta.org.

COMFORT FOOD: CONTEMPORARY FOLK ART features work by Robbin Robertson Polter and Terrell Powell. Reception: *Fri., May 1, 5:30pm.* Exhibition: *Through July 18. Amplify Gallery, 2608 Brockton.* 795-8454.

MEXIC-ARTE: A LEGACY OF CHANGE This expansive show features the museum's permanent collection and is organized around five themes: Death & Rebirth, Mestizaje & Connections, Conflict & Struggle, Identity & Consciousness, History & Memory. Opening reception is enlivened by live mariachis, birthday cake, salsa music by Son 5, and salsa dancing with Salsa Candela. Reception: *Fri., May 1, 7-10pm. 419 Congress, 480-9373. Free.* www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE: DANNY ROY YOUNG COLLECTION One of the founding board members of the SAMOPC, Young, who died in August 2008, donated hundreds of posters, handbills, and ephemera to his favorite visual-arts venue. Now the vast collection's on display for all to enjoy. Reception: Sat., May 2, 7:09pm. Exhibition: Through June 13. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.awhq.com.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE This new show, curated by Michael Smith and Jay Sanders, features arresting works by Alex Hubbard, John Kilduff, Joanna Malinowska, Kate Gilmore, Pat de Groot, and Patterson Beckwith, among several others. Reception: Sat., May 2, 7pm. Exhibition: Through June 13. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.

CLOSING

AMOA & FUSEBOX: 12:19 PROJECT This project invites people from across the globe to chronicle their lives from 12:19 to 12:20pm. The audio of the many, the vox of our diverse populi: Be a part of it yourself. See the website for details. *Through May* 3. www.12nineteen.com.

ART ON 5TH: MEET THE MUSTARDS Whimiscal artwork by British artist Sam Toft. *Through May* 2. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

GENERACIONES: CELEBRATING WOMEN AND THEIR ART features the artwork of Ines Batllo, Maria Bravo, Christina Cardenas, Pilar Castrejon, Celina Hinojosa, Cecilia Colome, Courtney Enriquez, Sandra Fernandez, Marsha Gomez, and many others. *Through April* 30. 227 Congress #300, 477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

DOMY BOOKS: MAX JUREN VIDEOS Video Artist Max Juren offers a celebratory installation in which to view his newly released collected works DVD. Through May 15. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669.

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER "Fritz Henle: In Search of Beauty" encompasses a broad range of Henle's photography, including images of 1930s New York, Mexico, and Paris; innovative nudes; and portraits of famous personalities. *Through Aug.* 2. "**The Persian Sensation**: The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám in the West" More than 200 items – among them Persian manuscripts, miniature editions, and illustrated parodies – from the Ransom Center's extensive collections illustrate the Rubáiyát's storied history. Through Aug. 2.

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.

SPACE 12: MUNTU: REFLECTIONS IN EAST AUSTIN Photography by artist and gallery owner Rama Tiru. 3121 E. 12th Street. www.ramatiru.com

FAB GALLERY: URBAN/STREET New works for these concrete and crumbling times by Bethany Johnson(!), Russell Burns, Tim Creswick, Krutie Thakkar, Bonnie Gammill, Mala Kumar, Kallista Stephenson, and others. DFA Building, 23rd & Trinity. www.thefabgallery.com

AUSTIN ART IN PUBLIC PLACES: TEXAS BIENNIAL This is the first time that AIPP has commissioned temporary public art! Ryah Christensen's Door/Not Door is near the Eastside Hike and Bike Trail, just south of Nash Hernandez Road, Bill Davenport's Giant Mushroom Forest is on the west end of Auditorium Shores, near the Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail. Sasha Dela's Variegated Continuum is at the Mexican American Cultural Center. Buster Graybill's Bait Box is adjacent to the boat launch on the Eastside Hike and Bike Trail. Ken Little's Homeland Security is in the clearing between Doug Sahm Hill in Butler Park and the Palmer Events Center. Colin McIntyre's Emergence is on a landscaped mound immediately east of the Dougherty Art Center's parking lot. Through Dec. 31.

STUDIO C GALLERY: PONIES & PENGUINS New works by Holly Bronko and Alexandra Valenti 2309 Thornton.

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. www.evecontactart.com.

LOWBROW EMPORIUM: NECK OF THE WOODS It's a group art show: it's a beer-fueled public party: it's a celebration of lowbrow creations by local artists. 2708 S. Lamar. www.lowbrowemporium.com.

AMOA DOWNTOWN: OUTSIDE REALISM AND

STATES OF AMERICA The photographer Clifford Ross uses inventive film and camera technology to produce epic, 10-foot-long photographs that re-create mountain vistas. By combining World War II-era aerial photographic equipment with contemporary digital postproduction techniques, he achieves brilliance in this "Outside Realism" show. Alternative cartographer Lordy Rodriguez presents the ink-on-paper maps of his "States of America," the culmination of 10 years of work, into which he's incorporated five original (and searingly appropriate) states. Through May 17. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY Artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riguelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaboadastudio.com

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: FROM A TO Z Photographs by Bill Oakey and Jack Marshall, glasswork by Kim Brill. 1507 W. Koenig, 589-2905. www.artspoken.com.

AUSTIN ART GLASS This 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: BIRTH OF THE COOL

California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury takes a look at the broad cultural zeitgeist of "cool" that influenced the visual arts, furniture, architecture, music, and film produced in California in the 1950s and early 1960s. Through May 17. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 108 W. 43rd, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons

of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a South Austin home. Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, noon-9pm, or by appointment. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keepaustinweird.com.

SYNCHRONICITY OF COLOR is Margo Sawyer's site-specific work for the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. *Through May* 9. 1900 University Ave., 404-1900.

D BERMAN GALLERY: LAUREN LEVY The new tex-

tile- and button-based works in "Beneath the Palm of My Hand" are an exciting progression from Levy's wellknown sculptures. Through May 30. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallerv.com.

DAVIS GALLERY: THREE TO GET READY Vivid and elegant new works by Ave Bonar, Nancy Scanlan, and Peggy Weiss. Through May 9. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie. 320-0072

GAY FAY KELLY: GUATEMALA Photography by Lesley Nowlin. By appointment only. Through May 22 1811 W. Eighth, 478-7676. www.gayfaykellyart.com.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY 411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com

WILDFLOWER CENTER: SHOU PING Scissor-cut images of hummingbirds and other subjects. Through May 31. 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.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

MUSEUM OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: WONDEROUS INSTRUMENTS Take a

curator-led tour and see homemade, odd, or rare musical instruments; exotic tools; miraculous and magical objects; and more. Tours: Saturdays, 1-4pm, through May 30. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: BAYANIHAN: WORK FROM

MANILA This fourth installment in Okay Mountain's international No American Talent series is a show, curated by Tim Brown, of nine artists from the Philippines who explore the relationship they share with their families, their city, their country, and one another. Through May 23. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B. www.okavmountain.com

STEPHEN CLARK GALLERY: JACK SPENCER Through May 30. 1101 W. Sixth, 477-0828

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: STRADDLE THE LINE. IN **DISCORD AND RHYME** California-based installation artist Megan Geckler creates large-scale, site-specific installations assembled by stretching thousands of strands of colored flagging tape into optical architec-ture. *Through May* 30. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

YARD DOG: CAMP BOSWORTH "Three Day Bender and Other Stories From the Big Bend" are new works by this Marfa artist. (See review, p.76.) Through May 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com

SPACES

EASTSIDE BOOKS Currently showing works by Patrick King, Ramon Lozano, and John Metcalf. 2415 E. Fifth. 472-2665. www.eastsidebooksaustin.com

HYDE PARK GRILL: ROBBIN POLTER 4206 Duval St. 458-3168. www.robbinrobertsonstudios.com

RIO RITA: JEFFREY SWANSON AND TONY NOZERO Through April 30. 1308 E. Sixth, 524-0384. www.riorita.net.

SCOOTER'S COFFEEHOUSE: STRINGS OF NATURE Fiber art by April Sullivan. Through May 31. 3241 Bee Caves Rd.. 892-0021.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN CALL TO ARTISTS See website for details on how to get involved with this citywide New Year's extravaganza. Deadline: May 15. www.firstnightaustin.org.

ATELIER 3-D: A SCULPTORS' STUDIO is a centrally located sculpture studio (featuring the work of Steve Dubov, Heather Tolleson, and Terry Wilemon) that offers ongoing classes and workshops for all skill levels; the venue's also open to artists looking for workspace and tools. Call or see the website for details. 701 Tillery, 385-1115. www.atelier3-d.com.

litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

MIKE LUX takes a long look at The Progressive Revolution. Wed., May 6, 7:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com

RICK RIORDAN unleashes the last book in his Percy Jackson series, The Last Olympian. Tue., May 5, 4pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com

DEBBIE MACOMBER The bestselling author busts out her newest in the Blossom Street series, Summer on Blossom Street, Mon., May 4, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158,

418-8985. MELISSA MARR presents her Fragile Eternity. Sun., May 3, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com

SYNTHESIS OF MUSIC AND LITERATURE SERIES

P. Kellach Waddle salutes the life and works of F. Scott Fitzgerald with compositions based on This Side of Paradise. The Beautiful and Damned. Tender Is the Night. and The Great Gatsby. Sun., May 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS AND PASTOR SALEM **ROBINSON JR.** celebrate with gospel music, poetry, and a reading from their book, *Ten Ingredients for* a Joyous Life and a Peaceful Home. Sun., May 3, 3:30-6:30pm. Boyd Vance Theatre at Carver, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. www.cityofaustin.org.

FORREST FEST moves from Lamesa to Austin this year! A round robin of poetry starts at 10:30am. The morning set is hosted by Robin Cravey and features Margo Davis, Deb Akers, Bryce Wilson, and India Rasner-Donovan. Then, John Levacy on How to Write Cowboy Poetry, 1pm; Deb Akers and Youth Poetry, 3pm; and music by Chris Van Loan and friends, 6pm. The evening set features John Levacy, Steve Vera, Herman Nelson, Phillip Abbott, Desiree Moore, Bear (Christopher Beam), Jim Stewart, Dawn Ambuehl-Sadek, Tony Blissard, Rod Stryker, Sarah Hutchraft, Ric Williams, Kathleen Romana, Dr. Chuck Taylor, Stella Brice, Connie Williams, and Thom Moon, 7-9pm, followed by the final round robin. Sat., May 2, 10am-10pm. Austin Bahá'í Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.

THE O. HENRY MUSEUM WRITING CLUB honors student writers from Mathews Elementary, O. Henry Middle School, and Star Charter School. Spike Gillespie hosts with guest readers Michael Barnes, Laura Furman, Joe Nick Patoski, Mary Gordon Spence, and several other Austin literary luminaries. Highly recommended. Sat., May 2, 2-4pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

RYAN SKINNER celebrates the release of his first children's book, Sidikiba's Kora Lesson, and the debut CD of his band, Two Rivers, which plays kora music of West Africa. Sat., May 2, 2-4pm. Dominican Joe, 515 S. Congress, 448-3919. free. www.dominicanjoe.com.

AUSTIN UNDER-21 POETRY SLAM OFF! The seventh annual Austin Youth Poetry Slam Off is finally here. Teenagers throughout the Austin area have endured a season of spoken-word challenges to meet one last time in a battle for four coveted spots on the Austin Youth Slam Team heading for Chicago. This is highly recommended as one of the most inspirational events in the country. This year's slam is dedicated to the brilliant poet heroine Shannon Leigh, taken from us far too early but whose brave voice still resonates in the hearts of all who ever heard her spitfire verse. Music by DJ F. Scott Godot and hosted by Kim Taylor (aka Knowtorious 13). Sat. May 2, 7:30pm. The Independent at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 485-3000. \$10 (\$5, students; free, age 4 and younger). www.txywc.org.

DR. JERALD WINAKUR AND LEE ROBINSON read excerpts from their works, respectively the memoir *Memory Lessons* and the book of poetry *Creed*, which also concerns aging. Fri., May 1, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

RIO REVIEW LITERARY JOURNAL RELEASE PARTY Thu., April 30, 7pm. Austin Community College Gallery Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3245.

NINA PLANCK presents her Real Food for Mother and Baby. Thu., April 30, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

REWRITTEN HISTORY CLUB crowns an Emperor by Conn Iggulden. Wed., May 6, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

7% SOLUTION CLUB cruelly grips Savage Season by Joe R. Lansdale. *Mon., May 4, 7pm. BookPeople,* 603 *N. Lamar,* 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

TEXAS MYSTERY MONTH presents Go Green! Read (or Write) an e-Mystery and Save a Tree! with Micqui Miller, Sylvia Dickey Smith, Rie Sheridan, Dindy Robinson, and Lynn LaFleur. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

SCREENWRITER ANDREW DAVIES discusses the continuing popularity of classic literature in contemporary cinema in a talk hosted by Chronicle Arts Editor Robert Faires. Thu., April 30, 7:30pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324. Free. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BREATHING LIFE INTO WORDS Lorraine Meija-Greene presents Stretching Your Writing Skills with writing exercises. No prerequisite in writing required. Mon., May 4, 7-8:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 892-6680. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

OPEN MICS

THE HIDEOUT Hosted by Thom the World Poet. Next up is the dynamic Andrea Corich and the brilliant Shav. 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.

ACC'S FINAL SPRING STUDENT LITERARY

GATHERING features Margot Weidemann, a poet who is ACC's Creative Writing Scholarship winner for spring 2009. Open mic follows. Hosted by John Herndon. *Mon., May* 4, 7pm. Java Lounge at Austin Java, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjava.com.

SPOKEN AND HEARD is co-hosted by Stacey Shea and Element 615. Uncensored round robin. Sundays, 7-9pm. Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. www.kickbuttcoffee.com.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running weekly open mics in Texas, Uncensored, Hosted by David Bates. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rmpoetrvaustin.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating group of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, pomo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Wednesdays, 8pm. The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. \$5 (21 and older). www.austinslam.com

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stal-warts. Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! he swims in waters long abandoned to impossible things. he needs no boats no sea bells no nets teeming with rippling flesh no treasure chests filled with light no gold no jewels no magic lamps no salvation from the darkness of his lesser fears. he swims in waters where demons dwell & god is a silence that will not answer to the wants of drowning men: this is the secret of fire. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Mysterious Night, hold in calm the mind of Ariadne.

Her shattered heart I shall mend.

Yet she must not be afraid.

I leave for her wine poured for me in Arcady

Where Pan resides. This grape grows imbued with joy

Of all life, with the stout-hearted resilience of Pan,

Who, though scorned, revives ever to love again.

This drink shall warm her heart rendering flint, honeycomb.

- Sandra Fountain

film



D: Tim Disney; with Nicole Beharie, Alfre Woodard, Michael O'Keefe, Tim Blake Nelson, Will Patton, Charles S. Dutton, Xzibit, Malcolm Barrett, Pamela Tyson. (PG-13, 103 min.)

Although they say the truth can set you free, Dee Roberts (Beharie) found that to be a load of bunk when she was arrested by the police in her small Texas town. Based on true events, American Violet tells a story about a miscarriage of Texas justice and one woman's adamance and courage despite terrifying odds. Although the film is poorly titled and is structured as a conventionally rendered docudrama with a message, it is movingly told and packed with powerful subject matter. Newcomer Beharie makes a strong impression as Dee, a 24-year-old single mother who supports her four daughters through a combination of waitressing and government assistance. She lives in a housing project, where her mother, Alma (Woodard), babysits her girls while she is at work. While Dee is at work one day in November 2000, the local district attorney (O'Keefe) organizes a military-style drug sweep of her housing project and has the police come to the diner where she works to arrest her. Based on the testimony of a single person, Dee is charged with drug dealing and held for bail, even though there is no evidence, and she swears she never had any involvement with drugs. Her mother and friends urge Dee to accept the plea deal the D.A. is offering, but she refuses to concede. Enter the American Civil Liberties Union attorney (Nelson, for a change playing an educated Southerner instead of a cracker) and local lawyer (Patton), who take on her case and eventually get the Texas law that led to her false indictment overturned. Along the way, American Violet dramatizes the effects of the accusations on her children and community and makes numerous statements about the number (greater than 90%, according to the film) of incarcerated Americans who accept plea bargains rather than make the effort to fight their charges in court. And once convicted, such things as child custody and government assistance can be lost in addition to the right to vote. American Violet provocatively plays out against the background of the court wranglings that followed in the wake of the contentious 2000 presidential election. With strong performances and a strong message (which, in these parts, hits particularly close to home), American Violet is worth a look. Short of that, at least renew your ACLU dues. - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Arbor

BATTLE FOR TERRA D: Aristomenis Tsirbas; with the voices of Evan Rachel Wood, Justin Long, Luke Wilson, Dennis Quaid, David Cross, Brian Cox, Amanda Peet, Chris Evans, Rosanna Arquette, James Garner, Danny Glover, Ron Perlman, Danny Trejo, Mark Hamill. (PG, 85 min.)

Canadian animation studio Snoot Entertainment goes up against the big boys in this futuristic, CG-animated tale of a peace-loving, pseudo-religious race of tadpole-esque creatures known as the Terrians, who face imminent extinction at the hands of murderous aliens from beyond the stars: mankind. Taking a page from Battlestar Galactica (the original series) and putting a nifty spin on such peaceable Fifties scifi classics as The Day the Earth Stood Still (again, the original), Battle for Terra boasts impressively executed battle sequences that, frankly, are light-years beyond anything found in the recent Star Wars animated addons. There's none of the nattering subplot exposition that marred The Clone Wars, and in fact, Battle for Terra has more in common - philosophically, at least - with the Brad Bird-directed, Tim McCanlies-scripted The Iron Giant than it does with anything coming out of Skywalker Ranch these days. Battle for Terra's protagonist is high-spirited tomboy (tadboy?) Mala (Wood), who, in the wake of a violent attack on her people from a "new God in the sky," rescues wounded enemy pilot Jim (Wilson). Through Cross' multilingual robot, Giddy, Mala learns that Jim and his mother ship (commanded with militaristic gusto by Cox's Gen. Hemmer) are all that remain of the human race, the planet Earth having long ago exhausted its life-sustaining resources. While the Terrian elders mount a countercampaign against the backdrop of a truly unconscionable plan by Gen. Hemmer to "terraform" the planet (and thus kill off all life on it), Jim and Mala work together to save both Terrians and humankind alike. Director Tsirbas, a former digital artist on such films as Hellboy and Kevin Smith's *Dogma*, works wonders on a budget that was probably equal to one day's rendering costs on the last Disney/Pixar production, and his script, co-written with Evan Spiliotopoulos, knowingly touches on some thoroughly contemporary issues - not least among them unchecked militarism, the dangers of conformity (and religion), and the moral imperative and compassion all freethinking life-forms should exhibit toward one another, regardless of whether they look like googly eyed airborne spermatozoa or not. - Marc Savlov ★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FIGHTING D: Dito Montiel; with Terrence Howard, Channing Tatum, Zulay Henao, Luis Guzmán, Roger Guenveur Smith, Michael Rivera, Flaco Navaja, Peter Tambakis. (PG-13, 105 min.)

On the face of it, Fighting, the new film from the director of A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints, is a brawl of a movie, all fisticuffs and takedowns, sweat and machismo. Closer examination, as well as a less literal reading of the title, reveals considerably more: The characters bare-knuckle dust one another, to be sure, but they're also fighting for a whole lot more than the cash purse. They bob and weave toward love and respect, barely managing to keep rotten luck at bay. For Shawn MacArthur (Tatum), who enters into the competitive arena of New York City's "full contact" fighting underground via strictly two-bit promoter Harvey Boarden (Howard, smooth as talc), it's a way out of his lousy day job as a street peddler and, if he's very lucky, a way into the good graces of waitresswith-heart Zulay (Henao). Harvey's fight, on the other hand, is pitched against his shady past and pulverization at the hands of the brutal, uncaring present. That present includes rival and more upwardly mobile fight managers who used to be allies (chief among them Guzmán, who's been playing the same role for a

while now, sure, but *what* a role!). Russian Mafia types. and Harvey's own personal disconnect from anything outside the benighted world of OTB (off the books) betting. Tatum, who worked minor miracles in Kimberly Peirce's Stop-Loss and also starred in Montiel's Saints, again turns what could have been a dumb-oaf role into something considerably more. His slow-burn flirtations with Zulay are a model of actorly (and scripted) restraint. Coupled with his bruiser's mug, Tatum has "heart" written all over him. Howard's snappy-smooth performance, unsurprisingly, is what elevates Fighting from its hoary genre predecessors. He's a man on the ropes at too young an age, boxing at shadows in a rigged match, with the gods betting against him 10-to-1. That isn't a fair fight by a long shot, but what the hell, it's life, and that's close enough to make Fighting a sad-solid TKO. - Marc Savlov ★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST

D: Mark Waters; with Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Michael Douglas, Breckin Meyer, Lacey Chabert, Robert Forster, Anne Archer, Emma Stone. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Ghosts indeed: This romantic comedy by name alone attempts to make funny - not to mention culturally relevant - the kind of swinging-dick misogyny that went out of fashion years ago. In the spirit, but not the complexity, of such oil-slick cinematic seducers as Alfie and Roger Dodger's Roger Swanson, celebrity photographer Connor Mead (McConaughey) is a quantity-over-quality kind of guy. He dumps last week's conquests via teleconference as he's already undressing his next lay. Love, he argues, is nothing more than "magical comfort food for the weak and uneducated," a sentiment he lifted from his mentor, Uncle Wayne (Douglas). Wayne has been dead for years, but he makes a surprise appearance – to the eyes of Connor alone – at the wedding of Connor's younger brother, Paul (Meyer). Wayne, the Marley surrogate in this A Christmas Carol reimagining, then ushers Connor through an evening of reflection and reckoning, with the overall aim of nudging Connor back into the arms of his first love, Jenny (Garner, with negligible screen time). Several of the supporting players do nice work, especially Stone (Superbad) as the brace-faced ghost of Connor's first girlfriend; she injects a genuine spunkiness into a film that's mostly predictable and deeply cynical. As he's aged, Douglas has had some fun with go-big roles such as Wayne, and he appears to have styled this one after Hollywood mogul Robert Evans circa the Seventies: turtleneck and shades and swimming in sex. He's a quaint relic - not nearly as amusing as co-scripters Jon Lucas and Scott Moore seem to think he is - but harmless enough. Not so with McConaughey's wolfish Connor. Perhaps in the hands of a more capable, less coasting actor, the character might have played like something more than a toxic spill. (And make-up and wardrobe have done him no favors, with his Easy-Bake tan, attack of the Crest Whitestrips, and too-literal interpretation of Connor's oiliness; in duller stretches of the film, I could think of nothing but taking blotting papers to his face.) Director Waters, who began his career with the edgy, unsettling The House of Yes and also made the kicky Mean Girls, lately has been peddling much softer stuff (see 2005's insipid Just Like Heaven). Ghosts of Girlfriends Past requires a certain finesse - really, how do you sell a romantic comedy about a twisted womanizer, and how do you get the audience to buy his inevitable turnaround? - and neither Waters nor his leading man are up to the task. - Kimberley Jones ★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South. Westgate

IS ANYBODY THERE?

D: John Crowley; with Michael Caine, Bill Milner, David Morrissey, Charli Janeway, Anne-Marie Duff, Rosemary Harris, Angie Inwards. (PG-13, 95 min.)

"Rage, rage against the dving of the light," mutters Caine as an aging magician put out to pasture at a Yorkshire retirement home. The Dylan Thomas quotation is entirely appropriate, although not perhaps in the manner screenwriter Peter Harness meant. Caine's Amazing Clarence has been cornered not only by the Grim Reaper but also by his own failing mind. It's not so much the white light at the end of the tunnel he needs to be concerned about as it is the fast-fading light of reason itself. For Clarence, a dyed-in-thewool skeptic toward all things supernatural and paranormal (not counting the magician's trickery, mind you), it's as though the very Enlightenment itself were being snuffed out. Another reason for Clarence to rage comes in the form of 11-year-old Edward (Son of Rambow's Milner), a budding theosophist whose mum (Duff) and dad (Morrissey) run the Dotty Codgers & British Actors Retirement Home - that's what it ought to be named, anyway – where Clarence finally pulls off his ultimate disappearing act. It's the sort of mummified palace of wisdom that turns up every now and again in the movies; you may recognize it from "Kick the Can," Steven Spielberg's Twilight Zone: The Movie episode; the Cocoon movies; On Golden Pond; or even from Benjamin Button. Wherever you find it, you can be sure there will be a youngster somewhere in the vicinity to provide counterpoint to the sage if occasionally obvious wisdom of the near-departed. For Caine, an actor who has never to my knowledge given a bad performance (Mr. Destiny was bad scripting, not bad acting), this means he gets the plum role of "granddad" to the wee outsider Edward. Milner is every bit as promising a young actor as he was in Rambow, although he's given somewhat less to do here. Mostly, he monkeys about with a tape recorder seeking proof of life after death, humorously and otherwise. This is Caine's show all the way, of course. He still rivets the eye and bends the ear as much as he did in Alfie, or, more recently, the overlooked gem A Shock to the System. But, on the whole, there are precious few life lessons in Is Anybody There? that haven't been noted before: Stop and smell the roses, have no regrets, and don't attempt to saw anybody in half while in the throes of dementia. Abracadabra, indeed. - Marc Savlov ★★ Arbor

LYMELIFE D: Derick Martini; with Alec Baldwin, Kieran Culkin, Rory Culkin, Jill Hennessy, Timothy Hutton, Cynthia Nixon, Emma Roberts. (R, 95 min.)

Lymelife arrives with an impressive pedigree but, unfortunately, little originality. The film, which has played successfully at numerous festivals, features a usually solid cast and Martin Scorsese as an executive producer. First-time director Martini cowrote the script with his brother Steven, but the story, apart from using Lyme disease as a metaphor for the vague discontent that ails us all (or ailed us, since the film is set in the late Seventies), sheds little new light on our fatuous lives. Lymelife comes across as though someone tossed The Ice Storm, The Deer Hunter, and The Squid and the Whale in a blender and punched puree: The result is more watereddown mash than solid substance. At the heart of the story is 15-year-old Scott (Rory Culkin), who lives on Long Island with his parents, Mickey and Brenda Bartlett (Baldwin and Hennessy), whose marriage is in polite disarray. Scott has pined all his life for Adrianna (Roberts), the girl next door, who has recently started to show some interest in him. Adrianna's father, Charlie Bragg (Hutton), suffers from the mysterious Lyme disease and daily wanders around the house and grounds with a shotgun. He's unable to work, so his wife, Melissa (Nixon), takes up the slack, working for real-estate developer Mickey. Sensitive Scott has more in common with his mother, who fears the Lyme-carrying ticks and wants to move back to Queens. Scott's father and brother, Jimmy (Kieran Culkin), who returns from the military to kick the storyline forward a notch, are more forceful than Scott, a disparity that irks them all. Toss in some adultery, school bullies, and a shotgun that's guaranteed to go off, and it adds up to just one more dystopian suburban tale. Both Culkins deliver fine performances, as does Roberts, but the adults are all working at something less than their known abilities. The usually terrific Baldwin and Nixon especially disappoint with performances that are overgeneralized and rote. Even if you disagree and find much to like about Lymelife, you'll still probably find the film's final scene to be a cop-out. However, it may give new meaning to the term "Martini shot" filmland slang for the final shot set-up of the day. - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Arbor

openings & ratings

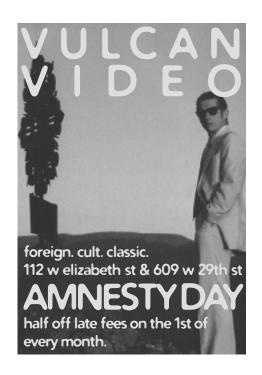
American Violet (PG-13)
Battle for Terra (PG)
Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13)
Is Anybody There? (PG-13)

- $\star \star \star \star \star$ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
- Lymelife (R) Not Forgotten (R) Star Trek (PG-13) X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13)
- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
 - Poor, without any saving graces
 - La bomba

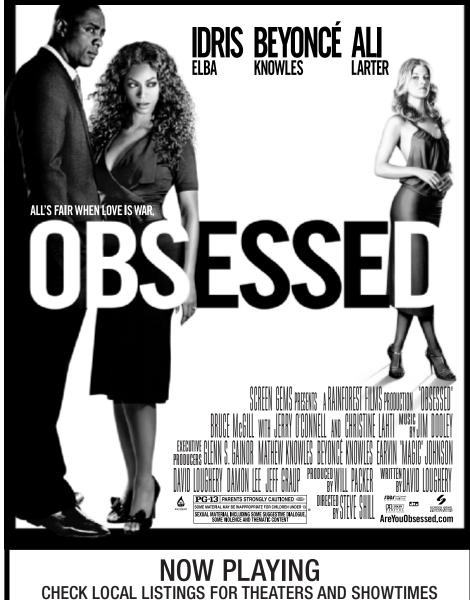
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NOT FORGOTTEN D: Dror Soref; with Simon Baker, Paz Vega, Chloe Moretz, Claire Forlani, Michael DeLorenzo, Ken Davitian, Gedde Watanabe, Mark Rolston. (R, 96 min.)

Hail the U.S.-Mexico border film that uses its setting to explore issues other than the porousness of personal and cultural identity. Not Forgotten is a border-town thriller, which premiered at this year's Slamdance Film Festival and is opening in Austin several weeks in advance of its national release date. With co-star Baker currently in the spotlight due to the success of his TV show The Mentalist, the timing is auspicious for Not Forgotten. Baker is cast as the film's soccer dad, Jack Bishop, a banker in Del Rio, Texas (although most of the film was shot in New Mexico). His daughter, Toby (Moretz), is on the verge of adolescence, and he's married to Amaya (Vega), his second wife and Toby's loving stepmother. They appear to be a perfectly happy and ordinary integrated family, but then Toby (who narrates the story in voiceover) is kidnapped from her soccer practice, and the veneer of the perfect family



THIS YEAR'S SEXIEST THRILLER



SORRY, NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

austinchronicle.com MAY 1,2009 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 79

showtimes friday, may 1 - thursday, may 7

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

*Battle for Terra: 11:00am, 1:25, 3:45, 6:40, 9:15pm

*Star Treek: Ind (3/ 7), 8:00, 11:00 *Star Treek (in DLP digital): Thu (5/7), 7:30, 10:30 *X-Men Origins: Wolverine: 10:20am, 11:35, 12:25, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 4:10, 5:00, 5:50, 6:50, 7:40, 8:45, 9:40, 10:20pm

Second 100; 472-FILM.
 Adventureland: Fri, 440, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Wed, 7:10, 9:30;
 Ghosts of Gulfriends Past: Fri, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Wed, 7:30, 9:50; Thu (5/7), 7:30, 10:00

Not Forgotten: Fri, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Wed, 7:20, 10:00; Thu (5/7), 7:20, 9:40

X-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fri, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Wed, 7:00, 9:40; Thu (5/7), 7:10, 9:30

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle

Earth: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00; Sun-Thu (5/7), 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

Fiskville, 467-7305. No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without

Fast & Furlous: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30, 11:45; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:05, 223, 445, 7:10, 9:45 Ghotso of Girl/Friends Past: Fri-Sat, 155, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20, 11:30; Sun-Thu (5/7), 10:5, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20, Monsters vs. Allens (3-0): Fri-Sat, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:30; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, Obsessed: Fri-Sat, 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45, 12:mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45, 12:mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:16, 9:45, 12:mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:16, 7:30, 9:30, 9:40, 5:00, 12:mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 11:45, 12:00, 2:00, 2:15, 2:30, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 9:30, 9:45, 10:00, 12:mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 11:45, 12:00, 9:45, 10:00, pm

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between

regular ticket price plus a \$2,50 premium.

Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808. Cost for 3-D shows is

egular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. Battle for Terra: 11:20am, 125, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45pm Earth: Fi, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30, 5:a1, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30; Sun, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30, 5:a1, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30; Tue-Thu (67), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30; Earth Open captioned): Fi, 12:30pm; Sat, 2:45pm; Sun, 12:30, 9:30; Mon, 12:30, 7:10 Fighting: Fi-Wed, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:25, 10:00pm; Thu (5/7), 11:25am, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Wed, 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 12:00, 2:05, 2:35, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 10:20pm; T

I Love You, Man: 7:55, 10:25 *Monsters vs. Aliens (3-D): 11:55am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25pm

7:45, 9:50, 10:20pm Hannah Montana: The Movie: 11:35am, 2:00, 5:15pm

*Monsters vs. Allens (3-D): 11:55am, 2:15, 4:35, 7:05, 9:2
 Obesseet: Frite, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15pm;
 Yed, 2:10, 4:45, 10:15; Thu (5/7), 11:40am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15pm;
 17 Again: Fri-Wed, 12:05, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55; Thu (5/7), 12:05, 2:30, 4:50
 The Soloize: Fri-Wed, 1:4:50am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30pm; Thu (5/7), 11:50am, 2:25pm
 State of Play: Fri-Wed, 1:4:53, 3:40, 6:50, 9:40; Thu (5/7), 12:45, 3:40
 * X.Map Origins: Molwards: 11:15am, 11:45, 12:15, 1:50

*X-Men Origins: Wolverine: 11:15am, 11:45, 12:15, 1:50, 2:20, 2:50, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:35, 10:05, 10:35pm

IMAX THEATRE lexas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-IMAX. Across the Sea of Time 3D: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:00; Sun, 2:00pm; Mon-Ihu (5/7), 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 Monsters vs. Allens: Fri-Sat, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu (5/7), 6:00, 8:00

 Tots, main-finit (27), b:s00, s:00

 Star Trek: Thic (57), 7::00, 3:30, 12mid

 Texa: The Big Pleture: Fin-Sat, 10:00am, 10:00pm; Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Thiu (57), 10:00am, 10:00pm

 Under the Sea 3D: Fin-Sat, 11:00am, 5:00pm; Mon-Thiu (57), 11:00am, 3:00, 5:00pm

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway

183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday. Call theatre for showtimes for

Fighting: Fri-Wed, 11:55am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:50, 10:20pm Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: Fri-Wed, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:20, 7:05,

9:30pm Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fri-Wed, 12:05, 2:45, 7:15, 9:45

Monsters vs. Aliens: Fri-Wed, 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:00 Obsessed: Fri-Wed, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55pm

17 Again Fri-Wed, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10pm *X-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fri-Wed, 11:15am, 11:45, 1:50, 2:20, 4:25, 4:55, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:005pm; Thu (5/7), 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30pm

Earth: Fri-Wed, 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 9:50

Thursday, May 7.

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum.

Fighting: Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45, 12mid; Sun-Thu (5/7), 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall.

Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 9:50

an adult

regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth.

476-1320 176-1320. Atripanet Quote-Along: Thu (5/7), 7:45pm Bill & Fort's Excellent Adventure: Sun, 4:00pm Evil Dead II Quote-Along: Fri-Stat, 11:35pm Terror Tuesday: Evilspeak: Tue, 10:15pm "Gigantic Fri, 4:30, 9:42; Gigantic Fri, 4:30, 9:42; Man-Wed, 4:30, 9:45 Master Paneaka: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Fri-Stat, 7:30, 10:35 the Jack The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Fri-Stat, 7:30, 10:35

 Ming: FIr-Sat, 7:30, 10:33

 Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along: Thu (5/7), 10:30pm

 Observe and Report: Fir-Sat, 5:00, 7:30; Sun, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00;

 Mon-Wed, 5:00, 7:30; Thu (5/7), 5:00pm

 PowerFilcker Short Film Showcase: Sat, 3:00pm
 Weird Wednesday: Prime Cut: Wed, 12mid Clint Howard Live: Rock 'n' Roll High School: Mon, 10:00pm

The Room: Wed. 7:00pm Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 10:15 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan: Wed, 9:40pm Three Amigos Feast-Along: Tue, 7:00pm Three Amigos Ouote-Along: Mon. 7:00pm Zoolander Quote-Along: Sun, 7:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408. *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 12:30, 3:30, 7:30, 10:15 Love You, Man: 12:15, 3:25 Cult Thursday: Impulse: Thu (5/7), 10:00pm IV @ the Alamo: Lost Wed, 8:00pm Observe and Report: Fi-Wed, 6:50, 9:40 *Observe and Report: Fi-Wed, 6:50, 9:40 *Observe and Report: Fi-Wed, 0:50, 9:40 *Observe and Report: Fi-Wed, 0:50, 9:40 *Observe and Report: Fi-Ved, 0:50, 9:40 *Observe and Report: Fi-Ved, 0:50, 9:40 *Observe and Papert: Fi-Ved, 0:20, 7:20, 10:20; Wed, 12:20, 3:20, 10:20, Thu (5/7), 7:20, 3:20, 7:20, 11:55 State of Pay: Fi-Sun, 12:05, 3:15, 6:40, 9:45; Mon, 12:05, 3:15, 9:45; Tue-Wed, 12:05, 3:15, 6:40, 9:45; Thu (5/7), 12:05, 3:15

Thu (5/7), 12:05, 3:15

*X-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00pm; Mon-Wed, 12:00, 12:45, 3:00, 3:45, 7:00, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45; Thu (5/7), 12:00, 12:45, 3:00, 3:45, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Ghosts of Girlfreinds Past: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10pm; Mon, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10; Tue, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (5/7), 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10 I Love You, Mar: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 2:25, 7:45pm; Sun, 11:16am, 2:25pm; Mon, 2:00, 4:15, 7:40, 7:43; Tue, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:15, 7:45pm; Wed, 2:00, 4:15; Thu (5/7), 2:00, 7:45 FS: My Family, MF Familia: Tue, 7:00pm The Soloist: Fri, 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sat, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Thu (5/7), 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sat, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Thu (5/7), 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sat, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Thu (6/7), 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sat, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Thu (6/7), 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Shoi (9/7), 1:20, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50; Sun-Shoi (9/7), 1:20, 4:50; Tue, 1:00am, 1:54, 4:40, 7:40, 1:030pm; Weat-Thu (5/7), 1:50, 4:05, 1:02; Sat, 1:50, 4:50, 1:02; Sunshine Cleaning: Fri, 1:200, 1:50, 1:50, 5:05, 10:20; Sat, 1:50, 4:55, 10:20; Tue, 1:1:00am, 1:54, 4:55, 10:20; Tue, 1:1:00am, 1:54, 4:15, 4:20, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 9:45, 11:55, min, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 9:45, 1:10; Sam, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 7:05, 9:40, 9:

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE

2700 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for Day shows (hist and of the cody) are index to be parents and children aged infant to 6 years old. **Adventureland:** Fri-Wed, 9:30pm ***Earth:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; Thu (5/7), 2:00, 4:30

Montevent, 2:00, 4:30, 7:13, 9:43, 10:00pm Monsters vs. Aliens (3-D): Fri, 4:15, 7:00; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:15, 7pm; Mon-Wed, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00; Thu (5/7), 1:40, 4:15

Thu (5/7), 1:40, 4:15 **The Rocky Horor Picture Show:** Sat, 12mid ***Star Tek:** Thu (5/7), 7:00, 7:20, 10:15, 10:30 ***X-Men Origins: Wolverine:** Fri, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:45, 4:40, 7:30, 8:15, 10:20, 11:00pm; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:40, 5:30, 7:30, 8:15, 10:20, 11:00pm; Mon-Wed, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:40, 7:10, 7:30, 9:55, 10:20; Thu (5/7), 1:45, 4:40, 7:30

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS

9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm, all day Wednesday. Adventureland: 12:30, 3:10, 7:50, 10:15 American Violet: 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:20, 9:45 The Informers: 12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55 The Informers: 12:10, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55 Is Anybody There?: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm Jymellie: 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20 Sin Nombre: 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05 Sunshine Cleaning: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:35pm Valentino: The Last Emperor: 11:55am, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 0:000pm 9.40nm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and

Machine Gisculary available Guide opini on weekadys before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. Battle for Terra: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15 Earth: Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Fighting: Fri-Sat, 9:50am, 12:25, 3:05, 5:35, 8:10, 10:40pm; Sun, 3:05, 5:35, 8:10, 10:30; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:25, 3:05, 8:10, 10:30

5:35, 8:10, 10:30 **Chosts of dirthreads Past (closed captioned):** Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30 **Hannah Montana: The Movie:** Fri-Sun, 9:35am, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50 pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

10.00 I Love You, Man: Fri-Sat. 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 11:15pm

Love You, Marc Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:23, 3:00, 5:30, 1:11:5pn Sun, 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30pm; Mon-Hue, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Wed-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 3:00 Monsters vs. Allense; Fri-Sun, 9:40am, 12:05, 2:26, 1:45pn; Mon, 12:40, 3:00; Tue, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00; Wed, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20; Tuu (5/7), 12:40, 3:00
Obsessed: Fri-Sat, 9:30am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25pn; Sun, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:20, 2:55, 5:22, 7:55, 10:25

17 Again: Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20pm Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20

80 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE MAY 1, 2009 austinchronicle.com

The Soloist: Fri-Sat, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm; Sun-Thu (5/7), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Sun-Thu (5/7), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 Star Pete: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 10:00 Star Dete: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 10:100 State of Play: Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:40pm; Sun-Thu (5/7), 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15 **X-Men Origins: Wolvenie:** Fri-Sat, 9:33am, 10:30, 11:30, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:15pm; Sun, 9:33am, 10:30, 11:30, 12:5, 1:15, 2:15, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E Whitestone 800/FANDANGO.

FAINDAINGU.
*Battle for Terra: Fri, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:50am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (5/7),

9:30 NCM Fathom: Dr. Laura Live! In Praise of Mom: Tue-Wed, 7:00pm *Earth: Fri, 12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30

2:45,5:30,8:10,10:30 Fast & Furious: Fri,1:40,4:20,6:50,9:20; Sat-Sun,11:10am, 1:40,4:20,6:50,9:20pm; Mon,1:40,4:20,6:50,9:20; Tue-Wee,1:40pm; Thu (5/7),1:40,4:20 Fighting: Fri,2:30,5:15,7:45,1:20; Sat-Sun,11:40am,2:30, 5:15,7:45,1:0:20pm; Mon-Weed,2:30,5:15,7:45,10:20; Tuu (5/7), 2:30pm;

5:15, 7:49, 10:20pm; Mon-Wea, 2:30, 5:15, 7:49, 10:20 Thu (577), 2:30pm ***Chosts of Ciritriends Past:** Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fri, 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

Mon-thu (b/ 7), 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10 Monsters vs. Allens: Fri, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20, 8:50p; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:20, 3:40, 6:20, 8:50pm; Mon-Thu (c/7), 1:20, 3:40, 6:20, 8:50 *0bessed: Fri, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (c/7), 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:40 174 gán: Fri, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Wed, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Thu (c/7), 1:50, 4:30

Thu (5/7), 1:50, 4:30 *Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 7:15, 10:00, 10:15 *XHen Origins: Wolverine: Fn; 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:45; Sat, 10:00am, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:02, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00,

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14

12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
8attle for Tears: Fris. 91, 2200, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:445
NCM Fathom: Dr. Laura Livel. In Praise of Monr: Tue-Wed, 7:00pm
*Earth: Fri-Sun, 12:15, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:30, 3:20, 3:80, 00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:40, 5:22, 8:00, 10:35 Fanah Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:40, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:40, 5:55, 8:00, 10:35
Knowing: Fri-Mon, 1:245, 3:45, 6:50, 9:55; Thu (5/7), 1:45, 5:34, 5:50, 9:55; Thu (5/7), 1:45an; 7:26, 5:10, 7:40, 1:50an; 2:5, 5:10, 7:40, 1: Monsters vs. Allens: Fri-Sun, 11:50am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:35

- 10:33pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:35 *Obsessef: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00 17 Again: Fri-Sun, 11:40am, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25 *The Solok: 12:40, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40 *Star fee: Thu (6/7), 7:00, 10:05 State of Play: Fri-Sun, 12:25, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30; *Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 3:50, 6:30, 9:30; *A-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 12:30, 1:20, 2:15, 3:10, 4:05, 5:00, 5:55, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:35, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:30, 1:20, 2:15, 3:10, 4:05, 5:00, 5:55, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:35, 10:30

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.

Discounts daily before 5pm.

- Discounts daily before 5pm. **Confessions of a Shopaholic:** Fit, 1:30, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:0am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:30, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45 **Duplicity:** Fit, 3:30, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:20, 3:30, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:30, 7:00, 9:50; **Gran Torine:** Fit, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55;

Hotel for Dogs: Fri, 1:50, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:50, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40

- The Last House on the Left: Fri, 1:35, 4:10, 7:30, 10:00;
- Ine Last noise on the Left: rh, 1::55, 4:10, 7:50, 10:00) Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:36, 4:10, 7:30, 10:000pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:35, 4:10, 7:30, 10:000 Paul Blat: Mal Cog: rh, 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:05 Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:15, 4:40, 7:50, 10:05 Taken: rh, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; Mon-Thu (6/7), 2:30, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15; 12 Rounds: rh, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:100; Mon-Thu (6/7), 2:45, 5:16, 7:40, 10:100; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:45, 5:16, 7:40, 10:100; Mon-Thu (5/7
- 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N 1-35

- 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. *Battle for Terra: 11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40pm *Battle for Terra: 11:30am, 2::00, 4:40, 7:20, 9::40pm
 *Earth: 10:40am, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9::05pm
 Fast & Furious: Fri-Wed, 10:20am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm; Thu (5/7), 10:20am, 1:30, 4:30pm
 *Flighting: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35pm
 *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 9:40am, 11:00, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 4:50, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:30pm
 Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fri-Wed, 9:50am, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30pm; Thu (5/7), 9:50am, 12:40, 3:40pm
 *Monsters vs. Allens (3-0): Fri-Wed, 10:50am, 1:20, 3:50, 6:50, 9:20pm; Thu (5/7), 10:50am, 1:20, 3:50pm
 *Obessed: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40pm
 *Data Status, 2:30, 5:20, 7:30, 10:15pm 17 Again: 10:30am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:15pm *The Soloist: 10:00am. 12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50pm *Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:45, 8:30, 10:45
- *Star Trek: In U(5/1), (745, 8:30, 1045 *Star Trek (In DP digital): Two (5/7), 7:00, 10:00 *X-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fi-Wed, 10:10am, 11:15, 12:10, 11:00, 2:10, 3:05, 4:10, 5:10, 6:05, 7:10, 8:10, 9:15, 10:10, 11:00pm; Thu (5/7), 10:10am, 11:15, 12:10, 11:10, 2:10, 3:05, 4:10, 5:10, 6:05, 7:10, 8:10, 9:15, 10:10pm

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

> An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted

9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. Call theatre for showtimes for Thursday, May 7. Battle for Terra: Fri-Wed, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm Crank: High Voltage: Fri-Wed, 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35 NCM Fathom: Dr. Laura Live! In Praise of Mom: Tue-Wed, 7:00pm NCM Fathom: Dr. Laura Live! In Praise of Mom: Tue-Wed, 7:00pm NCM Fathom: Dr. Laura Livel in Praise of Mom: Lie-Wed, /:U0pm Farth: 10:00am, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30pm Fast & Furious: Fri-Wed, 11:05am, 2:00, 5:05, 8:05, 10:35pm; Thu (5/7), 11:05am, 2:00, 5:05pm *Fighting: 10:25am, 12:55, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30pm *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 10:35am, 1:20, 2:30, 3:50, 4:55, 6:30, 7:33, 9:20, 10:15, 11:50pm Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fri-Mon, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40; Tue-Thu (5/7), 1:10, 3:40 Earth: Fri-Wed, 11:50am,2:10,4:45,7:15,9:45pm The Informers: Fri-Wed, 12:05,2:35,5:15,7:50,10:25 Monsters vs. Allens: Fri-Wed, 12:03,2:00,5:35,8:05,10:30 *Monsters vs. Allens (3-D): Fri-Wed, 12:00,2:30,5:05,7:40,10:10

17 Again: Fri-Wed, 11:55am, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20pm State of Play: Fri-Wed, 12:25, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15 Watchmer: Fri-Wed, 2:00, 5:35, 9:20
 *X-Men Origins: Wolverine: Fri-Wed, 10:45am, 11:15, 11:45, 12:15, 12:0, 1:50, 2:20, 2:50, 3:55, 4:25, 4:55, 5:25, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:05, 10:05, 10:45pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassnev, 447-0101.

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment

Complex. Adults, \$6; children, \$4. **Fast & Furious:** Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 8:30pm; Wed-Thu (5/7), 10:30am, 12:30, 3:30, 5:30pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE 713 Congress, 472-5470. untain Film Festival: Mon-Tue, 7:00pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and EM 1825

TINSELTOWN NORTH North 1-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. *Battle for Jerra: Fri, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 NCM Fathom: Dr. Lawa Leve III Praise of Mom: Tue-Wed, 7:00pm *Earth: Fri, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 9:50an, 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:15,

- Fast & Furious: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45 *Fighting: 11:45am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25pm Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: Fri, 11:45am, 1:05, 2:20, 3:40, 4:55
- *Chots of Githfends Past: Fri, 11:45am, 1:05, 2:20, 3:40, 4:55, 6:15, 7:30, 850, 1005pm; 5:45xm, 10:30am, 1:145, 1:05, 2:20, 3:40, 4:55, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 1005pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 11:45am, 1:05, 2:20, 3:40, 4:55, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 10:05pm Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fri-Wed, 11:155am, 2:35, 5:15pm Knowing: 8:45pm Monsters vs. Allens: Fri, 1:240, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:240, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30; Mon-Wed, 1:240, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30; Thu (5/7), 1:2-40, 3:10

- *Monsters vs. Aliens (3-D): Fri-Wed, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00,
- 9:30pm; Thu (5/7), 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30m; 2:00, 9:30, 1: ***0bessed:** Fri, 12:10, 1:30, 2:55, 4:15, 5:40, 7:00, 8:30, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 12:10, 1:30, 2:55, 4:15, 5:40, 7:00, 8:30, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 12:10, 1:30, 2:55, 4:15, 5:40, 7:00,
- 17 Again: Fri, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 9:45pm; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 11:45, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 9:45pm; Xion, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 6:00, 7:15, 9:45pm; Xion, 11:45am, 1:00, 2:15, 3:30, 4:45, 3:30, 6:00, 9:45pm
- 3:30, 6:00, 9:45pm
 *The Soloist: Fri, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (5/7), 1:40, 4:35, 7:30,

- 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Inu (q·/), 1:40, 4:36, 7:30, 10:25 *Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00, 11:30 *Star Trek: Thu (5/7), 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 10:00, 10:30 State of Play: Fri, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 12:50, 3:55, 7:00, 10:05; Thu (5/7), 12:50, 3:55 *X-Men origine: Wolverine: Fri, 11:55am, 12:30, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:60, 4:15, 4:50, 5:25, 6:00, 6:35, 7:00, 10:36, 10:00, 11:55, 10:20, 10:55m, 130, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:50, 4:15, 4:50, 5:25, 6:00, 6:35, 7:00, 10:36, 11:30, 1:15, 12:20, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:50, 4:15, 4:50, 6:26, 6:00, 6:35, 7:00, 7:38, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55m; 19:465m; 10:20, 10:45, 11:20, 1:155, 12:30, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:60, 6:35, 7:00, 7:38, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55m; 19:465m; 10:20, 10:45m; 10:20, 10:45m; 10:20, 10:45m; 10:20, 10:45m; 10:20, 10:55m; 19:40, 3:15, 3:60, 4:15, 4:50, 6:25, 6:00, 6:35, 7:00, 7:38, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20m; Mon-Thu (5/7), 11:55m; 12:30, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 7:00, 7:35, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55m; 10:45m; 12:40, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:50, 4:15, 4:50, 6:35, 7:00, 7:38, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55m; 10:45m; 10:45m; 12:40, 1:05, 1:30, 2:05, 2:40, 3:15, 3:60, 4:15, 4:50, 6:35, 7:00, 7:38, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:10, 1:36, 2:06, 6:35, 7:00, 7:35, 8:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:5, 1:30, 2:05, 3:10, 8:45, 9:20, 9:45, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:20, 10:51, 3:00, 2:05, 10:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 4:20, 0:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10:51, 10:20, 10

TINSELTOWN SOUTH South I-35 at Stassney 326-3800. \$10 "special event" ticket prices apply to

- 326-3800, \$10 "special event" ticket prices apply to Indian films. Adventureland: 8:05, 10:40 "Crossing Over: Fri, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:05, 7:00, 9:55 Dragonball: Evolution: Fri, 3:00, 5:15; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 3:00, 5:15; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:05, 5:15, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10, 10:45; Sat-Sun, 1:210, 2:10, 3:15, 4:50, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10, 10:45; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:15, 4:50, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10, 10:45; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:15, 4:50, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10,
- 10:45 */fighting: Fit, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 *Choast of divitinal Paster Int, 3:35, 5:00, 6:05, 7:45, 8:45, 10:30; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:35, 5:00, 6:05, 7:45, 8:45, 10:30 Hannah Montana: The Movie: Fit, 3:10, 4:20, 5:40, 7:25, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:55, 1:20, 3:10, 4:20, 5:40, 7:25, 9:40; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:10, 4:20, 5:40, 7:20; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:10, 4:20, 5:40, 7:20; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:10, 4:20; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:10
- Mon-Thu (5/7) 3:10, 4:20, 5:40, 7:25, 9:40 The Haunting in Connecticut: Fri, 3:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50: Sat-Sun, 12:45, 3:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50: Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:30, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50 I Love You, Man: Fri, 4:55, 7:50, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 2:25, 4:55, 7:45, 10:35; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:55, 7:50, 10:23; Knowing: Fri, 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 2:26, 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:25, 10:25; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:25, 10:25; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:25, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 2:26, 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:25, 10:25; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:05, 5:05, 7:20, 8:05, 7:20, 8:05, 7:20, 8:25, 7:20, 7:20, 8:25, 7:20, 7:20, 8:25, 7:20, 7:20, 7:20, 8:25, 7:20, 7:20, 8:25,
- Observe and Report: Fri, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 2:15, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20; Mon-Thu (5/7), 5:15, 7:40, 10:20
- ***0bsessed:** Fri, 3:05, 4:45, 6:05, 7:45, 9:00, 10:45; Sat-Sun, 12:05, 1:45, 3:05, 4:45, 6:05, 7:45, 9:00, 10:45; Mon-Thu (5/7), 3:05, 4:45, 6:05, 7:45, 9:00, 10:45; *The Soloist: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Mon-Thu (5/7), 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

WESTGATE 11 South Lamar and Ben White. WESTGATE 11 South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717. Discounts daily before 6pm. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$2.50 premium. Earth: 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 Fighting: 1:20, 2:55, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25 Ghosts of Girlfriends Past: 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm "Monsters vs. Allens (3-D); 11:55am, 2:10, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15pm Obsessed: 11:55am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20pm 17 Again: 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35pm The Soloist: 11:35am, 2:15, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30pm State of Play: 12:45, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00 "X-Men Origins: Wolverine: 11:45am, 12:15, 2:20, 2:50, 4:55, 5:25, 7:30, 8:00, 10:05, 10:35pm



is scraped raw in the process of solving the kidnapping mystery. Integral to the story is the religious cult of Santa Muerte, a death cult we're told is popular with drug dealers and prostitutes. Santa Muerte is a real practice, rejected by the Catholic Church but flourishing among criminals and victims of violence and poverty. Also containing themes of vengeance, the faith and its artifacts play a central and colorful role in Not Forgotten. The plot is a tightly wound mystery that gradually reveals itself, saving most of its surprises for third-act revelations. What starts out as an ordinary police investigation into a kidnapping grows ever lurid once a couple of FBI agents (Watanabe and Rolston) enter the scene and Jack goes on a renegade solo mission across the border. Without giving away the film's plot twists, however, I don't think Not Forgotten holds up to psychological scrutiny. There are so many hidden agendas at work here that it's hard to believe these conflicts would not have come into play prior to Toby's kidnapping. The film moves swiftly and vividly, but in retrospect, numerous plot holes come to mind. Not Forgotten presents a fascinating microcosm but ultimately loses believability when placed in a larger context. – Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Dobie

OBSESSED D: Steve Shill: with Idris Elba.

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the owner of a

chain of movie theatres and one of the many producers (along with star Beyoncé and her father) of the thriller Obsessed, must be flash-

ing that big Magic smile after the film's No. 1

success in its opening weekend at the box

office. The popularity of Obsessed lends cre-

dence to the theory that you can never under-

estimate the American moviegoers' appetite for a juicy catfight. Obsessed unspools like

one long tease for the girl-on-girl wrestling we

know will eventually come. Until that climactic

point (and even during it), Obsessed is a rou-

and The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, in which

tine mash-up of Fatal Attraction, Disclosure.

happily married asset manager Derek (Elba)

is sexually harassed by beautiful office temp

Lisa (Larter). Of course, the dumb lug never

tells his wife Sharon (Knowles) or the com-

pany's human resources department about

really is, Lisa has already invaded his away-

from-office life. Extra frisson comes to the tale by way of the interracial angle, as the

perfect buppie couple becomes threatened by a pale white vixen. In her burgeoning film

career, Knowles has been shrewd about

Lisa's inappropriate attentions, so by the time he discovers just how bat-shit crazy she

Beyoncé Knowles, Ali Larter, Bruce McGill, Jerry

O'Connell, Christine Lahti, (PG-13, 95 min.)

selecting her roles, going from eye-candy decoration in Austin Powers in Goldmember and The Pink Panther remake to singing actress roles in The Fighting Temptations, Dreamgirls, and Cadillac Records. With Obsessed it's now time for her Sasha Fierce alter ego to make its presence known, not only in her recording career but her onscreen persona as well. It's Fierce who comes out for that climactic sequence in which all by herself she fends off the crazy temp's invasion of her home. Fierce/ Sharon manages this feat in high heels, to boot, while Lisa is barefoot in a T-shirt and underpants. Obsessed delivers in its limited way, as the audience audibly responds to the characters' choices and actions, even though we know exactly what to expect. The film may seem a bit undercooked until it gets to the staging of the ultimate battle, but Obsessed is swinging from the chande-– Marjorie Baumgarten liers by the end. ★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek. Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

STAR TREK D: J.J. Abrams; with Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Eric Bana, Winona Ryder, Zoë Saldana, Karl Urban, Bruce Greenwood, John Cho, Leonard Nimoy, Simon Pegg, Ben Cross. (PG-13, 126 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Technically, the USS Enterprise doesn't set sail for

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another week, but it seems the studio's gonna set this ship loose from its dock and start screening it the evening before opening day. (Opens Thursday, May 7) - Marjorie Baumgarten Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Dobie, IMAX Theatre, Tinseltown North

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE D: Gavin Hood: with

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber, Danny Huston, Ryan Reynolds, Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins, will.i.am, Dominic Monaghan, Daniel Henney. (PG-13, 107 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The director of the politically pitched films Rendition and Tsotsi here sinks his teeth into this comic-book character's origin story, which will explain how a dapper Oscar host was turned into an indestructible, razor-clawed mutant ... or something like that. - 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, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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ADVENTURELAND D: Greg Mottola: with Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Martin Starr, Kristen Wiig, Bill Hader, Ryan Reynolds, Margarita Levieva, Jack Gilpin, Wendie Malick, Josh Pais. (R, 108 min.)

With Adventureland, Mottola delivers a movie that is closer in comedic spirit to his sweet and soulful Daytrippers than to his rad and raunchy Superbad, although all three films share an affinity for single compound-word titles. It's a story about the summer that changed a young man's life, the type that's both been overtold yet is still full of potential. For James Brennan (Eisenberg), it's the summer between the end of college and the start of graduate school when he accepts a crummy job at the semidilapidated local amusement park. Adventureland is set in the summer of 1987 and is something of a kindred spirit to such Fighties teenon-the-verge-of-adulthood comedies as Risky Business and Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Adventureland is a confident return to the kind of teen comedy that's funny without being raunchy, youthful without being juvenile, and reflective without hitting you over the head with anything heavier than an amusement-park Whac-a-Mole mallet. (04/03/2009) Mariorie Baumgarten ★★★↓ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Dobie, Tinseltown South

CONFESSIONS OF A

SHOPAHOLIC D: P.J. Hogan: with Isla Fisher. Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter, Joan Cusack, John Goodman, John Lithgow, Kristin Scott Thomas, Robert Stanton, Leslie Bibb, Julie Hagerty, Fred Armisen, Christine Ebersole, Wendie Malick, Lynn Redgrave, John Salley. (PG, 104 min.)

The girl can't help it: The shopaholic character, Rebecca Bloomwood (Fisher), may be the invention of Sophie Kinsella's bestselling novels, but onscreen the character appears to be an immaculate conception born of Bridget Jones and the ladies from Sex and the City. Many have rued the luck of Confessions' unfortunate release date, worrving that the film's celebration of conspicuous consumption occurs just as our national consumption has fizzled into anything but conspicuous. That's hardly the problem with Confessions of a Shopaholic, however. No, the problem nipping at the designer heels of Confessions is not the state of the economy but, rather, the film's predictability. What distinguishes this movie from other interchangeable Renée Zellweger/Kate Hudson/Sandra Bullock career-girl rom-coms is the luminous presence of Isla Fisher. With her tiny frame and massive screen charisma. Fisher commands this film with the akimbo aplomb of a seasoned screwball comedienne. (02/20/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★ Movies 8

CRANK: HIGH VOLTAGE D: Mark Neveldine, Brian Taylor; with Jason Statham, Amy Smart, Corey Haim, Bai Ling, David Carradine, Dwight Yoakam, Efren Ramirez, Reno Wilson, Art Hsu. (R, 85 min.)

Crank: High Voltage is not nearly as much fun (or as coherent) as its culty predecessor, but directors Neveldine and Taylor aren't striving for anything approaching reality this time out: The entire film is really just a series of gags strung together with a mere shadow of a storyline behind them. Hitman Chev Chelios (Statham), who fell a mile out of a helicopter, bounced off a car, and then died three inches from the camera operator in Crank, escapes the white light only to find that his overstimulated heart has been harvested by a Triad gang and replaced with a temporary artificial model that requires an electrical jump every five minutes or so. Obviously, he'd like the original model reinstalled, and thus the sequel ups the ante, this time with complete and utter disregard for any of the conventional rules of story, character, or filmmaking in general. (04/24/2009) Marc Savlov

★★ Metropolitan

The Pope's Toilet (2007) D: César Charlone and Enrique Fernández; with César Troncoso, Virginia Méndez, Mario Silva, Virginia Ruiz. (NR, 90 min.) Reel Independents. In 1988, Pope John Paul II visited Melo, Uruguay, a rural town near the Brazilian border. Around that fact filmmakers Fernández and Charlone (the acclaimed cinematographer of City of God) have crafted this fictional drama about the disappointment experienced by the townspeople who prepared for an onslaught of visitors who, as it turned out, never showed up. @St. John Library, Wednesday, 6:30pm; free.

CROSSING OVER D: Wayne Kramer; with Harrison Ford, Ray Liotta, Ashley Judd, Jim Sturgess, Alice Eve, Cliff Curtis, Alice Braga, Summer Bishil, Justin (hon (R 113 min)

Characters of various nationalities, all ensnared within the incongruous machinery of the American immigration system, are the subjects of the interlocking stories of Crossing Over. Framed as a multistrand narrative in the manner of Crash and Babel, Crossing Over also echoes those titles in the way its pastiche of stories creates a well-intentioned social message. The objective of writer/director Kramer (The Cooler) is to show us what a mess the post-9/11 U.S. immigration and naturalization process has become. Somewhat patronizingly, Crossing Over shows us how our government's unfeeling and easily inveigled system sacrifices innocent human beings to the letter of its laws while exempting others through sheer dumb luck or willful chicanery. The individual stories seem tailored toward making points rather than creating realistic characters and situations. At the center of the drama is Ford's Max Brogan, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who starts having trouble sleeping at night after busting a Mexican seamstress in a California factory. (03/27/2009) Mariorie Baumgarten **

Tinseltown South

DRAGONBALL: EVOLUTION

D: James Wong; with Justin Chatwin, James Marsters, Chow Yun-Fat, Jamie Chung, Emmy Rossum, Eriko Tamura, Randall Duk Kim. (PG, 84 min.)

If anybody can wring some sense out of Akira Toriyama's wildly popular Japanese manga Dragonball Z (and its attendant television animé version), it should be director Wong (former The X-Files and Millennium scribe and director of Final Destination and Final Destination 3). However, live-action versions of animé/manga hits are notoriously hard to pull off, and Dragonball: Evolution proves no exception. It's full of ADD-calibrated action, an explosive color palette, and an apocalyptic backstory. Online fan reaction has been mixed, but despite the chaotic storytelling - difficult to circumnavigate with even the most straightforward of manga - Dragonball may be more entertaining to those who know nothing about it going in. Earthshaking CGI explosions, exceptionally staged wirework, and Chow Yun-Fat ensue, which is more than you can say for most live-action animés (I'm talk ing to you, Speed Racer). (04/17/2009)- Marc Savlov ★★ Tinseltown South

DUPLICITY D: Tony Gilroy; with Clive Owen, Julia Roberts, Tom Wilkinson, Paul Giamatti, Denis O'Hare, Thomas McCarthy. (PG-13, 125 min.)

A longtime screenwriter of lean and mean actioners, such as the Bourne trilogy, who made his directorial debut with 2007's terrifically malevolent Michael Clayton, Gilroy is still trafficking in scheming and double-dealing, but he makes a bid here for something brighter, in the wink-and-a-smile tradition of Ocean's Eleven or Out of Sight. Owen is a very fine actor, but when stripped of his signature menace. he has a slack, dopey look about him. He plays Ray Koval, an MI6 agent who butts heads with a CIA op named Claire Stenwick (Roberts, with whom Owen had more compelling chemistry in Mike Nichols' acidic Closer). The overlong film plays fast and loose with timelines, so I will say very little about the plot itself. Gilroy zings the film with tantalizing bits of absurdity, but too often he returns to his darker, more ponderous instincts, which has an enervating effect on a film that lives and dies by its fleetness of foot. (03/20/2009) Kimberley Jones Movies 8



EARTH D: Alastair Fothergill, Mark Linfield; nar-. rated by James Earl Jones. (G, 90 min.)

Earth is at the very least peripherally concerned with the planet and its dwindling prospects, but the real renewable resource here is the groundbreaking Planet Earth miniseries. After a few other permutations, the program has now been whittled down to 90 minutes for an American theatrical run. The film tracks the migration patterns of a trio of mothers - elephant, polar bear, and humpback whale - and their newborns. as well as provides a snapshot of animal and plant life in various ecosystems around the world, oftentimes via time-lapse photography as gorgeous and surreal as anything you'd find in a Michel Gondry film. Although the film has several humorous set-pieces, it doesn't shy away from the fundamental cruelty of life in the wild (despite judicious editing of the carnage). Earth is fairly matter of fact about the circle of life, which is why its pussyfooting around global warming strikes one as rather disingenuous. (04/24/2009) - Kimberley Jones ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FAST & FURIOUS D: Justin Lin; with Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, Michelle Rodriguez, John Ortiz, Laz Alonso, Gal Gadot, Jack Conley, Shea Whigham, Liza Lapira. (PG-13, 107 min.)

Back in 2001, when we first met renegade street racer Dominic Toretto (Diesel), he was jacking DVD players from big rigs. My, how the times have changed: In this third sequel in the Fast/Furious franchise, Toretto and his team have moved on to an elaborately staged highway heist of ... an oil truck. In fact, it's a marvelously staged and shot opening sequence, the first of a half-dozen or so car races that blessedly put a brake stop to every leaden stretch of dramatic interplay. Fast & Furious reunites the original four leads of flagship film The Fast and the Furious. The story is a standard-issue revenge tale - and is slickly interpreted by Lin, who also directed the more or less stand-alone The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. The stripped-down title gets at what we're really here for: the cars. One wishes Fast & Furious had as much smarts as speed, but as an uncomplicated, undemanding lark, it'll do. (04/03/2009) Kimberley Jones ★★ CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

GIGANTIC D: Matt Aselton: with Paul Dano. Zooev Deschanel, John Goodman, Ed Asner, Jane Alexander, Zach Galifianakis. (R, 98 min.)

This little movie about big quandaries – gigantic quandaries - hangs itself, but good. Dano nails a certain disconnect as Brian, who spends his angst-filled days selling overpriced mattresses from a shabby chic NYC loft and working toward his childhood dream of adopting a Chinese baby. One day, in comes Happy Lolly (Deschanel) and before you can say "mumble cute," the pair are flirting. Is it love? Does it want to be love? I don't know, and neither, apparently, does director Aselton, because Gigantic goes to great lengths (and visual metaphors) to tackle the very real issue of social and interpersonal disconnect. Goodman is the only part of Gigantic that feels fully formed or truly alive. Faux Zen aphorisms abound in lieu of actual discourse. It's just not all that interesting to watch two pretty young things go through the muddled rituals of the pas de duh when I can, you know, do it just as poorly myself. (04/24/2009) - Marc Savlov

Alamo Ritz

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. Fastwood 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, 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) Mariorie Baumgarten ★★★★ Movies 8

HANNAH MONTANA:

THE MOVIE D: Peter Chelsom; with Miley Cyrus, Billy Ray Cyrus, Emily Osment, Jason Earles, Lucas Till, Melora Hardin, Vanessa Williams, Margo Martindale. (G, 92 min.)

I won't pretend to understand the Miley Cyrus/ Hannah Montana phenomenon; it surely boils down to some combination of commercial savvy; Cyrus' sweet, uncomplicated charisma; and a tween market hungering for a happy compromise between relatability and wish fulfillment. In any case, for this, the first nonconcert feature outing for the Montana juggernaut, there was never any doubt that the audience would come. More surprising is the fact that some attention (if not an exhaustive amount) has been put into the thing: Hannah Montana: The Movie is not the nakedly consumerist vehicle cynics like me have come to expect. In fact, it's a broad-stroked, agreeable enough lark about Miley putting Hannah aside to reconnect with her Tennessee roots - and make eyes at that farm-fresh horse wrangler from her childhood. Compone caricatures abound, but so do worthy messages about responsibility - to family, community, even Mother Earth. (04/17/2009) - Kimberley Jones ★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE HAUNTING IN

CONNECTICUT D: Peter Cornwell: with Virginia Madsen, Kyle Gallner, Elias Koteas, Martin Donovan, Amanda Crew, Ty Wood, Sophi Knight. (PG-13, 103 min.)

The Haunting in Connecticut opens with a title stating that what follows is "based on a true story," which is all well and good and practically a mandate for this type of haunted-house film. But Cornwell's film, stylistically at least, is really "based" on snips and snatches of Lucio Fulci's The Beyond, Mario Bava's Shock. Aleiandro Amenábar's The Others, and, of course. The Amitvville Horror. Technically, the film is adapted, loosely, from splatterpunk author Ray Garton's book In a Dark Place: The Story of a True Haunting, but The Haunting in Connecticut has the patchwork feel of a director at odds with himself. Cornwell, who shot the immensely popular stopmotion short "Ward 13," doesn't get a lot of help from screenwriters Adam Simon and Tim Metcalfe. whose stilted dialogue and endless stream of expository yakking seem better suited to one of the post-dubbed Euro-shockers mentioned above. (03/27/2009) Marc Savlov Tinseltown South

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.)

Hotel for Dogs is a family-friendly operation. A couple of kids - orphans, no less - covertly maintain their family dog, Friday, as they move from one uncaring

foster home to the next after "losing" their parents. Currently, Andi (Nancy Drew's Roberts) and Bruce (Austin of Wizards of Waverly Place) reside with the untalented rock musicians Lois (Kudrow) and Carl (Dillon), who've taken in the kids only for the support checks that come with them. Cheadle plays the well-meaning social worker tasked with the nearimpossible job of placing the brother and sister, who are unwilling to be separated. Apart from the portrait of the evil rock & rollers, Hotel for Dogs is a decent family film, sure to please animal-loving kids and their parents alike. Well-acted, the movie also looks good and is stocked with lots of goofy gadgetry. Bruce is a kid inventor who outfits the dog hotel with all sorts of mechanical contrivances worthy of Pee-wee's Plavhouse. (01/23/2009) Mariorie Baumgarten ★★★ Movies 8

I LOVE YOU, MAN D: John Hamburg; with Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, Rashida Jones, Jaime Pressly, Jon Favreau, Jane Curtin, J.K. Simmons, Andy Samberg. (R, 105 min.)

Looking back a few years from now, we might see the release of *I Love You, Man* as the tipping point of the Golden Age of Bromance, the moment when a trend became a formula, when inspiration became imitation, and when avid fans became a target demographic. Bromance pioneer Rudd plays Peter Klaven, a real-estate agent living in Los Angeles who seems to have everything: good looks, a good job, a great apartment, and a beautiful fiancée (Jones). What he doesn't have is male friends. So off he goes to find a best friend and a best man. The joke

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is that courting men for platonic relationships is really no different than courting women for romantic ones. In the end, you'll fall for a guy like Sydney Fife (Segel), who embodies all the raw, unfettered maleness you've been missing in your metrosexual, monogamous little life. (03/20/2009) – Josh Rosenblatt $\star\star$ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown South

THE INFORMERS D: Gregor Jordan; with Billy Bob Thornton, Kim Basinger, Mickey Rourke, Winona Ryder, Jon Foster, Amber Heard, Brad Renfro, Chris Isaak, Lou Taylor Pucci, Rhys Ifans, Austin Nichols, Mel Raido. (R, 98 min.)

Here's what the makers of The Informers never learn about the art of storytelling: Just because your characters are vacuous, less-than-zero types, it doesn't necessarily mean that the tone and structure of your movie has to adopt the same conditions. You'll spend at least the first half of The Informers trying to get a pulse on the movie's vast collection of debauched yet anhedonic characters, then most likely throw up your hands (if not your lunch) trying to figure out why you should care about characters who themselves don't care. It's not as though they are converging toward any plot or storyline. The film is based on Bret Easton Ellis' 1994 collection of linked short stories, and is co-scripted by Ellis and Nicholas Jarecki. However, director Jordan (Buffalo Soldiers) is unable to wrangle any meaning from or raison d'être for his onscreen sybarites. (04/24/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten Arbor, Metropolitan

KNOWING D: Alex Proyas; with Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne, Chandler Canterbury, D.G. Maloney, Lara Robinson, Nadia Townsend, Alan Hopgood, Adrienne Pickering. (PG-13, 122 min.)

It can't be any good for an actor's reputation when he's outemoted by a quartet of faceless CGI space aliens. In Knowing, Cage is nearly somnambulant as John Koestler, an astrophysicist, widower, and father of one who divides his time between raising his son, Caleb (Canterbury), contemplating the randomness of the universe, and drinking heavily. In true mid- to late-period-Cage style, Knowing is a film in which little things like acting and writing and intelligibility take a back seat to special effects. But, my, oh my, what special effects Knowing has. Proyas (I, Robot) may not care much for the subtleties of social behavior, but the man pulls no punches when it comes to human carnage. Knowing is a nonsensical, popphilosophical stew of biblical prophesy, meteorologi cal aberrations, spooky kids, and aliens disguised as German techno artists, but damned if it isn't an anxiety-fueled kick in the teeth that feels just right in shaky 2009. (03/27/2009) Josh Rosenblatt ★★★ Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, **Tinseltown South**

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT D: Dennis Iliadis; with Garret Dillahunt, Monica Potter, Tony Goldwyn, Sara Paxton, Martha MacIsaac. (R, 109 min.)

Although Wes Craven's 1972 *The Last House* on the Left presented familial vengeance as proxy for Vietnam outrage, Iliadis' remake is more concerned with cranking out suspense by the dollop (which often works), and upper-middle-class moralizing (which doesn't work at all). The script hews fairly closely to Craven's original, but the act of morally repugnant retribution that drives the story, while essentially timeless, seems devoid of meaning in our modern age of torture imagery. Goldwyn



and Potter are well-cast as the vengeful parents of a girl (Paxton) who is brutally raped and then left for dead by a quartet of psychopathic killers. Well shot throughout and edited with an eye on the clock as opposed to the body count, *The Last House on the Left* is perfectly adequate as a contemporary home-life-invasion film but also utterly devoid of the gag-inducing visceral sadism of the original, a film that was very much of its time. (03/20/2009) - *Marc Savlov*

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS D: Rob Letterman, Conrad Vernon; with the voices of Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Paul Rudd, Rainn Wilson, Kiefer Sutherland. (PG, 94 min.)

In the animated Monsters vs. Aliens, Susan (voiced by Witherspoon) is struck by an errant meteor on the morning of her wedding and morphs into a fivestories tall bridezilla. The government quickly whisks her away to a containment center, where Susan now called Ginormica - makes reluctant friends with a whole host of monsters, which is where the film finally has some fun. The film filters the fantastical plot doodlings of those campy sci-fi classics of yore through the modern formula for animated pictures (morality plays tempered by a chorus of wiseacres). It's a shame the balance didn't tip more in the direction of the former, because there is something rather dopily sweet in its story of a misfit band of monsters unleashed from quarantine to defend Earth from an alien invader. The misfits, as ever, must take a back seat to the morality, and the result traffics in rote truisms that are admirable but perfunctory. (03/27/2009) Kimberley Jones $\star\star$ Alamo Drafthouse Village. Barton Creek Square.

★★ Alamo Dratthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

OBSERVE AND REPORT D: Jody Hill; with Seth Rogen, Anna Faris, Michael Peña, Ray Liotta, Celia Weston, Jesse Plemons, John Yuan, Matt Yuan, Collette Wolfe. (R, 86 min.)

Although the obvious thing to do is compare Observe and Report with 2009's previous mall-cop comedy (and breakout success) Paul Blart: Mall Cop, the more apt comparison would be to director Ben Stiller's darker comedies that push the boundaries of awkward embarrassment - something along the lines of The Cable Guy. In Observe and Report, shopping-mall security guard Ronnie Barnhardt (Rogen) is a bipolar gun nut who also suffers from delusions of grandeur. Rogen's acting range, though dramatically adequate, is not huge, which may help explain why Ronnie's vigilantism takes such a dark turn. More likely, however, is that the unevenness is due to the guiding aesthetic of Hill (The Foot Fist Way). Subplots come and go, and Hill's uninventive visual style removes any possibility of surprise. Midway through, a character remarks, "I thought this was going to be funny, but it's just kind of sad." The same thing is true about the movie as a whole. (04/10/2009)- Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Alamo Ritz, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown South

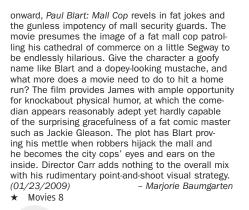
PAUL BLART: MALL COP D: Steve

Carr; with Kevin James, Jayma Mays, Shirley Knight, Raini Rodriguez, Keir O'Donnell, Stephen Rannazzisi, Bobby Cannavale, Peter Gerety, Adam Ferrara. (PG, 87 min.)

With this film, comedian James graduates from second banana to leading man. From the premise

My Family, Mi Familia

My Family, Mi Familia (1995) D: Gregory Nava; with Jimmy Smits, Esai Morales, Eduardo Lopez Rojas, Jenny Gago, Elpidia Carrillo, Constance Marie, Edward James Olmos. (R, 128 min.) Austin Film **Society: Crossing Borders – Immigration in Global Cinema.** Nava's film spans 50 years in the life of the Sanchez family, a Mexican-American clan whose roots in the United States date back to the 1920s in Los Angeles. The film's epic story takes place in various decades. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; \$6, AFS members free.



17 AGAIN D: Burr Steers; with Zac Efron, Matthew Perry, Leslie Mann, Thomas Lennon, Michelle Trachtenberg, Sterling Knight, Melora Hardin, Hunter Parrish, Brian Doyle-Murray. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Efron, in his first nonsinging and dancing feature film (if we don't count the yet-to-be-released Me and Orson Welles by Richard Linklater), proves he has an agreeable and kinetic screen presence, although he's not completely convincing as a 37-year-old encased in a 17-year-old's body. Not that any of this matters much: The movie manages to glide along engagingly and swiftly enough to not make this failing terribly conspicuous. Director Steers (Igby Goes Down) keeps the movie's foregone progression moving apace, and, fortunately, doesn't dwell on the magical vortex that sucks present-day Mike (Perry) into his former high school-senior self (played by Efron). While the ensemble, as a whole, is able, a problem arises from the casting of Perry as the near-middle-age incarnation of Mike. It's not so much a matter of mannerisms but, rather, the disbelief that the two share a face that's only separated by 20 years. Superficial, maybe, but that's in keeping with the movie's general tone. (04/17/2009) Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SIN NOMBRE D: Cary Fukunaga; with Paulina Gaitan, Edgar Flores, Kristyan Ferrer, Tenoch Huerta Mejía, Diana García, Luis Fernando Peña, Héctor Jiménez. (R, 96 min., subtitled)

Suffused with gritty realism, poetic imagery, and melodramatic hokiness, Sin Nombre is a jumble of intentions striving to be a unified whole. Winner of dual awards for directing and cinematography at Sundance, this immigrant drama begins in two sep arate locations, which establish the backgrounds from which the two central characters emerge. In Honduras, teenage Savra (Gaitan) decides to emigrate north. Most of her perilous, illegal journey toward the U.S. will occur atop train boxcars. In Mexico, we are introduced to Casper (Flores), a teenage member of the vicious Mara Salvatrucha gang. In the latter half of the film, a contrived love story between Savra and Casper develops and tacks unwarranted baggage onto the drama. Writer/ director Fukunaga's images are striking, and his storytelling abilities are strong, but his screenwriting skills rely heavily on sappy formulas that add nothing to our understanding of the border-crossing experience. Despite the unevenness of the ride. however, the memory of Sin Nombre is indelible (04/17/2009) Mariorie Baumgarten ★★★ Arbor



THE SOLOIST D: Joe Wright; with Jamie Foxx, Robert Downey Jr., Catherine Keener, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Tom Hollander, Nelsan Ellis, Stephen Root. (PG-13, 116 min.)

With all the hallmarks of a prestige picture, chief among them a great cast and creative crew and an "important" message. The Soloist plays its tune with a frequently heavy hand. Foxx and Downey Jr. are superlative, but the actors' performances take on a shambling quality, as though the actors were lacking a clear through line. Based on a book by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez, the movie brings to life his experiences while befriending a homeless man with schizophrenia who is a Juilliard-trained cellist. To its credit, the film exposes the dual-edged sword of good intentions. However, Wright literalizes a great deal of Ayers' dementia in ways that add nothing substantial to our understanding of his plight and that seem to be simply the filmmaker's frills. In the end, The Soloist can take a bow for its effort but shouldn't be expecting any encores. (04/24/2009) - Marjorie Baumgarten ★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

STATE OF PLAY D: Kevin Macdonald; with Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck, Rachel McAdams, Robin Wright Penn, Helen Mirren, Jason Bateman, Jeff Daniels. (PG-13, 118 min.)

The original BBC miniseries - an adrenalized, all-terrain thriller that ravaged institutions and ideals from Fleet Street to Downing - was television at its finest. Why mess with greatness? Turns out this redo doesn't: It neither embarrasses the original nor is superior to it in any way. But it does make a case for its own contemporary relevance by cannily shifting the baddie from Big Oil to a monopolistic private security firm (think Halliburton) and by introducing into its tale of investigative journalism the rift between print and online. The screenwriters do an impressive job in paring back the story, but that leaves little room for character shadings. Macdonald (The Last King of Scotland) has assembled a cast of professionals, but there's a giant vacuum sucking up space at the center of the film. Affleck, who already has a facile, forever-frat quality to him (I'd wager it's part of his charm), looks a decade too young for the - Kimberley Jones role. (04/17/2009) ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SUNSHINE CLEANING D: Christine Jeffs; with Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Alan Arkin, Jason Spevack, Steve Zahn, Mary Lynn Rajskub, Clifton Collins Jr., Eric Christian Olsen. (R, 102 min.)

Rose Lorkowski (Adams) is a thirtysomething single mother and house cleaner. By night, she carries on an affair and pines for her dead mother. Her father (Arkin) is a quirky old man with a thousand get-rich-quick schemes, her son (Spevack) is a quirky young man with emotional problems, and her younger sister, Norah (Blunt), is a sarcastic depressive who paints her disaffection in thick black lines under her eyes. Together the sisters try to remedy the financial and emotional paralysis of their lives by starting a company that specializes in crime-scene cleanups, meaning they'll have plenty of opportunities to confront the lingering damage of their own lives while sifting through the emotional detritus of other people's. *Sunshine Cleaning* isn't

Evilspeak

Evilspeak (1981) D: Eric Weston; with Clint Howard, R.G. Armstrong, Joseph Cortese, Claude Earl Jones. (R, 89 min.) Terror Tuesday: Clint Howard Live. Howard stars as a socially ostracized military cadet, who summons demons through his computer to cast spells on his tormentors. Cult character actor Howard will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, Tuesday, 10:15pm.

much more than an exercise in style and behavior, which is a shame, because Adams and Blunt are full of potential as sisters who have never recovered from the traumas of their childhoods. (03/27/2009) Josh Rosenblatt ★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor

TAKEN D: Pierre Morel: with Liam Neeson. Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Holly Valance, Leland Orser, Jon Gries, David Warshofsky. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Taken begins with an act of violence against an American. Ninety minutes and dozens of fights, chases, and explosions later, it ends with a sheik assassinated, at least 50 people murdered, a couple of swarthy foreigners tortured, and France pretty well knocked about. Call it the last cinematic gasp of the Bush era, with a Hollywood hero even Bill O'Reilly could love. Bryan (Neeson) is a former U.S. spy who goes on a vigilante rampage when his daughter (Grace) is kidnapped by a gang of Albanian sex traffickers after she goes to Paris to attend a U2 concert (which should be a lesson to teenagers everywhere). It's a brilliantly devious setup, conceived by co-writers Luc Besson and Robert Mark Kamen, who know that moviegoers will give a wide ethical berth to any father fighting to save his daughter's life, while kicking feeble notions such as plausibility and morality out the window as they go. (02/06/2009) Josh Rosenblatt ★★★≯ Movies 8

12 ROUNDS D: Renny Harlin; with John Cena, Aidan Gillen, Ashley Scott, Steve Harris, Brian J. White. Gonzalo Menendez, Taylor Cole, Kyle Russell Clements. (PG-13, 108 min.)

I defy you to hate John Cena. You can laugh at his bulging trapezius muscles, you can mock his misguided elementary school attempts at acting, and you can scorn his World Wrestling Entertainment pedigree. But you just can't hate the man. After all, it's not like Cena's Detective Danny Fisher wants to destroy New Orleans; he has to. His girlfriend has been kidnapped by a criminal mastermind named Miles Jackson (Gillen), and the only way to get her back is to follow the rules of Jackson's malevolent game of cat and mouse. Where Cena approaches 12 Rounds like a man with a purpose, Gillen knows there is nothing one should take less seriously than a movie directed by Harlin (Cliffhanger, The Long Kiss Goodnight), who long ago realized that as long as you keep the action moving at a blistering pace, your story doesn't need to make any sense. (04/03/2009) - Josh Rosenblatt ★★ Movies 8

VALENTINO: THE LAST EMPEROR D: Matt Tyrnauer. (NR, 96 min., subtitled)

Fashion designer Valentino Garavani, one of the last of the great couturiers, is the object on display in this documentary rather than his rangy models and their stunning garb. Tyrnauer, a firsttime filmmaker, is an editor at large for Vanity Fair and the author of many a celebrity profile. We get a firsthand look at Valentino's extravagant lifestyle. while the film focuses primarily on the last couple of years of the dress designer's career, culminating with the planning and execution of an extraordinary three-day event celebrating his 45th anniversary in fashion. The story of Valentino's career is shown to be inextricably entwined with that of Giancarlo Giammetti, his business partner for all those years



and his former lover. Despite Tyrnauer's dutiful camera presence, the film nevertheless exudes a sense of not having captured everything there is to see. Ultimately, the film feels as glitzy and superficial as the fashion industry itself, a bauble in full regalia. (04/24/2009) Mariorie Baumgarten ★★★ Arbor

WATCHMEN D: Zack Snyder; with Billy Crudup, Malin Akerman, Matthew Goode, Jackie Earle Haley, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Patrick Wilson, Carla Gugino. (R, 161 min.)

While scrupulously faithful in nearly every regard (save the ending) to writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons' landmark DC Comics series (which ran from 1986 to '87 before being collected into a single-volume graphic novel), the film itself is bizarrely cold and uninvolving. Snyder's Watchmen is as meaty an adaptation of this meta-comic as we're ever likely to see, but it never guite clicks, and I think that has everything to do with both the medium and the contemporary world we live in. Simply put, Watchmen the comic is, as it turns out, unfilmable, and so what we're left with are the comic panels made mobile, the dialogue spoken aloud, but none of the visceral punch that comes from discovering the comic firsthand. Watchmen is beautifully designed, stoically paced in the finest film-noir tradition, and awash in arresting imagery, but it never manages to make the exquisite emotional connection the comic so handily does. (03/06/2009) - Marc Savlov ★★ Metropolitan

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special *screenings*

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: **austinchronicle.com/film**.



1987 Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Burning the Future: Coal in America (2008) D: David Novack. (NR, 89 min.) Austin Film

Festival. This documentary examines the explosive conflict between the coal industry and the residents of West Virginia. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek. 7:30pm; \$4, AFF members free.

Jane's Addiction/NIN Concert Warm-Up Cult Thursday. The new Jane's Addiction box set DVD will screen, followed by Colin Cooper's edit of the fan-made "Lights in the Sky Over Victoria" from

last year's NIN tour. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm: free.

Zoolander Quote-Along (2001)

D: Ben Stiller. (R, 90 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

"Barbecue: A Texas Love Story" (2004) D: Chris Ellev: narrated by Ann Richards. (NR. 46 min.) Texas Spirit Documentary Series. It's enough to make even a vegetarian drool. Elley gets some of the state's favorite sons and daughters (Ann Richards, Dan Rather, Kinky Friedman, etc.) to testify about their barbecue beliefs and rituals in this SXSW 04 favorite. @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5:30pm.

FRIDAY 01

Evil Dead II Quote-Along (1987)

D: Sam Raimi: with Bruce Campbel (R, 85 min.) @Alamo Ritz, 11:35pm.

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) D: Peter Jackson; with Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Astin, Liv Tyler, Billy Boyd, John Rhys-Davies, Cate Blanchett, Dominic Monaghan, Ian Holm, Christopher Lee, Hugo Weaving, Sean Bean. (PG-13, 180 min.) Master Pancake Theater. Finally, the Pancake comics can pick on subjects their own size: hobbits. (*) @Alamo Ritz. 7:30, 10:35pm.

SPACES

xxxHOLIC Howson Anime Club. Japanese TV series. @Howson Library, 4:30pm: free.



Evil Dead II Quote-Along (1987) @Alamo Ritz, 11:35pm. (See Friday.)

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) @Alamo Ritz, 7:30, 10:35pm. (See Friday.)

PowerFlicker Short Film Showcase Pecan Street Festival. The Mobile Film School presents a collection of comedic, documentary, narrative, and animated short films from Texas filmmakers during the Pecan Street Festival. See www.mobilefilmschool. org/powerflickers for the lineup. @Alamo Ritz, 3pm.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

Wiener Takes All: A Dogumentary (2007)

D: Shane MacDougall. (NR, 79 min.) Dachshunds compete to be top dog everywhere, from the Wiener Nationals to Westminster. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12mid.

SPACES

Jackelope (1976) D: Ken Harrison. Center for the Advancement of the Study of Early Texas Art. This documentary screens in conjunction with the seventh annual Symposium on Early Texas Art, and provides a look into the contemporary Texas art world of the mid-Seventies. The film is loosely divided into three segments, each focusing on a young artist - James Surls, George Green, and Bob Wade - and capturing their ideas about art, the artistic process. Texas, and other topics. Wade and Surls will be in attendance. For more info on the symposium, see www.caseta.org. @AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center Amphitheatre, 6:30pm; free, although priority will be given to symposium registrants.

Runaway (2009) This TV pilot, produced by McCallum High School students, follows the lives of two brothers, Dillon and Lake; their family; and their friends at McCallum's nationally acclaimed Fine Arts Academy. Students have been invited to submit the pilot to PBS for consideration as a possible series. Event includes a red carpet entrance, live performance by the Runaway band, and a Q&A with the cast and crew. @McCallum HS Theatre, 7pm; \$12 adults, \$6 students, at www.mactheatre.com or at door.

West of Hester Street (1983) D: Allen Mondel and Cynthia Salzman Mondell; narrated by Sam Jaffe. Texas Spirit Documentary Series. This documentary looks at the frontier migration of Jewish immigrants to America during the last 100 years. The film screens in conjunction with the museum's "Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island" exhibit. @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm.

SUNDAY 03

Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) D: Stephen Herek; with Keanu Reeves Alex Winter, George Carlin. (PG, 90 min.) MC Chris Presents. Nerdcore rapper MC Chris is coming back to the Alamo to introduce and present another of his holy grail movies. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 4pm.

Zoolander Quote-Along (2001) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 4/30.)

SPACES

The Least of These (2009) D: Clark Lyda and Jesse Lyda. (NR, 62 min.) The conditions at Texas' prototype family detention facility, the T. Don Hutto Residential Center, are examined and challenged by three activist attorneys. The documentary leads viewers to consider whether core American rights and values should apply to immigrants, particularly children. There will be a Q&A after the screening with Bill Libal of Grassroots Leadership. @St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 12:30pm: free.

West of Hester Street (1983) @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)



Cine las Americas International Film Festival 2009 Visit www.cinelasamericas.org for the schedule Last day: Thu. (4/30) @Mexican American Cultural Center, Metropolitan, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Alamo Drafthouse South

MONDAY 04

Banff Mountain Film Festival (2007) See p.84

Rock 'n' Roll High School (1979) D: Allan Arkush; with P.J. Soles, Mary Woronov, Paul Bartel, the Ramones, Vincent Van Patten, Clint Howard, (PG. 93 min.) Clint Howard Live. One of the very best high school movies ever, Rock 'n' Roll High School pits the anarchic energy of the Ramones and their No. 1 fan (Soles) against the repressive power of the school's uptight principal (Woronov). Cult character actor Howard will be in attendance. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

Three Amigos Quote-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Road House (1989) D: Rowdy Herrington; with Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch, Sam Elliott. (R, 114 min.) Monday Movies. Outside; free. @Cafe Mundi, 8pm.

West of Hester Street (1983) @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

TUESDAY 05

Banff Mountain Film Festival (2007) See p.84

Dr. Laura Live! In Praise of Mom (2009) NCM Fathom. Radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger speaks live about her life as a career woman turned stay-at-home mom during a nationally simulcast stage show. An encore presentation will occur on Wednesday. @Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, 7pm.

Evilspeak (1981) See p.85.

Mv Family. Mi Familia (1995) See p.84.

Three Amigos Feast-Along (1986) D: John Landis; with Chevy Chase, Steve Martin, Martin Short. (PG, 104 min.) Imagine what Peggy Hill might prepare for a Cinco de Mayo feast, and you'll get an idea of what the Alamo is going for here. See www.originalalamo.com for menu. @Alamo Ritz. 7pm.

SPACES

West of Hester Street (1983) @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the May 15 issue is Monday, May 4. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork

Send submissions to the Chronicle, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail. Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings):

specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com;

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

WEDNESDAY UG

Dr. Laura Live! In Praise of Mom

(2009) @Tinseltown North, Metropolitan, Southpark Meadows, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, 7pm. (See Tuesday.)

Lost TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 8pm: Alamo Drafthouse Village, 10pm

Prime Cut (1972) D: Michael Ritchie; with Lee Marvin, Gene Hackman, Angel Tompkins, Sissy Spacek. (R, 88 min.) Weird Wednesday. A Mob enforcer tries to settle a debt with a cattleman who grinds his enemies into sausage and sells women as sex slaves. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

The Room (2003) D: Tommy Wiseau; with Wiseau, Juliette Danielle, Greg Sestero, Philip Haldiman. (R, 99 min.) Coldtowne Theater and **Cookin' Good.** The movie that's become the latest sensation in the "so bad it's good" school of filmmaking screens with filmmaker Wiseau in attendance. See "Trickery Flickery Mock," p.54, for more about the event. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982)

D: Nicholas Meyer; with William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, Ricardo Montalban, James Doohan, Walter Koenig, George Takei, Nichelle Nichols, Kirstie Alley, Paul Winfield. (PG, 113 min.) Fantastic Fest and Ain't It Cool News. Montalban plays the badass Khan in one of the most commanding performances of his career and one of the best entries in the entire Star Trek series. @Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm.

SPACES

The Pope's Toilet (2007) See p.82.

West of Hester Street (1983) @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)



Airplane! Quote-Along @Alamo Ritz, 7:45pm

Impulse (1974) D: William Grefe; with William Shatner, Ruth Roman, Jennifer Bishop, Kim Nicholas. (*PG*, 91 *min.*) **Cult Thursday.** Rumor has it that this story about a lethal lonely hearts gigolo is "must viewing for all Shatner fans. Shatner stars in his inimitable style. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm: free.

Nineties One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

SPACES

West of Hester Street (1983) @Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 5pm. (See Saturday.)

See Showtimes, p.80, for dates and time Across the Sea of Time 3D (1995) D: Stephen Low; with Peter Reznick. (G, 51 min.) An 11-year-old Russian stowaway arrives in New York hoping to meet up with a branch of his family that came to America decades earlier. Armed with a stereopticon (a primitive precursor to today's 3-D) and a handful of old family

photographs, he suddenly encounters the sights and sounds of modern New York. Monsters vs. Aliens (2009) D: Rob Letterman and Conrad Vernon; with the voices of Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Paul Rudd, Rainn Wilson, Kiefer Sutherland. (PG, 94 min.) In the animated Monsters vs. Aliens, Susan (voiced by Witherspoon) is struck by an errant meteor on the morning of her wedding and morphs into a five-stories tall bridezilla. The government quickly whisks her away to a containment center, where Susan - now called Ginormica - makes reluctant friends with a whole host of monsters, which is where the film finally has some fun. The film filters the fantastical plot doodlings of those campy sci-fi classics of vore through the modern formula for animated pictures (morality plays tempered by a chorus of wiseacres). It's a shame the balance didn't tip more in the direction of the former, because there is something rather dopily sweet in its story of a misfit band of monsters unleashed from quarantine to defend Earth from an alien invader. The misfits, as ever, must take a back seat to the morality, and the result traffics in rote truisms that are admirable but perfunctory.

Star Trek (2009) D: J.J. Abrams; with Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Eric Bana, Winona Ryder, Zoë Saldana, Karl Urban, Bruce Greenwood, John Cho, Leonard Nimoy, Simon Pegg, Ben Cross. (PG-13, 126 min.) See review, p.81.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grape fruit to microchips

Under the Sea 3D (2009) D: Howard Hall. (NR, 40 min.) The impact of global warming is examined in the waters of Southern Australia, New Guinea, and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region.





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Austin Film Festival: Call for Entries Sure, you want to have your work considered in one of the most prestigious of festivals. You have a screenplay or a completed movie; you have something you've crafted to within an inch of its virtual life. Don't hide that light under a bushel, hoss: Submit today. See the AFF website for details. **Screenplay and teleplay deadlines**: early, *May* 15; late, *June* 1. **Film deadlines**: early, *June* 3; late, *July* 3; very late, *July* 15. www.austinfilmfestival.com.

Austin Film Society Summer Youth Camps You *know* those kids want to learn how to make movies; AFS youth filmmaking camps teach hands-on narrative and experimental techniques using digital video. The camps run Monday through Friday (9am-5pm) in June, July, and August and are appropriate for ages 12-15. See website for details, and register soon. \$250 (\$225, AFS members). **www.austinfilm.org**.

Austin School of Film Classes An excellent slate of classes is available for your cinematic advancement at the Austin School of Film, with professional instruction in Final Cut Pro, DV and HD cameras, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. **www.austinfilmschool.org/classes**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-footby-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super-35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.

TFPF Grants: Call for Entries The Austin Film Society is now accepting applications for the 2009 Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund. AFS plans to give out at least \$95,000 to emerging film and video artists in Texas, in cash grants up to \$15,000, as well as Kodak film stock and in-kind services from Seattle-based Alpha Cine Labs. Eligibility: filmmakers who have resided in Texas for at least one year. See website for details and application. Deadline: *June* 1.

www.austinfilm.org/for_filmmakers/texas-filmmakers-production-fund.

The Screenplay Workshop: Spring Classes Screenwriting Fundamentals Through May 5. Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm. \$210. Screenwriting Master Class Through June 9. Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm. \$395. Also available: private instruction and story consultation packages, 7½ hours of private instruction, \$370. All classes are taught by professional screenwriters and meet in Central Austin. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 7PM • McCallum Theater, 5600 Sunshine Dr. For more information and tickets, visit www.mccallumtv.com



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Pecan Street Festival

Downtown, Saturday 2 & Sunday 3

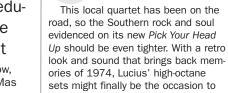
It ain't easy being green, but cutting waste, educating, recycling, and composting is now on the menu of this weekend's perennial Pecan Street

Festival. Organizers promise to keep Sixth Street green in the fest's 31st year, with a 75% wastediversion goal, overhauled recycling program, biodiesel-run generators, locally bottled water, and organic food. Burning up the solar-powered stages over two days is a host of locals. Saturday brings in the newer indie acts: the Lemurs, the Steps, Corto Maltese, the Boxing Lesson,



Friday: Omar Kent Dykes. Antone's Records, 2pm Saturday: Tito & Tarantula, Cheapo Discs, 5pm Monday: Clifton Anderson, Waterloo Records, noon

Suzanna Choffel, Built by Snow, Foot Patrol, the Tunnels, No Mas Bodas, Many Birthdays, and more. Sunday, San Antonio accordion legend Santiago Jimenez Jr. headlines the Latin Stage along with A-T Boyz, Haydn Vitera, Omar Lopez, Frenetica, and Foco Rojo, with Attic Ted, Low Red Center, Aliens, Wino Vino, and more bringing up the rear. www.oldpec anstreetfestival.com. - Audra Schroeder



of Appalachia.

dig out that fringed vest and paisley shirt combo. Comb out your Afro, too, and you'll fit right in. – Jim Caligiuri

Lamberts, Friday 1

- Austin Powell

Emo's, Friday 1

- Audra Schroeder

Saxon Pub, Saturday 2

Rare is the occasion when the

upscale Lamberts stage hosts local

noise rock of this caliber. The feral

volatility of Coma in Algiers' latest,

Your Heart, Your Body, thrusts like the

or Flipper, while Baby Robots concoct

bent. On a lighter note, the Dark Water

Hymnal wades through phosphorescent

A night of Texas-bred country by the

ladies. Local quintet Monarchs, led by

the fluttering vocals of Celeste Griffin,

christen gritty roots-rock ballads of

brand new EP Those Words, Those

Frames. Singer Dana Falconberry unspools an early 20th century thread

from last year's breezy Oh Skies of Grev. Opener Mara Lee Miller is Bosque Brown, and for her sopho-

more LP, the Denton singer-songwriter

birthed a Baby - Miller's voice drifts

high and lonesome, like some ghost

UNCLE LUCIUS

second coming of the Jesus Lizard

perverse psychedelia with a Texas

folk narratives early.

MONARCHS

EP RELEASE

RACHE

austinchronicle.com/earache

U18 AUSTIN MUSIC SHOWCASE Threadgill's World HQ, Saturdav 2

The final installation in Threadgill's spring Next Up teen series gathers more raw talent than American Idol can shake a limp pinky finger at. Folk-rock sextet the El Guapos headline, with shoegazers Chief Rival and peers Aftermath, the Aviators, Edison Chair, the Diving Captain, and more stomping out a spot in Austin's verdant teen scene. Noon, \$5. Benefits the Palmer Drug Abuse Program. – Audra Schroeder

OVER THE RHINE, LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE Texas Union Ballroom. Saturday 2 & Sunday 3

Twenty years in, Cincinnati's Karin Bergquist and Linford Detweiler have come down from the ethereal, 4AD heights of their early 1990s beginnings, and with 2007 disc The Trumpet Child, they visit the old weird South for the Cowboy Junkies-esque twang of the couple's current quintet. Kenny Hutson's Dobro, mandolin, and pedal steel ease two nights of "Last Night on Earth Again," supported by Lucy Wainwright Roche, whose name speaks to her singer-songwriter pedigree.

- Raoul Hernandez

RICHARD LLOYD Room 710. Sunday 3

The right brain to Tom Verlaine's left in pioneering NYC punk quartet Television, Richard Lloyd has since released a handful of solo albums, as well as worked with Matthew Sweet and a reunited Rocket From the Tombs, both of which strengthened his seminal six-stringing. He comes to town with his rock & roll Sufi-Monkey Trio - former Television drummer Billy Ficca and bassist Keith Hartel - in anticipation of his upcoming Jimi Hendrix covers album. - Audra Schroeder

WYE OAK Mohawk, Wednesday 6

Baltimore duo Wye Oak always manages to exceed the sum of its parts. Last year's If Children revealed a beautifully scripted batch of indie pop that touched on just about every aspect of the Merge Records catalog. Expect to hear choice cuts from the band's forthcoming follow-up, The Knot. Cincinnati's equally promising Pomegranates had a strong South by Southwest showing behind their dreamy Everybody Come Outside!, and Austin's Salesman makes the opening pitch. - Austin Powell

Threadgill's World HQ, Sunday 3

3:30pm.

MV & EE

Mohawk, Monday 4

Saxon Pub. Tuesdav 5

CHUBBY CHECKER

Let's twist, again.

Room 710, Thursday 7

Rock & roll animals.

LIONS OF TSAVO

Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights

and Charles Thibodeaux benefit KOOP.

The experimental folk duo pulls its

Drone Trailer into town. Silver Pines and

Cowboy tales for Cinco de Mayo.

Headdress' Caleb Coy save a spot.

MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY

Threadgill's World HQ, Thursday 7

WHITE RHINO, BLACKHOLICUS,

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER Soundcheck **GULF COAST EXTRAVAGANZA**

MIDGETMEN SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY Mohawk, Friday 1

Lucky No. 7 with the Calm Blue Sea, Mice & Rifles, the Pons, and more.

JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT Antone's, Friday 1

The former Trucker ups the rock on a new self-titled.

UME, TRUE WIDOW, THE WHITE WHITE LIGHTS

La Zona Rosa, Saturday 2

Local volumizers make Texas toast. SOULIVE WITH THE SHADY HORNS

Antone's, Saturday 2 Jazz-funk trio gets high Up Here.

SLEEPYTIME GORILLA MUSEUM

Red 7, Sunday 3 Sunday night freak show, with

Death Is Not a Joyride. and Opposite Day opening.

live music venues p.92 **roadshows** p.94 **club listings** p.96



L - R: UNCLE LUCIUS (SAT., 5/2) | LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE (SAT. & SUN., 5/2 & 5/3) | RICHARD LLOYD (SUN., 5/3) | WYE OAK (WED., 5/6)



austinchronicle.com MAY 1,2009 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE 89

AN





THE CINCODE MAYO DOWNLOW BLOCK PARTY Presented by LA CONDESA & LAMBERTS. Food, drinks, & more. Live performances by CHARANGA CAKEWALK, LOS BAD APPLES, CIENFUEGOS + DJ CHICKEN GEORGE. Tuesday 05.05.2009 5-10pm W 2ND between Guadalupe & San Antonio!

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live music **Uenues**

LAGUNA GLORIA, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191

LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500

100 CONGRESS BUILDING, 100 Congress, 478-1005 **311 CLUB**, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630 THE AMSTERDAM, 121 W. Eighth, 236-1606 ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood,

ANTONE'S RECORDS 2928 Guadalune 322-0660 ANTONE'S. 213 W. Fifth. 320-8424

ARCHIVE LOUNGE, 6406 N. I-35 #1600, 452-1114

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283 AUSTIN ACOUSTICAL CAFE, 2874 Shoal Crest (Lamar Senior Activity Center), 474-5921

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN. Fourth & Guadalupe.

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735. 2103 E.M. Franklin.

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146

AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888 BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN BAR, 21814 Hwy. 71 W.,

BASS CONCERT HALL, UT campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 471-1444 BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop

/321-7907 B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB. 204 E. Sixth. 494-1335

BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK (7625) THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300 BLACKERBY VIOLIN SHOP, 111 W. Anderson, 469-9343 BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315 'BOUT TIME 9601 N 1-35 832-5339 BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189 THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330 CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515 CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth, 236-8634 CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790 CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669 CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000 CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300 CHAIN DRIVE, 504 Willow, 480-9017 CHEAPO DISCS 914 N Lamar 477-4499 CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666

CHUGGIN' MONKEY, 219 E. Sixth, 476-5015 CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD, 5496 Hwy. 71 E., Cedar Creek, 512/247-4600

CLUB 1808, 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519 THE COCKPIT 113 San Jacinto 457-8010 CONANS PIZZA, 2018 W. Stassney, 441-6754 CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444 COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010 COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002 COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700 COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL, 6500 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1742 COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE, 5204 FM 2222, 346-3664 CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E, Seventh, 480-5988 CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822 DONN'S DEPOT. 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336 DOWNTOWN AUSTIN, Sixth Street from I-35 to Brazos THE DRISKILL HOTEL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911 DRY CREEK SALOON, 4812 Mount Bonnell Rd., 453-9244 EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860 EL SOL Y LA LUNA 600 F Sixth 444-7770 ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279 ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979 EMMA LONG PARK, 1706 City Park Rd., 346-1831 EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667 EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 282-2586 FADÓ. 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172 FIESTA GARDENS, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318 THE FIFTH GALLERY, 305 E. Fifth, 669-6558 FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336 FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., FRANK ERWIN CENTER, 1701 Red River, 471-7744 FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193 FURR'S FAMILY DINING, 4015 S. Lamar, 441-7825 GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732 GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., GREEN PASTURES 811 W Live Oak 444-4747 GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077

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LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729 LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146

LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889 LITTLE WOODROW'S, 520 W. Sixth, 477-2337 LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 701 W. Riverside, LOUIE'S 106 106 F Sixth 476-1997 LOVEJOYS, 604 Neches, 477-1268 LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700 LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399 MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541 MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS, 10201 Jollyville, 345-1042 MANUEL'S. 310 Congress, 472-7555 MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261 MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326 MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER, 600 River St., 478-6222 MINGS CAFE, 2604 Guadalupe, 476-8888 MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404 MOMO'S. 618 W. Sixth. 479-8848 MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747 MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994 MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., NEWORLDELI, 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170 NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY. 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 467-6969 NUEVO LEÓN, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097 NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133 NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy, 290 W., 301-4648 ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121 OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237 PALMER EVENTS CENTER, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4500 THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965 PARMER LANE TAVERN, 2121 Parmer #1, 339-0663 PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE 5001 F Ben White 444-2020 THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS, 18200 Lakepoint Cove, Point Venture, 512/267-1845 PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099 POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318 QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE, 213 W. Fourth, 472-2782 RAIN ON 4TH, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150 RANCH 616, 616 Nueces, 479-7616 REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Hwy. 183 N., 335-5115 RED 7, 611 E. Seventh, 476-8100 RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084 RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120 RED SHED TAVERN, 8504 S. Congress, 280-4899 RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626 RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132 RIVERBEND CENTRE, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 327-9416 ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, Round Rock, 512/218-0813 ROADHOUSE RAGS, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797 ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090 ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997 RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637 SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083 SAXON PUB. 1320 S. Lamar. 448-2552 THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200

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WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET, 1106 W. 38th,

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april THU 30

Francis Levoy, the Amsterdam Twin Crystals, Modern Creatures. Beerland Firecracker Jazz Band,

Continental Club Zenith Fuzzbomb, Creekside Lounge

Deadbolt, Pretty & Nice, Emo's Harry Bodine, Evangeline Cafe Sugarland, Eric Hutchinson, Billy Currington, Frank Erwin

Crooks, Hole in the Wall Andrew Hardin, House Wine Nick Jaina, Lamberts White Rhino, Red 7

Head Crusher, Room 710 Relentless Jones, Saxon Pub

Flaco Jimenez, Threadgill's World HO Peter Brotzmann, Nasheet Waits, Eric Revis, Victory Grill

The Boxmasters. Waterloo Records

may

FRI 1 Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit, Antone's

Hot Sauce. Archive Lounge Death Cab for Cutie. Ra Ra

Riot, Matt Costa, Austin Music Hall Ultratumbados, Club 1808

Firecracker Jazz Band, Continental Club MSG Crew, Crew 54, Stro

Creekside Lounge Bosque Brown, Emo's

Gary Hobbs, Da Krazy Pimps, Fiesta Gardens

The Wrong Ones, Headhunters Curtis Clark Trio, Long Center for the Performing Arts

Sarah Chang, Long Center for the Performing Arts

The Parlor Mob, Satin Peaches. Stubb's

SAT 2 Soulive w/ Shady Horns.

Antone's Deke Dickerson. Continental

Red Alert, Cool River Cafe

THU 30

Mode, Legs Diamond Benefit w/ Sabbath Crow, Duke, New Disaster, Headhunters Amigos de las Americas Benefit w/ Crying Monkeys, Laguna Gloria

FRI 01 Anthropos Arts Benefit w/ Trio Elote, Whip In

SAT 02

Family Connections Fitness Awareness w/ Staci Grav. Sara Hickman. the Biscuit Brothers. **Palmer Events Center**

Rods at Riley's, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Benefit w/ Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings, John Evans Band, Riley's Tavern

Henry Brun & the Latin Players, Elephant Room Dredg, Torche, Judgement Day, Murder Junkies, Shit, Emo's

Jimmy Gonzalez y Grupo Mazz. Fiesta Gardens Federation of Horsepower,

Ese. Headhunters Harptallica. Headhunters

True Widow, La Zona Rosa Elaine Greer, Lamberts Sarah Chang. Long Center for

the Performing Arts Deryl Dodd, Nutty Brown Cafe

Chuck Bob Carnes, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

Bitter End, On My Side, Full Contact, Grave Robber, Flawless Victory, the Golden Age, Fight Pretty, Red Alert, Branch Davidian, the Dry Heaves, Real Talk. Chop Block, Indignation, Red 7

Stars Collide, Red Eyed Fly Red Young Trio, Romeo's Shurman, the Scoot Inn

Esther LaVonne & the Rottens, the Vehicle Reason. Stubb's Over the Rhine, Lucy

Wainwright Roche, Texas Union Ballroom

Tony Furtado, Threadgill's Old No. 1 Sore Losers, Trophy's

SUN 3

Sonny Rollins, Bass Concert Hall

Ted Russell Kamp, Continental

Santiago Jiménez Jr., A-T Boyz, Frenetica, Downtown Austin

Neon Knights, Emo's Los Fantasmas del Valle, Letti y El Conjunto Central de Corpus, George y Mague, Fiesta Gardens MC Chris, Whole Wheat

Bread, I Am the Dream, Mohawk Sleepytime Gorilla Museum,

Red 7 Richard Lloyd, Room 710

Over the Rhine, Lucy Wainwright Roche, Texas

Union Ballroom

KAOS Benefit w/ Slowly Truth Dies, Letter of Warning, Head Panic, Oklahomos, Hoodrats, Bad Rackets, Sore Losers, HUG, the Sweethearts, Brigand Brigade, Trophy's

Dena Taylor Benefit w/ the Blues Posse, Victory Grill

Woofstock, Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation Benefit w/ Smoke & Feathers, Jiminy Crisket, Just Play, Atomic Strawberry, LaxaTones, Uranium Savages, Waterloo Park

KOOP Benefit w/ Charles Thibodeaux, Larry

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

road*shows*

MON 4

The Inevitable Backlash, English Teeth, Emo's MV & EE. Mohawk Yunavi. the Parlor

Clifton Anderson, Waterloo Records

TUE 5

Butch Hancock, Cactus Cafe Jason Shannon, Continental Club

Ace Enders, Vedera, Pinata Protest, Ultratumbados, Emo's

Chris Jamison, Jovita's Sweet Chariot, the Parlor Michael Martin Murphy, Saxon Pub

Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub Height, the Scoot Inn Toubab Krewe, Stubb's Hollow, Triple Crown

WFD 6

Ouachita, the Belmont Matt Wilson. Central Market South

Sensational Fibs. Chain Drive Kevin Welch, Gruene Hall Snatch Racket, Headhunters Wye Oak, Pomegranates,

Buster Jiggs, Saxon Pub Saint Cloud, Triple Crown

THU 7

The Bassturd, Austin Moose Lodge No. 1735

Flight of the Conchords, Eugene Mirman, Bass Concert Hall

Butch Miles' Jazz Express, Elephant Room

Blood Royale, Emo's Jason Eady, Gruene Hall

Sideshow Tramps, Hole in the Wall

Andrew Hardin, House Wine The Freeze, Razor Wire, Red 7

White Rhino, Room 710 Brave Combo. Shady Grove Twilight Broadcast, Stubb's Chubby Checker, Threadgill's World HO

for your **benefit**



Lange's Lonely Knights, Threadgill's World HQ







96 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE MAY 1, 2009 austinchronicle.com



тни 30

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)

YEARS

T

6

ALL DAY LONG!

THE AMSTERDAM Francis Levoy (9:00) ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Open Mic w/ Andrea Marie (7.00)

ANTONE'S Meagan Tubb, Dertybird, Eric Tessmer (9:00) AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735

The Happen-Ins, Dickey Brothers, Cause for Applause (9:00) B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEERLAND No Mas Bodas, Cry Blood Apache, Modern Creatures, Twin

Crystals, Dikes of Holland (9:00) THE BELMONT Jeff Lofton Quartet (7:00), DJ Veg (10:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Jackie Bristow BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons,

Jesse Davton (8:00) THE BROWN BAR Kenny Luna

CEDAR STREET Mysterious Ways (9:30) CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Venson &

Lee (6:30) CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE

Bart Crow (9:00) **CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Olivier

Giraud (10:00); Woodsboss (6:30), White Ghost Shivers, Firecracker Jazz Band (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Tub COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Bret & Ben, Beat Dolls, World Racketeering Squad, Zenith Fuzzbomb

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar:

Elizabeth Wills & Hilary York EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith, Bruce Saunders Quartet (6:00)

ELYSIUM International Waters EMO'S Inside: La Snacks, the Low Lows, Pretty & Nice, Oh No! Oh My!; Outside: Corinne Rose,

Flametrick Subs, Deadbolt

EVANGELINE CAFE Harry Bodine

FLAMINGO CANTINA Cali Zack (9:00) FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Matt the

FRANK ERWIN CENTER Billy Currington

FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Porterdavis (7:00)

New Disaster HOLE IN THE WALL Jeff & Chris Daily,

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee, Andrew Hardin (6:00)

JALISCO Mariachi Tamzula (7:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00) KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00) LAGUNA GLORIA Amigos de las Americas Benefit w/ Crying Monkeys (6:30)

LAMBERTS Lee Mork w/ Gary Clark Jr. (7:00): Weird Weeds, Nick Jaina (10:30)

LITTLE WOODROW'S The Redneck Boys LOUIE'S 106 Rigel Thurston LOVEJOYS The Ape Shits, Damp Heat LUCKY LOUNGE Fatty Monk (10:00) MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS Jonas Alvarez (6:30)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Phil Brown, Jimi Project (6:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Chili Cold Blood (8:00) MOHAWK A Few Nice Things, Deadman, Sideshow Tragedy, La Guerilla (10:00)

MOMO'S Patrice Pike, Joy Davis. Black Bone Child, Courrier

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00) NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT &

BREWERY Jamie Thomas (6:30) NUTTY BROWN CAFE Carport

Cassanovas ONE 2 ONE BAR Dahebegebees

(10:00)**THE PARLOR** Leg Sweeper, Electric Courage Machine (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Americana Showcase (7:30) THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Open Mic

QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE DJ Cue RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins (8:00) RED 7 DJ Mark Twistworthy, 1000

Deaths, Hazard of Industry, Barry Whitesnake, Naysays, White Rhino

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RED SHED TAVERN Chap Pope, Wendy Colonna

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

- RILEY'S TAVERN Aaron Navarro
- ROOM 710 Red Line Riot, Head Crusher, Brotherhood, Dead Earth Politics, Prey for Sleep

RUTA MAYA Bright Lite Social Hour Pastor Cory & the Good Ole Band (8:00)

SAXON PUB Relentless Jones, Seltzer, the Gunhands (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Jenny & the Corn Ponies, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, McKay Bros., Chaparral

w/ Jeff Hughes (8:00) SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Dale Spaulding, Zhenya Rock (7:00)

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (9.00)STUBB'S The Mercers, the Black & White Years, the Black (10:00)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's Blues (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jam Session w/ Dawn Maracle

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.

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Joel Guzman Birthday Show w/ Joel Guzman, Sarah Fox, Flaco Jimenez, Ponty Bone (9:00)

THE TRIANGLE J&L Brothers (7:00) TRIPLE CROWN Joel Hofmann Band, Disco: Hate, River Hymn

VICTORY GRILL Eric Revis, Nasheet Waits, Peter Brotzmann

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN The Hudsons (7:00)

waterLoo records The Boxmasters (5:00)WHIP IN Central Time (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Dream Lovers (6:00)

100 CONGRESS BUILDING Lobby: Fusebox Festival

w/ Golden Hornet Project (2:00, 5:00)

THE AMSTERDAM Kent Mayhew Billy Harvey (9:00)

ANTONE'S Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit (9:00)

ANTONE'S RECORDS Omar & the Howlers (2:00) ARCHIVE LOUNGE Hot Sauce (9:00)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Matt Costa, Ra Ra Riot, Death Cab for Cutie BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN

BAR Michael Samuels (7:00) B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee BEERLAND The Tunnels, Victims of

Leisure THE BELMONT DJ Veg (10:00) BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, James Hand (8:00) THE BROWN BAR Kenny Luna

CACTUS CAFE Austin Lounge Lizards Anniversary Show (7:00, 9:30)



Electrician (8:00) Eric Hutchinson, Sugarland (8:00) Lombard (noon, 6:00)

HEADHUNTERS Mode, Legs Diamond Benefit w/ Sabbath Crow, Duke,

Crooks, Bryce Clifford (10:00)

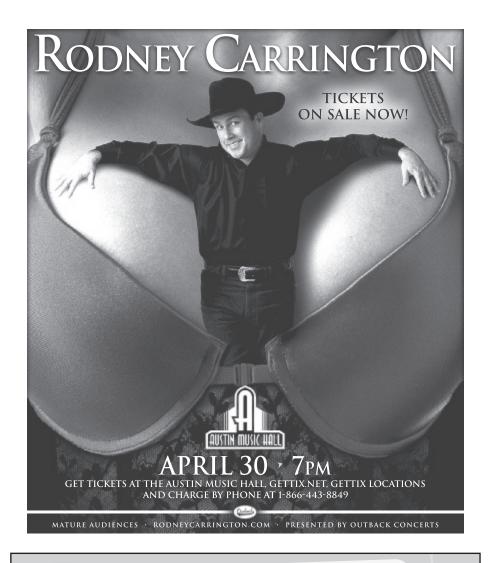
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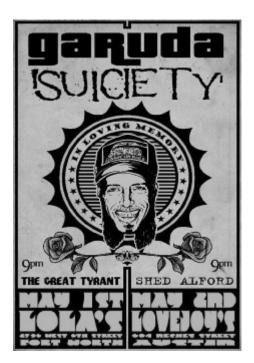
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venue & wreck room 🔕 RE 4/30 - White Rhino, The Nay Says, Barry Whitesnake, Hazard of Industry, 1000 Deaths 5/3 - Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Death is Not a Joyride, Opposite Day - 10pm 5/4 - The Secret (Italy), Early Graves (Metal

Blade) - 10pm 5/5 - Sourvein, Mala Suerte, RISEthyRUIN,

Curse the Heavens - 10pm 5/6 - 101x Homegrown Live, Within White

Shadows, Critical Assembly, Die Among Heroes - 10pm 5/7 - The Freeze, Nah Dude, Razorwire -

10pm 5/8 - EARLY SHOW : Parkway Drive,

Mychildren Mybride, Set Aflame, ByALongShot - 5pm

5/8 - LATE SHOW: Krum Bums, Black Fag, Me vs. Everybody, Panther Zora - 10pm 5/9 - When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Exeter,

Shitty Carwash. The Joy Bus - 10pm 5/10 - The Roller Tour Kickoff w/ Green and

Wood, Strider, Eagle Claw - 10pm

5/13 - Stacey Miller, The Black Shirts, A

Good Rodgering - 10pm 5/15 - EARLY SHOW - **Paul Green**

School of Rock performs Van Halen - 7pm

4/30 - DJ Mark Twistworthy BED7 list punk, post-punk, BED7 WRECK ROOM rare gems ALWAYS FREE 5/1 - DJ Butcher Bear & Mike Rod 5/2 - Dr. The Hated Dong playing SxE classics til death!

5/3 - FREE IN THE WRECKROOM ... KAOS radio's The Vomit Piñata Party: taking drugs to spin records to take drugs to

5/13 - HER SPACE HOLIDAY (MOHAWK), 5/16 - GHOST (MOHAWK) 5/16 - DUANE PETER'S UPCOMING GUNFIGHT/PRIMADDNNAS (RED 7), 5/20 - PONYTAIL (RED 7), 5/20 - YOUNG LOVE (MOHAWK), 5/21 - PROPAGHANDI (MOHAWK), 5/22 - THE THERMALS, 5/23 - THE BUSINESS (RED 7), 5/24 - EYEHATEGOD/HARVEY MILK (RED 7) 5/28 - BOB LOG III (RED 7), 5/30 - THIS WILL DESTROY YOU (MOHAWK), 6/2 - BLACK MOTH SUPER RAINBOW (MOHAWK), 6/2 - MR. LIF (RED 7), 6/2 - WENDY & CARL (CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH), 6/4 - **HELIO SEQUENCE** (MOHAWK), 6/6 - **MIKA MIKO** (RED 7), 6/6 - **AU** REVOIR SIMONE (MOHAWK), 6/5 - BONNIE PRINCE BILLY (MOHAWK), 6/11 - HOLY FUCK (MOHAWK), 6/13 -DOUG STANHOPE (RED 7), 6/19 - ST. VINCENT/PATTEN IS MOVEMENT (MOHAWK), 6/20 - SUNSET RUBDOWN (MOHAWK), 6/25 - 2 LIVE CREW (MOHAWK), 6/26 - LEFTOVER CRACK (RED 7), 6/27 BELAIRE/CRYPTACIZE (MOHAWK), 6/28 - THÈ BROTHER NATIVE/RELIGIOUS GIRLS (MOHAWK), 7/11 - THE COATHANGERS (MOHAWK), 8/8 - ABIGAIL WILLIAMS (RED 7), 10/17 - MONO (MOHAWK)

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mad Cowboys (7:00)**CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Cienfuegos (6:30)

CLUB 1808 Vaaska, Porkeria, Sacred Shock Ultratumbados (10.00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin (10:00); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30) Firecracker Jazz Band, White Ghost Shivers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE The Sophisticates COTTON CLUB 3 X Texas

COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE Mike Clifford (6:00) CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Boomset Notion,

Stro, Crew 54, MSG Crew DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station

Masters THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Aimee

Bobruk, Rosie Flores (8:00) DRY CREEK SALOON Damon Bramblett

(8:00) EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark

Goodwin Trio (8:00) ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith, the Brew (6:00)

EMO'S Inside: Bosque Brown, Dana Falconberry, Monarchs; Outside: D-Madness, Greyhounds, T Bird &

the Breaks EVANGELINE CAFE Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights (10:00)

FIESTA GARDENS Cinco de Mayo w/ A-T Boyz, Da Krazy Pimps, Gary

Hobbs (6:00) THE FIFTH GALLERY John Gomi FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Graham

Weber, Nathan Hamilton (8:00) FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton

Lombard (noon, 6:00) GIDDY UPS Scott Wayne (5:00), Walter

Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs (9:00) GRUENE HALL Two Tons of Steel (8:00) HANOVER'S Suede

HEADHUNTERS Wolf Dog, Confused, the Wrong Ones, Shenanigans HOLE IN THE WALL The Sour Notes, the Great Nostalgic, Sunset (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Quentin Moore CD

THE SCOOT INN The Black, the

SKI SHORES WATERFRONT CAFE

SPEAKEASY Memphis Train Revue

STARDUST CLUB The Redneck Boys

STUBB'S Satin Peaches, the Parlo

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Stonehoney,

Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)

Elevated Living, Perfect Pants,

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Bonedaddy

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt

TRIPLE CROWN Wasted Youth,

UNITED STATES ART AUTHORITY Fusebox Festival w/ Foot Patrol (11:30)

WHIP IN Anthropos Arts Benefit

ANTONE'S Soulive w/ Shady Horns

Marvin Dykhuis (7:00)

AUSTIN ACOUSTICAL CAFE Danny Britt.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN

BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE & GARDEN

Billy Bright & Hays Co. Burn Band (10:00am)

w/ Trio Elote (7:00)

SAT 02

(9:00)

THE AMSTERDAM Suede (10:00)

the Belleville Outfit

A Mind Divided

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00) W.C. Clark, Jackie Bristow (8:00)

Happen-Ins, Brothers & Sisters, Karrie Hopper (8:00)

SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Singer

Songwriter Round Robin (8:00)

Release (9:30)

Van Wilks

Mob (10:00)

(9:30)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Jerry Sires, Doug Warriner (6:00)

LAMBERTS The Jitterbug Vipers (7:00); Dark Water Hymnal, Baby Robots, Coma in Algiers (10:30) LONG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING

ARTS Fusebox Festival w/ Curtis Clark Trio (7:00): Dell Hall: Sarah Chang w/ Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Everydudes, Angel Ferrer, DJ Diamond Tip (6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (9:00)

MOHAWK Paul Green School of Rock Music (5:30), Deaf Ears, Calm Blue Sea, the Midgetmen (10:00) MOMO'S Josh Halverson, Ben Mallott, Stacy Barnhill, James Hyland

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

NEWORLDELI Steve Brooks (7:00) NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT &

BREWERY Will Sexton (6:30) NUTTY BROWN CAFE Jean Pierre & the

Zydeco Angels ONE 2 ONE BAR Wisebird, Derrick

Davis (8:00) THE PARLOR Bottle Service (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Texana Dames (8:00)

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Michael Reaux & the Outriders

PLUSH Hump! Family Band (10:00) POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Burl Wilkerson & Bare Bones

QUA BOTTLE LOUNGE DJ Mondo RED EYED FLY Stone Dakota, Critical Assembly, Scraps of Life, Phoenix

lackson **RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Rich Demarco (6:00)

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield & Ephraim







912 red river

Rock - 7pm

Ears - 9pm

dream - 8pm

HEADDRESS) - 10pm

Salesman - 10pm

Lovers - 12am (inside)

Rock - 7pm

Rock - 7pm

(inside)

Entertainment

<u>Tran</u>smission

and Camera Obscura - 6pm

all are welcome.

4/30 - La Guerilla, The Sideshow Tragedy,

5/1 - EARLY SHOW : Paul Green School of

5/1 - Midgetmen Anniversary show w/ Mice

and Rifles, Calm Blue Sea, Frontier Brother,

5/2 - EARLY SHOW : Paul Green School of

5/2 - Screaming at the Sky (cd release) w/

5/3 - mc chris/ whole wheat bread/ i am the

5/4 - MV & EE, Silver Pines, Caleb Coy (of

5/5 - Austinist & 4AD Present: First Listen

5/6 - Wye Oak, Brazos, Pomegranates,

Happy Hour featuring St Vincent's new album

5/7 - Morakestra, White White Lights - 10pm

Oboe Music - 9pm (outside) // Sounder, Hello

5/9 - EARLY SHOW : Paul Green School of

5/9 - Glass Candy L.A.X. w/ Yadira Brown,

5/9 - Yellow Fever, Screaming Females,

Follow that Bird!!, Send Help - 10pm

Learning Secrets, Richard Henry - 9pm (outside)

5/8 - EARLY SHOW : Paul Green School of

5/8 - The Paper Chase, Valina, Haunting

Grenadier, The Riot Scene, Cobretti - 10pm //

Rock performs garage classics - 7pm

Popnoir Soundsystem in green room

Bankrupt and Borrowers, The Pons, Deaf

Deadman, A Few Nice Things - 10pm



austinchronicle.com **MAY 1,2009** THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE **101**



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TALL BOYS & \$2 WELLS

MONDAY

THESDAY

WEDNESDAY \$2 TECATE OR MODELO CANS & \$2 WELLS

THURSDAY \$2 ANY CANNED BEER (SCHLITZ, PEARL, PBR, LONE STAR, COORS, TECATE, MODELO) & \$3 TITO'S FRIDAY/SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR 7-11 (SERVICE INDUSTRY PRICES)

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NA Guzman's Birthdav S featuring: Sarah Fox Flaco Jimenez. Pontv Bone Michael Ramos. Lisa Haves 9pm \$10 Re Stonehonev 10; Kids under 12 = no cover 9pm Next Un U18 2pm Strings Atta MUSIC OF PETER GABRIEL 9pm Gospel Brunch with **HIHA** llam Indoors/Free **KOOP's Gulf Coast** Extravaganza 3:30pm \$8 \$40/\$50 9pm -Streeter Jimmv LaFave 8:30pm 💐 🖬 🖬 🕯 12 adv. / \$15 door INA WAWIRTHK 8:30pm 💐 🖬 \$12 adv. / \$15 door The Gourds 9pm Strenter-\$15 101.1 KGSR laves Car 7pm \$15 adv. / \$20 door Bob Schneider's Texas Bluegrass Massacre 9pm Strether. \$12 adv / \$15 door Austin Lounge Lizards 9pm Street for \$15 Streeter-\$20 to \$50

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SATURDAY

MOMO'S Ray Primm, Sunflower, Alex

Hehley MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (11:30am)

NEWORLDELI Fredy Argir (7:00) NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Stephen Doster & Bill

- Carter (6:30) NUTTY BROWN CAFE Deryl Dodd,
- Bill Rice ONE 2 ONE BAR Jon Napier, Colin McDonald, Alan Haynes (8:00)
- PALMER EVENTS CENTER Family Connections Fitness Awareness w/ Staci Gray, Sara Hickman, the Biscuit Brothers (10:00am)
- THE PARLOR Mock Tigers, New Disaster (9:00)
- PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Mark Alan (7:30)
- THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Roger Len Smith POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Kentucky Derby w/ Wynn Taylor, Chuck Bob Carnes
- RAIN ON 4TH 80's Night w/ DJ Dallas (10:00)
- RED 7 TXHC w/ Indignation, Chop Block, Real Talk, the Dry Heaves, Branch Davidian, Power Trio, Red Alert, Fight Pretty, Indisgust, Golden Age, Coptic Times, Flawless Victory Grave Robbers, Full Contact, On My Side, Bitter End
- RED EYED FLY Stars Collide, Sedium, Naked Empire, One-Eved Doll, Mike Truth & the Replacement Killers

RED FEZ DI Kury (10.00) **RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Rods at Rilev's Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Benefit w/ Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings, John Evans Band (2:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Sancho Villa, Creedence Clearwater Survival (6:00)

ROMEO'S Red Young Trio RUTA MAYA Mandy Mercier, Tiny Tin Hearts (1:30), Ike-a-Saurus (5:00)

- SAXON PUB Stacy Barnhill, Uncle Lucius, Omar & the Howlers (8:00) THE SCOOT INN Woodsboss. Shurman.
- Mother Truckers (8:00) SEGOVIA SPANISH RESTAURANT Wayne
- D'Harpe (8:00) **SKI SHORES WATERFRONT CAFE** Tracie Lynn (6:30)
- SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30)
- STARDUST CLUB Li'l Steph & the Chromatics
- STUBB'S The Vehicle Reason, Language Room, Esther LaVonne & the Rottens, Beaux Loy, Dremnt the End TEXAS UNION BALLROOM LUCY
- Wainwright Roche, Over the Rhine THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1 Tony Furtado
- (10:00) THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ U18 Showcase w/ the Diving Captain, Edison Chair, Aviators,
- AfterMath, Chief Rival, El Guapos (noon); Will Taylor & Strings Attached (9:00) TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Mirage Jazz Ensemble (7:30)
- TRIPLE CROWN Cactus Rash, Molly & the Hatchets, Hognose
- **TROPHY'S** KAOS Benefit w/ Slowly Truth Dies, Letter of Warning, Head Panic, Oklahomos, Hoodrats, Bad Rackets, Sore Losers, Hug, the Sweethearts, Brigand Brigade (2:00)
- victory grill Dena Taylor Benefit w/ the Blues Posse (2:00)
- WATERLOO PARK Woofstock, Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation Benefit w/ Smoke & Feathers, Jiminy Crisket, Just Play, Atomic Strawberry, Laxatones, Uranium Savages (10:00am) WHIP IN Ustad Ghulam Farid Nizami
 - (8:00)

SUN 03

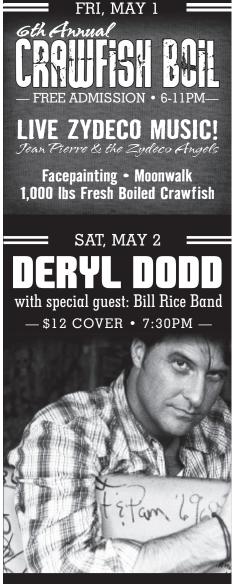
- BASS CONCERT HALL Sonny Rollins (8:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (8:00)
- THE BELMONT Jane Bond (noon) BLACKERBY VIOLIN SHOP Barton Strings (3:00); Joe McDermott (7:00)
- BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Lost Pines Trio (12:30)
- **CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Leticia Rodriguez (6:30)
- CONANS PIZZA Jeremy Parker, Merri Palmer, Clint Hofmeister, Marc Clapp, Jonny Dub, Dixie Beal, Blood Funk Sun, Molock, Sheep Thrills, Cholo Gun, El Charco, Sweet Bandana, Higher Than Why Killa Dilla, Eve & the Exiles (noon)
- **CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Ray Benson, Mike Flanigin (8:00); In the Club: Ted Russell Kamp (8:00), Heybale! (10:00) COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
- DOWNTOWN AUSTIN Pecan Street Festival w/ Wino Vino, Aliens, Low Red Center, Attic Ted, Foco Rojo, Frenetica, Omar Lopez, Haydn Vitera, A-T Boyz, Santiago Jimenez Jr.
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM John Fremgen **ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
- EMMA LONG PARK DJ Ten4, Rez, Los Beats, Matt Horn, Will Konitzer, Atom West, DJ Davinci, Arin Carter (noon)
- EMO'S The Fireants Neon Knights Micah Omega, Tito & Tarantula



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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

FIESTA GARDENS Cinco de Mayo, Conjunto Festival w/ Los T-Birds, George y Mague, Letti y El Conjunto Central de Corpus, Alfredo de la Rosa, Johnny Degollado y su Conjunto, Los Fantasmas del Valle, Santiago Jimenez (noon)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Austin De Tucson, So-Han Fan (8:00) FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam (8:00) FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton

Lombard (noon, 6:00) GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Gary Claxton & Flat Top Jones

(4.00)**GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Cam Penner (12:30): Guy Forsyth (5:00)

HEADHUNTERS The Doolins, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, the Original Mexican Bob

HOLE IN THE WALL Big Steve Helton (5:30); James & the Douchebags (10:00) JOVITA'S All-in-Blues (6:00)

LAMBERTS Black, Red & Black (7:00) LUCKY LOUNGE Tonewheels (10:00) MANUEL'S Tony Campise (11:00am) MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Imperial

Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30) MEAN-EVED CAT Lucas Hudgins (8:00)

MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER Trio Vigilantes (7:00) MOHAWK I Am the Dream Whole

Wheat Bread, MC Chris (7:30) MOMO'S Milkdrive, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, David Newbould

NUEVO LEÓN Mariachi Relampago (1:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am)

OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD Will Taylor & Strings Attached Quartet (6:00) THE PARLOR Followed by Static, I Kill Cars, E. Static

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS J&L RAIN ON 4TH Hedda Lavne (6:00)

RED 7 Opposite Day, Death Is Not a Joyride., Sleepytime Gorilla Museum

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00) RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn

Allen RIVERBEND CENTRE Willie Nelson

(7:30)ROOM 710 Richard Lloyd

RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band (7:00) SAXON PUB The Resentments, Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel (7:00); Matt del Rossi (12mid) THE SCOOT INN Chili Cookoff w, the Lonesome Heroes JWW & the Prospectors, Deadman Shotgun Party, Roger Wallace, Leo Rondeau, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township, Sunset Valley Boys (noon)

SKI SHORES WATERFRONT CAFE Stephen Doster (5:30) STUBB'S The Bells of Joy (11:00am)

TARRYTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Afternoon of Song w/

Agnes Vojtko, Justyna Chesy-Parda (3:00) TEXAS UNION BALLROOM Lucy Wainwright Roche, Over the Rhine

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HO KOOP Benefit w/ Charles Thibodeaux, Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (3:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 360 Sunday

Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Jeff Lofton Quartet (11:00am); Jim's Jam (7:00)

WHIP IN Steve James (8:00) Z'TEJAS Trés (6:00)

MON 04

ANTONE'S Mingo Fishtrap. Mike Flanigin, Derek O'Brien, Ronnie James,

Frosty (8:00) ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Plutonium Farmers (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Heard Showcase

THE BELMONT Midnight River Choir (6:30)

BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00) CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30) DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's

lazz lam (6:00): Milkdrive (9:30) EMO'S You Make Engine, English Teeth, the Inevitable Backlash

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (7:00) GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30) HOLE IN THE WALL Paul Minor. Leo Rondeau (10:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas LUCKY LOUNGE Haydn Vitera, the

Spoiled (9:00) LUCY'S ON THE SOUARE Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

MINGS CAFE Eldridge Goins, Brad Houser, Suzanna Choffel MOHAWK Caleb Coy, the Silver Pines,

MV & EE (10:00) MOMO'S Kacy Crowley, Freedy

Johnston, Bukka Allen





6-8PM TONY HARRISON TOMBI.IN

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson & Joley Flowers NUTTY BROWN CAFE Basil

THE PARLOR Yunavi (9:00) POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL

Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie RED FEZ Komson (10:00) ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound

System (8:00) RUTA MAYA Dreadbeard. Dub Transistor (7:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:00) **SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Lonelyland, Jeff Plankenhorn, the Twalls (7:00)

SPEAKEASY Jonathan Terrell TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jam w/ Dawn

Maracle TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids (6:00) WATERLOO RECORDS Clifton Anderson (noon)

TUE **05**

ANTONE'S Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30) THE BELMONT Pamela Hart (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00) BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/

Alvin Crow, James M. White THE BROWN BAR Kenny Luna CACTUS CAFE Butch Hancock (8:00) **CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Coffee

Sergeants CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Jordan Minor & the Bottom Dollar Band, Midnight River Choir (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00); Planet Casper (6:30), Jason Shannon (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Bill Carter & Stephen Doster, Anthony Farrell (6:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Tony Campise Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM '90s Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Outside: Deskonocidos, Ultratumbados, Pinata Protest; Inside: Zlam Dunk, Pompeii, Vedera, Ace Enders

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallaugher, Greg Anderson (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00) GIDDY UPS Greg Duffy (5:30)

Jim Stringer (9:00)

(7:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON

GRUENE HALL Ponty Bone, R.C. Banks

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano (6:30)



White Phino, Blackholicus, Lionsof Bavo 5.8 The Fash Boys, Free To Kill Again, Black Panda, The Extravaganza 5.9 Oklahomos, Texas Death Star, Sher Steele



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HEADHUNTERS Southpaw Jones, Shane Bartell, Elisa Ferrari, Jeff Plankenhorn

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Bill Rice

HOLE IN THE WALL Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business, the Bread (10:00)JACK & ADAM'S BICYCLES Woode

Wood Blanket Concert (7:00) JOVITA'S Chris Jamison, the Late Joys (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas LUCKY LOUNGE DJ Rapid Ric.

Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa (10:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Sixth St. Idol (10:00) MANUEL'S Cobalt MOMO'S Mike Wood, Know More

Robots, the Vincents, Company of Strangers

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Stephanie Bradley (8:00) NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bill Otter

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne's Donkey, Karl Morgan (8:00)

THE PARLOR Sweet Chariot, People Food (9:00) POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL

Troubadillos RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins (8:00)

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10.00)RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music

Open Mic (6:00) SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/

Erin & Michael (9:00) SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00); Michael Martin Murphy, Walt Wilkins, George Devore (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Butcher Bear & Charlie's Roar Orchestra Band, Ed Schrader, Height (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons, the Brew (9:00)STUBB'S Toubab Krewe

THE THIRSTY NICKEL The Dirty Sound (9.00)

TRIPLE CROWN Hollow. Everyday's a Hollyday, Corey Butler, the Standouts

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Michael Reaux & the Outriders (7:00)

WED 06

THE AMSTERDAM Rick Busby's Songwriter Stage (6:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King (7:30) AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Lonesome Dave Fisher (9:00) AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio

(8:00)B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brent Adair BEERLAND Omega Death

THE BELMONT Ouachita (6:30) BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Lucky

Tomblin THE BROWN BAR Kenny Luna

CACTUS CAFE Slim Richev **CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Soulphonics

(7:00)**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Matt Wilson** (6:30)

CHAIN DRIVE Band 1420. Sensational Fibs (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00) CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Randy Pavlock & Twenty Four Seven (9:30)

THE COCKPIT Club Inclusive w/ Julie Nolan (9:00)

CONANS PIZZA Open Mic w/ Diego (8.00)CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube,

Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: Charlie Hurtin & the Hecklers (6:30), Jon Dee

Graham, James McMurtry (10:00) **CREEKSIDE LOUNGE** The Ramifications. Kingdom of Suicide Lovers Johnny Gobbs

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00) DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Lobby Bar: Jamie Thomas, Jackie Bristow (6:00) EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice. DJ Edminister

EMO'S Sex Advice, Mock Tigers, Woven Bones, Dikes of Holland EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)

FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (noon 6.00)

GIDDY UPS Bob Cheever (5:30) GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00) GRUENE HALL Kevin Welch, Dustin

Welch (7:00) HEADHUNTERS Plastic Empire, Snatch

Racket, Tombstone Bullies, Astronaut Academy

HOLE IN THE WALL The Gary, Devil Bat, Cry Blood Apache (10:00) JOVITA'S MJ Torrance, Marshall Ford

Swing Band (6:00) KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (7:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LAMBERTS The Moonhangers (7:00) LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd

(6:30) LUCKY LOUNGE Lucky Jam w/ Love at War, Fatty Monk (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MANUEL'S The Standouts MOHAWK Salesman, Pomegranates, Wye Oak (8:00)

MOMO'S Patrice Pike. Dan Dver.

Jarrod Dickenson NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Six Sons of a Gun

(6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman's Nutty Idol

ONE 2 ONE BAR The Twalls (10:00) THE PARLOR Plutonium Farmers,

Ralph White (9.00) PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz

(9.00)PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand Sheff

(6:00), Texcentric Radio Hour (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Ru Coleman & Texas Boogie

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED FEZ Atash (10:00) **RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Rich Demarco

(6.00)RUTA MAYA Cienfuegos (9:00)

SAXON PUB Bo Porter (6:00), Buster Jiggs, Iron City Soul Shakers, Steven Ray Will (6:00)

THE SCOOT INN Austin Poetry Slam (8:00)

SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30) TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood, Saint Cloud

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE 38TH STREET Ptarmigan (7:00)

WHIP IN Duality Z'TEJAS Will Sexton, Stephen Doster,

Bill Carter (6:00)

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- 311 CLUB Joe Valentine (9:30)
- THE AMSTERDAM Jodi Adair & Shelley King (9:00) ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Open Mic w/

Andrea Marie (7:00) AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735

Dum Dum & the Smarties, the Bassturd (9:00)

BASS CONCERT HALL Eugene Mirman. Flight of the Conchords (8:00) B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Jimi Lee

THE BELMONT Jeff Lofton Ouartet (7:00), DJ Veg (10:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons Jesse Dayton (8:00) THE BROWN BAR Kenny Luna

CACTUS CAFE Green Mountain Grass

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Moonhowlers CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Oliver Giraud (10:00); In the Club: Shotgun Party (6:30)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE The Jungle Rockers

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws THE DRISKILL HOTEL Hilary York (8:30) ELEPHANT ROOM Airoldi's Gypsy Jazz, Butch Miles' Jazz Express (6:00)

EMO'S Homocides, Roger's Porn Collection, High Watt Crucifixers, Blood Royale CD Release

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis (7:00) FURR'S FAMILY DINING Carlton Lombard (noon, 6:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jason Eady (7:00) HOLE IN THE WALL Brooks Alan

Brannon, the Just Desserts Sideshow Tramps, Wino Vino (8:00)

HOUSE WINE Kelly Mickwee. Andrew Hardin (6:00) JALISCO Mariachi Tamzula (7:00)

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8.00)KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00)

LAMBERTS Lee Mork w/ Garv Clark Jr. (7:00); Trube & Farrell (10:30) LUCKY LOUNGE American Roulette

(10:00) **MOHAWK** Morakestra

MOTHER'S CAFE & GARDEN Thomas "Doc" Grauzer (6:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Eric Tessmer (10:00) THE PARLOR Hustler Mask, Snake

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Americana Showcase (7:30)

RED FEZ DJ Rapid Ric, Mike Maven & the Good Life (8:30)

RED SHED TAVERN Wendy Colonna

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco

ROOM 710 White Rhino, Blackholicus,

SAXON PUB Nicole Fournier, Floramay

Holliday, Debbi Walton, Garrett LeBeau

Mike & the Moonpies, Dave Insley's Careless Smokers, Mario Matteoli (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Penny Jo Pullus,

SHADY GROVE Brave Combo

Broadcast

Blues (10:00)

Dawn Maracle

Checker (9:00)

SHINER'S SALOON Jeremy Steding (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Subrosa Union (9:30)

stubb's Courrier, Amy Glenn & the Forgotten Heroes, Twilight

T.C.'S LOUNGE Leeann Atherton's

THREADGILL'S WORLD HO Chubby

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Jam Session w/

Steppin' Razors, Chief Fuzzer, I.S.S. TRIPLE CROWN Johnny Vibrato

WHIP IN Datri Bean's Southern-Fried

WHOLE FOODS PLAZA Jonas Alvarez

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE DOWNTOWN

The Hudsons (7:00)

Vintage Jazz (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Dream Lovers (6:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL The Redneck Boys RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins (8:00)

RED 7 Razor Wire, High Watt Crucifixers, the Freeze

(7:30)

(6:00)

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> EAYA Career/Tech June 22 - July 10 July 13 - July 31 EA Math June 22 - July 10 July 13 - July 31 EAYA Music

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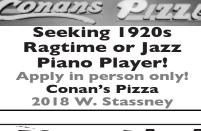
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1 BED/

1 BATH

\$734

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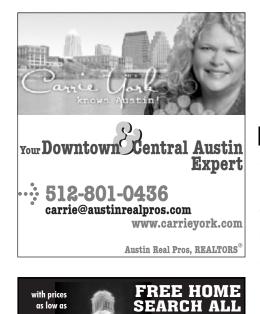
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF NANNIE MAE STRONG, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-000440 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. FREDDIE LEE STRONG

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on April 23, 2009, an Application to De-termine Heirship and Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said NANNIE MAE STRONG, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this ci-tation, at the County Court-house in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above men-tioned time and place by fil-ing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. If this citation is not served

within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be re-turned unserved. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis

County, Texas, on April 23, 2009 County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTER ESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HOWARD SCOTT ESTES, Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09 000431 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. SUZANNE DIXON ESTES

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on April 23, 2009, an Application to De-termine Heirship & Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs

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and only heirs of the said HOWARD SCOTT ESTES, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County Texas. All persons interested in said

estate are hereby cited to ap-pear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written request to do

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County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ Monica Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTI IN THE ESTATE OF ANNE LOUISE AVEGNO, De-STED ceased, No. C-1-PB-09-000373 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. **ELIZABETH** BOPE The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed on April 16, 2009, an Applica-tion to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said ANNE LOUISE AVEGNO, Deceased, and their respect tive shares and interests in such estate

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Tex

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to ap pear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by fil ing a written answer contest ing such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, April 16, 2009 County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. Box 149325. Austin, Texas 78714-9325 By Deputy: /s/ Monia Limon

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF HERMAN RODRIGUEZ. Deceased, No. C-1-PB-09-000390 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas LIGIA RODRIGUEZ alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on April 17, 2009, an Application for Letters of Dependent Administration and Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said HERMAN RODRIGUEZ, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate. Said application will be heard

and acted on by said Court

at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County

Texas. All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on April 20, 2009 County Clerk, Travis County, Texas PO. Box 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ D. MENDEZ CITATION BY PUBLICATION

AND NOTICE TO HEIRS ON APPLICATION TO PROBATE WILL AFTER FOUR YEARS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TRAVIS C-1-PB-02-078281 TO: FANNIE COOPER, MARGARET BAKER, CAROL IVERY, LINDA REID, SHEILA BROWN, RONNIE REID, GUY will be refunded if the draw-ings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar days of REID. AUDREY TAYLOR. ABRAM TAYLOR, PAMELA

REID, AND JOEY REID AND ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF: FRANKLIN D. REID, DE-CEASED, Cause No. 78,281 in the Travis County Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas to include but not limited to the unknown heirs of Franklin D. Reid and the following known heirs whose whereabouts are un-

known: Fannie Cooper, Margaret Baker, Carol Ivery, Linda Reid, Sheila Brown, Ronnie Reid, Guy Reid, Audrey Tay-Ior, Abram Taylor, Pamela Reid, and Joey Reid.

You are hereby notified that Richard Thormann, Adminis-trator of the Estate of Franklin D. Reid has filed an Applica-tion for Probate of Will as a Muniment of Title more than four years after the death of Franklin D. Reid.

You are further notified that Franklin D. Reid's property will pass to his heirs if the Will is not admitted to probate and that Richard Thor mann may not be in default for failing to present the Will for probate during the fouryear period immediately following Franklin D. Reid's death

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this ci tation. at the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate and those heirs named herein are hereby cit ed to appear before said Honorable Court at said above-mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such appli-cation should they desire to

If this citation is not served within 90 days after the date of its issuance, is shall be returned unserved. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 21st day of April, 2009. DANA DEBEAUVOIR County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325 Austin, Texas 78714 By Deputy: /s/ R. Torre

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION IFB No. B090209-LP

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the FY 2008 HMACOVERLAY PROGRAM (IFB No. B090209-LP), a pro-ject consisting primarily of asphalt overlay in Travis County, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the Tra-vis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701 until 2:00 P. M. CST. MAY 14, 2009, then publicly opened and read aloud. Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids. You may view and print the specification manual from BidSync.com for free or cop-

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Office. In addition, plans and

available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area

Plan Rooms indicated in list

A bid security in the amount

below

specifications will be made

progressive payments with the County retaining five per cent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred per-cent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$25,000. A Performance Bond is re-quired in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds \$100,000. Bidder should use unit pricing, except as pro-vided for in the Specifications

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Con-tractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court. Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local reg-ulations for construction safe ty and health standards. The successful bidder must commence work upon issu Ance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the hids received Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened. CYD GRIMES

of five percent (5%) of the to-tal bid amount will be re-quired. Payments will be

made for completed work in

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHAS-ING AGENT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FLOYD COUNTY STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: JASMINE RAFJEAN JEFFERSON CASE NO. 22C01-0903-AD-8

... And I just tossed it out this window. and it

NOTICE TO NAMED FA-THER Early Jefferson, III. who has been named the fa ther of the child born to Mea an Nicole Toney on June 13, 2006, or who claims to be the father of the child born to Megan Nicole Toney on June 13, 2006, is notified that a Petition for Adoption of the child was filed in the Office of the Clerk of Floyd Circuit Court, New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana 47150. If Early Jefferson, III seeks to contest the adoption of the child, he must file a motion to contest the adoption in ac-

BELL-PORTER on April 17th. 19xx, both signed and notarized on March 7th cordance with I.C. 31-19-10-1 2009, available for public in the above-named Court. not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this Notice. view upon request at the following address: Robert Porter c/o 3506 Werner If putative father does not file Avenue, Austin, Texas a motion to contest the adop [78722].

New Albany, IN 47151-1343

(812) 949-1000; Fax (812) 949-3773

NOTICE This is a public

notice of a lien, security

agreement and power of

PORTER II on April 15th.

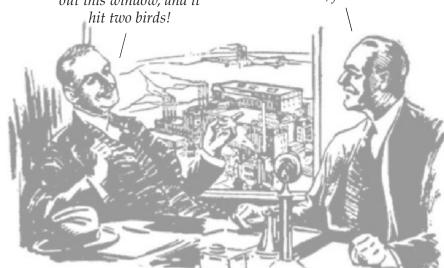
attorney entered into by and between Robert Porter and ens legis ROBERT EDWIN

19xx and also same entered into by Pauline B. Porter and ens legis PAULINE CLAIRE

tion within thirty (30) days af-ter service of this Notice the above-named Court shall hear and determine the Peti-Notice is hereby given in accordtion for Adoption. His consent will be irrevocably implied and he will lose his right to ance with the procontest either the adoption or the validity of his implied visions of the Texconsent to the adoption. as Alcoholic Bev-Nothing anyone says to Early Jefferson, III relieves Early erage Code that 12 Jefferson, III of his obliga-tions under this Notice. Ventures LLC dba This notice complies with I.C 31-19-4-5 but does not ex-**Satellite Bistro is** haustively set forth a named father's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice making application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage **Commission for a Mixed Beverage** Permit to be lo-

cated at 5900 Slaughter in the city of Austin.

OMG, for reals?



The Kill 2 Birds Legal Special

Do what you have to do with our line ads and what you want to do with our display ads. Legal notices for only \$2.10 a line and display advertising as low as \$129 a week. Dial 302-2768!



County of Travis, Texas. William

Stroud, President.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor ve-hicle act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 15300 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless charges are satisfied within 10 davs. 1972 Air Flo Trailer, no LP, 506902722577, \$358.75 owed as of 12/22/08.

1994 Buick Century, no LP, 1g4ah55m9r6426085, \$1126.20 owed as of 4/28/09

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OI TEXAS ABANDONED MO-TOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 30 DAYS. GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS , AUSTIN, TX.

78745. 1994 YAMAHA MOPED JYA3EPA09RA203509

Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days. Garagekeeper: A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC 2963 MANOR ROAD AUSTIN.TX 78722 (512)670-7578 1991 Ford Taurus Color : White California I P 57YA414

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle

Vin#: 1FACP52U8MG156070 Impounded 3/27/09 at 2310 Wickersham Lane. Austir Texas

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY UNDER TERMS OF OFF-SITE STOR-AGE AGREEMENT Pursuant to Section 9.504 of the Texas Business and Comm Code, Mobile Mini, Inc., se-cured party under a security agreement contained in that certain Off-Site Storage Agreement, hereby gives no-tice that, because of Debtor's default under the Security Agreement, the property more fully described below in

the **COMMON LAV** by Chris Johns

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

LEGAL ISSUES FOR WEBSITE **OWNERS (PART 3)**

Previous columns have identified copyrights, the use of false or misleading statements, and trademarks as legal issues for business owners with websites. This week's column briefly addresses two other issues to discuss with your lawyer: domain names and linking to other websites

The choice of a domain name carries both legal and business implications. Your domain name is vital to successful branding, so make sure you can trademark your domain and company name. Do a simple trademark search at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's website (www. uspto.gov). If the search is clear, try to register the domain name you want. (Google, Yahoo!, GoDaddy.com, and other companies register domain names for \$10 or less.) Then, after you've talked with your lawyer and done a thorough trademark search, register your company name and domain name as trademarks with the trademark office. From a business perspective, you'll probably want to protect not only your trademark but also the value of your domain name by obtaining multiple top-level domains, such as ".com," ".net," ".biz," and ".web."

"Linking" (inserting hyperlinks to other Web pages) allows your website's visitors to explore helpful content on other sites. Without links, the Internet wouldn't be much of a net, but linking carries some risks. Copyright and trademark issues can come up, so make it clear that you didn't create and are not affiliated with the linked websites, and advise visitors that you're not responsible for their content, which may contain copyrighted or trademarked materials. "Deep-linking" (linking to pages "below" the homepage level) may also raise concerns, as owners of the linked Web pages may argue that you've helped visitors to bypass their main advertising pages. Eliminate or reduce the risks of linking by 1) not providing links, 2) complying with the linked website's terms of use, 3) having a lawyer write terms and conditions for your website, and/or 4) getting written permission from website owners to link to their sites.

The Internet makes it easy for trademark and copyright owners to patrol the use of their intellectual property - and for competitors to know what you're saying about them. With the rise of powerful search engines like Yahoo! and Google, companies from Lubbock to London can easily find out what you're up to. Before you launch your website, consider the issues we've outlined and get some guidance from a good business lawyer.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and com ments 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.

should consult the Indiana adoption states /s/ Linda A. Moeller CLERK. FLOYD CIRCUIT COURT PREPARED BY SALLY A. THOMAS Indiana Attorney NO. 2198-22 LORCH & NAVILLE, LLC 506 State Street. P.O. Box 1343

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WHAT'S THE CAUSE OF **HAZY WINDOWS?**

Dear Tom and Ray:

Last year we bought our teenage son a 1989 Acura Legend coupe. It has been a great car, even though it's pushing 140,000 miles now. We've had to repair a few things here and there, but there is one thing that has me scratching my head. It seems that no matter how much we clean the windows, they become hazy within a few days. The windshield is the biggest problem, especially at night, since the haze makes it impossible to see when there is oncoming traffic. I had the windshield replaced, thinking it was just old and pitted and that perhaps the safety glass film was failing. The new windshield was brilliant, but within a few days, it was foggy again. The haze is on the inside, so I have three possible ideas: 1) My teenage son's oily skin is somehow shape-shifting onto the windows. 2) He smokes a pack of cigarettes while going back and forth to school every day with the windows rolled up. 3) The old upholstery and cheap seat covers are creating some kind of weird gas that clouds the windows. Since my son takes three showers a day and he never smells like smoke, ideas 1 and 2 are *out. Do you think it could be No. 3?* – Wade

TOM: Sure. Usually, vinyl outgassing is at its worst when the car is new. So at 140,000 miles, it's usually over and done with, and those toxic molecules are already lodged in your brain.

RAY: But you mention "cheap seat covers." If they're cheap vinyl seat covers, they could be sublimating toxic gases and leaving the residue on the inside of your windshield.

TOM: The other possibility is that your heater core is leaking. If the heater core has a hole in it, the haze on your windshield could be a thin film of coolant.

RAY: If it's coolant, it would have certain characteristics. It would be greasy to the touch. It would smell sweet. And it would likely be thicker at the bottom of the windshield, near where the vents are.

TOM: So try a couple of experiments. Try removing the seat covers for a week, and see what happens. If that fixes it, your son may need to go commando - without his seat covers.

RAY: And check the consistency and smell of the windshield grime and its distribution pattern to see if it's coolant.

TOM: If it is coolant, the solution will involve increasing your son's allowance so he can pay you back over time for a new heater core. Good luck, Wade.

It's never cheaper in the long run to buy a new car. Want proof? Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, Ask Click & Clack: Answers From Car Talk. Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the "Car Talk" website at www.cartalk.com

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on < kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS ©2009 by Tom & Ray Magliozzi and Doug Berman

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eqa

scribed below.

651215MSG 454820MSG

4048MSG, 813213MSG,

454077MSG. Desks, chairs,

office walls, cabinets, shelv

Construction, 7253266MSG, Tools, desk, chairs and other misc items. Crescent Con-

ns Commercial Clearing

ing and other office misc

struction CX25MNJ0156 Tools, boxes, furniture, dirt bike, refrigerator and other misc items. Phillips Con-

struction, 4495, Air compres

sor, tool cart, weed trimmer,

grass edger and other misc items.Charlise White.

CS20HRS047, Sewing ma-chine, chairs, clothing, boxes

The property is located at the

address stated above. The

the property or any aspect

thereof. Interested persons may contact Secured Party regarding sale & Property at:

Mobile Mini, Inc., Peter Valer,

7420 S Kyrene Rd . Suite 101, Tempe, Arizona, 85283, For more information please

and other misc items.

8160MSG. 8615MSG

notices

M. WALDEN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Richard M. Walden, Deceased, were issued on April 16, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000246 pending in Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas, to Shir ley T. Walden, Independent Executor.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS

HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF RICHARD

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Shirley T. Walden,

of Richard M. Walden, De ceased c/o Don E. Walden 7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731

are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 27th day of April, 2009

State Bar No. 20672800 7200 North Mopac, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78731 (512) 349-9595 (512) 795-8079 Fax Attorney for Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRANCES MURRAY LEGGETT, DE-CEASED NOTICE is given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of FRANCES MUR-RAY LEGGETT, DECEASED, were granted to NANCY LEG-GETT CLARK on April 23, 2009, by Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000323.

AV0514 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IM-POUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ. TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOL-LOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT:

MAY 14, 2009 @ 10:00 AM @ AUS-**TIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-0** LANE AUSTIN TX 78745

		,-	105	,	Λ	10145
091040877	2000	KIA	LL	H94MDS	ТΧ	KNDJB7234Y5623473
091090785	1984	CHEV	LL	447YJG	ТΧ	1G8CS18B7E8235713
095021455	1976	CHEV	LL	77GVG3	ТΧ	CCS166F133571
095021466	1999	DODG	4DR	D15BGR	ТΧ	2B3HD46R1XH532756
095021468	1999	HYUN	2DR	WPJ7762	NC	KMHVD14N5XU445788
095021618	1990	SUBA	SW	437MVC	ТΧ	JF1BJ6321LB932289
095021619	1995	MERC	2DR	FRM065	ТΧ	1MELM62W5SH652234
095022619	1990	GE0	4DR	DHY761	ТΧ	JG1MR6467LK748335
095022636	1983	BUIC	2DR	529LBR	ТΧ	1G4AZ57Y8DE423013
095022643	2006	c5	FB	11ZPCL	ТΧ	4C9BU162X6E102096
095022694	1988	BUIC	4DR	GNJ849	ТΧ	1G4CW51C6J1676283
095022700	2000	DAEW	4DR	GBP081	ТΧ	KLAVA6920YB221700
095022702	1989	BUIC	4DR	579HWG	ТΧ	1G4HP54C7KH455976
095022707	1989	MAZD	4DR	265DCN	ТΧ	JM1BF2226K0388713
095022711	1988	TOYT	2DR	S09WFL	ТΧ	1NXAE82GXJZ514507

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. NANCY LEGGETT CLARK Independent Executor

Estate of FRANCES MURRAY LEGGETT. DECEASED By: RICHARD W. CHOTE Attorney at Law

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CORNELIA ICCUNE, DECEASED No tice is hereby given that orig-inal Letters Testamentary with Will Annexed for the Estate of Cornelia McCune were issued to Henry Stultz, on April 23, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000236 now pend ing in Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, Sitting in Matters Probate. The residence of Henry Stultz is P.O. Box 73, Converse, Bexar County, Texas 78109. 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 April 23, 2009. WALKER ARENSON, Attorney for Henry Stultz 512.327.4422 NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS

HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF GAYLE KISSINGER BALL, DE-**CEASED** NOTICE is given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of GAYLE KIS SINGER BALL, DECEASED, were granted to STEVEN ZORASTER on April 28, 2009, by Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000277. All persons having claims against said estate must present same within the time

prescribed by law, and before said estate is closed, in are of ATTORNEY RICHARD Care of ATTORNET RIGHT W. CHOTE, 3305 Northland Drive #500, Austin, Texas 78731. STEVEN ZORASTER Independent Executor

Estate of GAYLE KISSINGER BALL, DECEASED By: RICHARD W. CHOTE Attorney at Law

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JANE ANNE DAHLSTROM BATES Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jane Anne Dahlstrom Bates, Deceased, were issued on April 28, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000333, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent execu-tor without bond, Richard Al-lan Bates. All persons having claims against the estate cur rently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney. Law rence A. Russell, 9951 An-derson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 28th day of April, 2009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of George Joseph Gilmore, Deceased, were issued on April 28 2009 in Docket No. C-1-PB-08-089806, pending in Pro-bate Court No. 1. Travis County, Texas, to Ruth C. Gilmore, Independent Executor. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being ad

ministered, may address them in care of the attorney for the Estate within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, as follows: Repre-sentative, Estate of George Joseph Gilmore, Deceased c/o Sal Levatino, attorney for the estate, 1524 South IH-35. Suite 234 Austin Texas 78704. Dated the 28th day of April, 2009

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CONNIE LOUISE HUGHES BRAY ceased, were issued on April 21, 2009, under Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000300 pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to BARBARA ANN BRAY KEL-IY

The post office address is: Representative, Estate of CONNIE LOUISE HUGHES BRAY, Deceased c/o Barbara Kelly 2703 Sherwood Ln. Austin, Texas 78704 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

2009 /s/ Jeanette K. Schaefer Attorney at Law Attorney for Applicant

Dated this 21st day of April,

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ELLEN WENDT. Deceased, were issued on April 21, 2009, under Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000301, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to CONNIE LOUISE GRAEBNER. The post office address is: Representative, Estate of FLLEN WENDT Deceased c/o Connie Louise Graebner 1212 Larkwood Dr. Austin, Texas 78723 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 21st day of April,

/s/ Jeanette K. Schaefer, Attorney at Law Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Of Independ ent Administration for the Estate of Sephus Flemings Jr. Deceased, were issued on March 26, 2009, under dock-et No. C-1-PB-08-089710, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to: Sharon Herring. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Sharon Herring, Independent Administrator Estate of Sephus Flemings.

c/o Selissa Davis Attorney at Law 111 W. Anderson Lane #D203A

Austin, Texas 78752 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 23rd day of April, 2009. Selissa Davis

by: Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Lov David

England, Deceased, were issued on April 9, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000197, pending in the Pro-bate Court No. 1, TRAVIS County, Texas, to: Natalie Edith England. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner pre-scribed by law. Jeffrey J. Barnett Barnett & Associates, P.C. 13740 Research Boulevard, Suite N5 Austin, Texas 78750 DATED the 21st day of April, /s/ Jeffrey J. Barnett (SBN: 00792346)

13740 Research Boulevard, Suite N5 Austin, Texas 78750 Telephone: (512) 336-1529 Facsimile: (512) 336-1550 Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PATSY CLARK BROWN A/K/A PAT-SY C. BROWN A/K/A PATSY BROWN A/K/A PAT BROWN Deceased, were issued on April 14, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000259, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Ter rv Graham. 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 pre-

scribed by law c/o: Mark D. Swanson Attorney at Law 940 E. 51st. Ste. 101 Austin, TX 78751 DATED the 24th day of April, 2009

/s/ Mark D. Swanson Attorney for Terry Graham State Bar No.: 19555200 940 E. 51st Street, Ste. 101 Austin, TX 78751 Telephone: (512) 990-9090 Facsimile: (512) 990-1890

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Agnes Louise Ball, Deceased, were issued on April 23, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-09-000328, pending in the Pro-bate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Jack Le-land Ball, Jr. and Timothy Lee Ball. 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 pre-scribed by law. c/o: Gayle Cipriano Attorney at Law 7903 Bracken Court Austin, TX 78731 DATED the 23rd day of April, /s/ Gayle Cipriano Attorney for Jack Leland Ball, Jr. and Timothy Lee Ball

State Bar No.: 03783500 7903 Bracken Court Austin, TX 78731 Telephone: (512) 346-7484 Facsimile: (512) 346-1108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dorothy S. Bonner, Deceased, were issued on April 7, 2009, in Cause No. C-1-PB-000193, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to David C. Bonner, 4023 Swarthmore, Houston, Harris

County, Texas 77005, and to Julie Ann Bonner, 8402 Andrews, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78759 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. All claims should be addressed in care of the Independent Executor's attorney, Steven J. Tack ett, at Schurig Jetel Beckett Tackett, 100 Congress Ave., 22nd Floor, Austin, Texas 78701. DATED this the 7th day of

April, 2009. SCHURIG JETEL BECKETT & TACKETT

By: /s/ Steven J. Tackett ATTORNEYS FOR DAVID C. BONNER AND JULIE ANN BONNER, INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS OF THE ES-TATE OF DOROTHY S. BON-NER, DECEASED

NOTICE TO MINORITY, AND WOMEN'S BUSINESSES

Landmark Structures is seeking qualified minority and women owned busi-nesses for the proposed AVERY RANCH 3.00 MG EL-EVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT located in Austin, TX for subcontracting and supplier opportunities in and supplier opportunities in the following areas: Ready Mix Concrete Supply, Aggre-gate Supply, Concrete Pav-ing Contractors, Cathodic Protection Supply, Electrical Contractor or Supply, Erosion Control Contractors Elevator Contractor or Supply, Equip-ment Rentals (I.e. Cranes & Concrete Pumps), Fence Contractor, Hoist & Jib Crane Contractor & Supply Instrumentation Contractor & Sup-ply, Irrigation Contractor, Landscape Contractor, Lightning Protection Contractor Project Sign Supply and Traf-fic Control Supply, Pipe & Valve Supply, Site Works Contractor, and Utility Contractor

All interested businesses should note their scope of work and contact Ms Juanita Bishop to discuss opportunities. All responses are due by May 6th, 2009.

Tel: 800-388-1757, Fax: 905-319-8247 Email jbishop@teamlandmark.com

Plans and specifications are on display at the following locations:

Stanley Consultants Inc., 6836 Austin Center Blvd. Suite 350, Austin, Texas 78731 upon payment of a fee of \$350.00 for each set of Bid Documents or; Landmark Structures, 1665 Harmon Rd, Fort Worth, Texas 76177 or; Department of Small & Minority Business Resource Centre, Online Planroom, 4201 Ed Bluestein Blvd, Austin, Texas 78721 www.cityofaustin.org/smbr

Please note that potential subcontractors must have demonstrated experience.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items: 1.Surface Aggregates 4 and 5, B090177-DR Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m. 2.Boat, Boat Motor and Marine Component Maintenance Repairs - Time and Materials, B090201-NB Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 2:00

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which Secured Party has a security interest under the Security Agreement will be sold at a public sale on the 15th, day of May 2009, at 16328 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78728 to the highest bidder, which sale shall commence at 9:00 a.m. Debtor's name, unit number, & property de-Action Electrical Systems, Independent Executor, Estate 365715MSG, Electrical parts wood, bricks and other misc items. International Office Products, 454548MSG, 910598MSG, 16003MSG, 253663MSG, 807217MSG,

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered

/s/ Don E. Walden

sale of the property shall be "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" & Se-cured Party makes no representations or warranties as to

p.m. 3.Insulation Services, B090202-NB Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 4:00 n m

4.Offset Printing Press, B090230-DR Opens: May 11, 2009 @

10:00 a.m. 5.Automotive OEM Parts and

Maintenance Labor, B090240-LD Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 3:00

p.m. 6.Sports Field Turf Mainte

nance, B090241-LD Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

7.Commercial Moving and Storage, B090231-NB Opens: May 18, 2009 @ 2:00

8.Concrete and Grout Mix, B090235-RG

Opens: May 18, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be ob tained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Of-fice at no charge or by down-loading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/pur chasing/solicitation.asp. Bidders should use unit pricing

or lump sum pricing, if ap-propriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be ac-cepted by Travis County for

THE

the following items: 1.Electronic Monitoring for the Travis County Pre-Trial Services, Juvenile Probation Dept and the Adult Probation Dept., P090193-OJ Opens: May 11, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m.

Proposals should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchas ing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appro-priate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of e contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS (LAW EN-FORCEMENT ONLY) TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Issue Date: April 27, 2009 Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the Purchase of the County's Sur-plus Property of which includes the following items: 9 Each Patrol car push bumpers. This sealed bid consists of this cover letter of Sealed Bid #09SB0001. Property is located at Travis

County Warehouse, 7811 Burleson-Manor Road, Manor, Texas. To reach the warehouse from downtown Austin take Hwy 71 east (Ben White

Blvd.) into Del Valle, turn left

at Hwy 973, turn right on Hwy 969, travel 5 miles and turn left on Burleson-Manor Road Travel 1 mile and turn right at County Warehouse. For further details or information please contact Dan Rollie at (512) 854-6459 or Ron Dube at (512) 854-6458. All items will be sold "as is to the highest bidder. Buyers will be responsible for items as soon as the transaction is concluded, and must remove property at the time of con-clusion of sale. No warran-

ties, either expressed or im plied, are made. Payment, which must be in the form of a Cashier's Check, Money Order and/or Company Check, will be due upon con clusion of sale. Cash is not acceptable

Bids (in a sealed envelope) shall be submitted to the Tra-vis County Purchasing Office marked Sealed Bid #09SB0001, Various Surplus Property Sale of Items as stated above to the attention of Ron Dube, at 314 W. 11th Street, Room 400, Austin, Texas 78701. Bids will be received in the Travis County Purchasing Office, no later than Monday, May 18, 2009, @ 3:00 p.m..

Cvd V. Grimes, C.P.M. COUNTY Purchasing Agent

SECTION 106 PUBLIC **NOTICE** American Tower Corporation is seeking com-ments regarding a telecom-munications tower at 1006 1/ 2 A East Yager Lane in Austin, Travis County, TX at Lati-tude N30-23-30.7, Longitude W97-39-37.2. The Section 106 Review being conducted includes the assessment of

the existing 109' monopole tower, a 30' x 28' lease area, a 30' wide area around the perimeter of the lease area as limited by property boun

ments, as well as the access/ utility easements. American Tower seeks comments from all interested persons on the impact of the tower on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, that are listed or eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific in-formation about the project, including the historic preservation reviews that American Tower is conducting pursuant to the rules of the Federal **Communications Commission** (47 C.F.R. Sections 1.1307(4)) and the Advisorv Council on Historic Preser vation (36 C.F.R. Part 800) will be made available to interested persons who request the information from the contact below. All questions, comments, and corre spondence should be directed to Environmental Compli ance Dept., 10 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801, en-

daries and existing improve-

ro.services@americantower. com by 05/23/2009.

Troy Muehring DBA MS Liquor Is Making Application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage **Commission for a Package Store Per**mit On the Address of 6031 North IH 35, Austin, Travis County, Texas.



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able car and ready for another

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door, 25,000 miles. Very, very clean. Can trade. Fac-

tory warranty, \$12,950, Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767.

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bought this car to fix another bought this car to fix another. Lots of expensive parts left over! Complete interior. Almost complete engine with Supercharger and automatic transmission. Make an offer

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1996 CAMRY V-6 wagon. Had minor cosmetic issues, but runs like a champ. 97k. Clean with a full warranty. \$4500. Auto Depot 909 Prai-rie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

1998 CIVIC Four door, auto, 150k., in process of 65 point check. Auto., \$4450. Auto Depot 9009 Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.autodepotaustin.com

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NEW!!!!! 2003 TACOMA 4dr. Crew cab, auto, 82k, light hail. Clean, warranty. \$11,950.

NEW!!!!! 2005 NISSAN 'Nissmo' 4WD Xtra cab pickup. 53k. Can trade, nice, \$13,950. Full warranty.

NEW!!!!! 2005 RAV-4, 55k., nice, full warranty, can trade, \$12,950.

NEW!!!!! 2005 HONDA CIVIC LX 4dr., hail dents, but drives as new. 5sp., only 67k. Warranty. \$6450. 2007 NISSAN VERSA four door, 25k. Very, very clean.

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2008 HONDA FIT, 2800 miles [Yes, 2800 miles!]. Auto, full factory warranty, can trade, \$15,950.

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ALL

OTHER I'm moving from OTHER I'm moving from Manhattan to Austin at the end of May and am looking to start a band to play my music. I don't want to jam or anything. I just need serious musicians. If you are interested let me know, and I'll send you a couple songs I produced. Please be no older than 30 and no younger than 18. Religious fanatics and people who like Randy Rogers or Cross Canadian Raoweed people who like Randy Rogers or Cross Canadian Ragweed need not apply. Thanks. Laura Lee Bishop IIb275@nyu.edu

PIANO PLAYER Seeking 1920's Ragtime or Jazz Piano Player! Apply in Person at Conan's Pizza: 2018 W Stassney,

VOICE Austin's Black Crowes tribute band " Sometimes tribute band " Sometimes Salvation" are looking to add a soufful singing female vocalist to sing background / harmony vocals. Check out www.mys-pace.com/sometimessalvation-atx Have up coming shows and looking to add more.For more info email: cyrusmax@hotmail. info email: cyrusmax@ com or call 461-6056

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Saturday Family Showcase & Jam at the Victory Grill DATE: SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 2 TIME: 3P.M. UNTIL 6P.M. BEN-FETTING: MOLIGATION OF THE STATUS



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Cheeky, chatty, playful yet serious,

great listener and understanding. submissive & willing to learn. Currently student in south, TX. Not single but looking for a teacher, maybe more ;) Toy. ToyRabbit, 22, **2**, **0**, #130001

DIRTY ON D.L

Jealousy does not exist in my vocabulary.I have reached my peak in womanhood. I am looking for a hot sex god to share discreet and ultimate pleasure journeys with. Roxanne, 30, 🖾, #129909

SUB, SHY, SWEET.

I'm witty, charming, and shy, and Gemini. I love learning and having fun. I am looking for a dominant, clever, and affectionate man to be friend and maybe more. Willow1113, 18. **#129849**

SEEKING GOREAN MALE Real life Gorean female seeks real

life experianced Gorean Master for permenant relationship if it should please Him upon inspection. The fire in my belly burns deeply. Try me Master?! Alyena, 31, #129805

MALE SEEKING FUN

I am seeking all for fun and play. If you are a male or couple we can meet discreetly and your location or mine. angel212, 28, #129784

NEW SINGLE LIFE

new to single life just wonderig whats out there. **puff383**, 39, **10**, #129114

SASSY NEEDING DOMINATION

Very busy and lacking release outside of daily life. Looking for someone not afraid to dominate and open to public role playing. I have a spanking fetish that needs satisfying. burlyqgirl, 25, #128939

OPEN-MINDED GAL

Looking for a casual, fun, new experi-ence. Aqua32, 32, #128883

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

MAYBE SOMETHING MORE

I am not a thin, perfect Barbie type. I'm looking for an attractive M 25-36 who can keep up. litlred, 31, 🕿, 🔟, #128782

FUN LOVING

looking to have a good time...FUN!! iccc. 34. #127045

If you have a decent vocabulary, a

dry sense of humor, and an I.Q. in the triple digits, in addition to a domi-nating flair in the bedroom then write me Bella34 35 101 #126130

WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS

Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. pleime. 43. #122521

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. austinpartygurl1985, 23, 🖾, #119045 DISCRETE FUN

SBF seeking a discrete, mutu-ally beneficial relationship with a generous, professional gentleman. Funtimes01, 30, #117862

HORNY NEED MORE!

29 vr old married HE seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet.26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships speak spanish 2noty2bnice, 32, 2, #114844

EXTREMA OF EXPERIENCE

We are two, who have experience with being Three. Conversations where no lips move, deep telepathic bonding with searing emotional intensity desired. No poor babies or emotionless androids need apply. eros_ psychedelique, 27, 101, #130082

FAT TUESDAY FUN?

Bi curious couple in Austin, Fat Tuesday. This is about her pleasure and exploration! Bi-ladies hit us back with pics. We can provide the place, you just bring the party! malokat, 27, OI, #129310

DP INTEREST

She is bi curious and enjoys that dp video just open to new things and g to chat/mingle with people loadedlara, 32, 61, #128950

COUPLE SEEKS WOMEN

I would like to find a women that would join us in our bedroom. I would love to find someone that could be a fwb thing, if not that's ok. Bunnyt1604, 24, 128851

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**, 34, #128804

indicates that a photo is posted online.

Regular long-distance charges may apply.

The means there is a voice message you can listen to. With a mem-

bership, you can listen and respond to as many voice messages as

your heart desires. There are no 900 numbers or per-minute fees.

VOICE RESPONSE: 520.547.4259

We are a couple looking to spice up our love life. We have decided to try a threesome with another woman to see if it is something we're interested in. gandf. 28. 101. #128323

We are exercise nuts.DDF! She

GREAT body... He is a hard body. mred360, 30, 10, #127900

Couple looking for playmates to play and enjoy one another. Just friends with benefits, no attachments. Jus sex.and more sex. **newbies**, 36, 🔯 #127079

NEW TO AUSTIN

Couple interesting in having a female companion to help spice things up in the bedroom. We are pretty easygoing people and willing to try anything! Usagistar182, 24, [6], #126862

lady to get frisky with. A little girl on girl action to start. We would love to be as discret as possible. luckyone, 24, **101**, **#126216**

FIRST TIME COUPLE

we are a couple in love but wanting would be our first time but we are very open minded. Couples or fe-

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 ñweight proportionate (few extra pounds is good). damonhunkins, 33 OL #116307

LITEMYFIRE

at a time. No men. No drugs. No pain. LiveLong_LiveWell, 41, 🖸 #129826

SENSATIVE TOUCH DESIRED

feather like ... carressing! I'm look-ing for women who Play discreetly! Imagination is a Good Starting place! No2L, 61, 101, #129655 **BIG ONE**

for me and nice on top of me. Have a burning. I'm at the river. Lezbeeun-Sazkwach, 83, 101, #129642

Catwalk, 31. 101. #119900



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??? WOMAN

NICE GUY

#129529

#130087

HI HI HI

I'M NEW HERE.

AT HOME GUY

like the outdoors, hanging out, and taking it easy. looking for some cool people i can be friends with as well as a little fun! must be honest. meandyou101, 19, #129774 GOOD KARMA GIRL

I'm an amateur photographer looking to be a fly on the wall for any and all

I am the guy who you can take home to mom and dad. the great friend. But here's the thing. I am tired of

being that guy. james7258, 36, 101,

I'm young, sexual, open-minded, and confident. If we meet up, you'll be the first from on this site. I don't

want to host... I'll meet vou wherever

you want me. Port, 22, 101, #129518

lam looking for a female nurse to

see someone close to home.just

don't send flirts. jvc706, 27, oi,

spend the rest of my life with. i am self employed.and I would love to

I'm 24 years old, fresh out of college

and not looking for anything serious.

I'm rather tall, and would love to meet some crazy women in the area.

BigHux, 24, 1, #129902

24, **10**, **#126333**

POW WOW CLOUDS

SEXUAL APETITE.

HOT IN AUSTIN

HEY

CAPTIAN TIGHTPANTS

i live life just like everbody...eat shit,sleep,work.in fact im almost

a voung guv looking to open up

what i see as my world. i want to

do things i never done in places ive

never been to. marijubud, 19, 101, #129753

I am a healthy and athletic male that needs a little attention. Let's get to-

gether and see where the night can

ake us. We have nothing to lose.

Just looking for fun or who knows.

I'm very shy at first but will lighten up. **Roy20000**, 22, **[3]**, **#129603**

The goal is to please my partner in every way possible - private place. DDF. Grier, 51, C1, #129835

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discret encounter and a relationship

with a Top guy. I am discret Open to new things with guys around my age

or youngers.46yrs. antonio_3638, 44, 101, #118402

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**, 55, **2**, **115704**

Looking for a good-looking, mascu-

line, white guy, around 25-45, aver-

pics. Stats in online ad. speedy246, 31, 72, 101, #115688

age to stocky. You'll host. Send face

BUDDY WITH BENEFITS

LOOKING FOR GUY?

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

HatTrick, 30, 101, #129716

normal.i have a very high sex drive

and am open to just about anything

if you want to know more.. jameson,

unusual situations that people will allow me to witness and make art

from. vron, 39, 🖸, #128575

LOOKING FOR YOU

is young and Extremely fit, with a

B OUR PLAYMATE

SEXY COUPLE LOOKING

Sexy young couple, looking for a hot

to expand our sexual pleasures this males only. 080764, 44, 101, #124403

Looking for good clean fun, a little adventure, no strings. Interested in playing with one or more women

Looking for that "touch" that sends shivers up my spine ... tender ...

Want a woman friend. She is pretty

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I love the outdoors and will love to meet a femining girl who will camp, tube the river, hike, and swim with me all summer. I love afternoon cocktails sometimes when I don't have to work, or sometimes just staying in and "vegging" on the couch.

read the rest of COLDHANDSWARMHEART's profile or enter your own profile for FREE online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

GET ON THE LIST & GET THE LUV DOC ALL UP

There's a good chance that if you do it enough times and with an opposite

gender, you're going to have a baby. Maybe even several. If you want to up the

chances, try one of the following: Drink a few extra Jell-O shots with the rugby

team. Buy condoms from a vending machine in the bathroom of a last-chance

gas station out in West Texas. Promise to "pull" at the last second. Pray des-

perately that you don't have to give birth to the spawn of that loser you picked

up at Tangerine's last night. If none of that works, you might try joining the

Catholic Church, moving into a mobile home, or spending your teen years in

rural Oklahoma. There's no hard and fast rule for getting pregnant. Sometimes

you can go soft and slow. Sometimes you can get knocked up from behind. You

can also get preggers by "making the beast with two backs," "squashing the

deckchair," "spooning," or "playing the cello." Equally effective are the Reverse

Asian Cowgirl, the Italian Chandelier, the Thigh Master, the Octopus, and the

Piledriver. If all that seems like too much work, you can always get a box of

cheap wine and a turkey baster. Surprisingly, the result of all this sordid behav-

bawling in a putrid funk after they drop a load waiting for you to take care

of the problem. As the extended stay motel incident in Waco proves, even

really smelly farts can seem sufficient justification for stabbing someone in the

chest. Imagine if the victim had been screaming petulantly in a pool of diar-

rhea? Mopping up an acrid blown out diaper at 4 in the morning is just about

as close to unconditional love as you can get - well, unless you're Jesus or

something. This is not to say that in those dark hours you might not fantasize

about crucifixion, but you'd never actually do it. Why? 1) You're not God, and 2) if you can't even bring yourself to shake a baby, there's no way you're going to love it enough to nail it to a cross, even by proxy. So yes, children are bona

fide miracles, each and every one. Sadly though, the older they get, the less miraculous they seem - especially when they're dirty, grizzled, and holding up a cardboard sign at a freeway intersection. With any luck however, the fruit of

your loins will at least do something interesting and entertaining - perhaps it will make you beam with pride and say something sentimental like, "Not

bad for a little fuck stain!" Ah, the joys of parenthood. This weekend a whole

bushel of entertaining loin fruit will be playing at the Next Up U18 Austin

Music Showcase at Threadgill's World Headquarters. Next Up is a showcase

for up-and-coming bands and artists in Austin who are younger than 20 years

old, though most are squarely in their teens. This weekend's show benefits the

Palmer Drug Abuse Program, an support group for teenagers struggling with chemical dependency. For a mere \$5, you can see the El Guapos, Chief Rival,

AfterMath, the Aviators, Edison Chair, and the Diving Captain. You might even

help save a few miracles. Get the Luv Doc all up in your inbox every week! Sign

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he Luv Voc

Next Up: U18 Showcase

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Threadgill's,

nextupatx

ior is often referred to as a "miracle" - at

least until the paternity test comes back

- and it is, really. Who could believe that

doing the work of the devil could produce

a little angel? And who could imagine

the hell it would put you through? What

else could pee in your eye and get away

with it? What else could projectile vomit

into your breakfast cereal, scream at you

all night, and make you wipe its ass

several thousand times? Is that not proof

of a miracle? Sure, your Sunday football

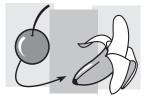
buddies might giggle when they fart or

burp obnoxiously, but they don't sit there

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IN YOUR INBOX EVERY WEEK





LOVES TO LAUGH

I am smart, fun, resilient, and easy going. My guilty pleasures are anime and gossip girl. Possibly the silliest person you'll ever meet. Monalious, 28, [0], #130083

WITTY SASSY LOVER-**NOT-A-FIGHTER**

im looking forward to a chill summer i like bands movies reading,cooking,working out,gardening,riding bikes.l am honest(sometimes to a fault)kind ,smart,funny,sincere,genuine,stro ng willed, thoughtful. looking for a complimentary soul. turn ons: sense of humor, self-confidence, maturity, ho nesty,passion,good energy, beautiful smiles,thoughtfulness,ki floresita407 27 101 #123437

JUST THIS NOW

A man who knows how to respect and protect his woman in every way: a lover of dogs, a lover of live music; intelligent; handsome; spiritual; gentle soul. canninelover, 55, 101 #130066

GIRL'S GONE SARCASTIC

Love to cook and use it as my artistic outlet//KUT: Made my pledge//Dig food and nutrition policy//Fav character on Entourage: Ari//Two-stepping, break-dancing or bachata, check// Passport: Mine's current; you? Alegria, 27, 101, #129866

SMART, PRETTY, INTRIGUING

I think I'm a really great person with a good heart. I am loval, honest. nice, intelligent, diligent...I have more good qualities than bad qualities. annie71, 37, 🕿, 🔯, #130005

JACK JOHNSON?

I'm done. No more ego jobs, impressive spotlights nor money trees. It's cargo shorts, good dogs, hardwood floors and a guy that smell right. I know exactly what I want. BlueTick-Hound, 45, 0, #129994

kiss and adore me

SUPER LANEYTASTIC CHEF

am a chef in training. I am looking for the other half to my puzzzle, the piece that fits me so I can have a . masteriece fit for royalty. **LANEY**, 19, OL #130074

ABRE LOS OJOS

gonna spend nights w creative & humble people, nights with live music,fine budddd/roadtrip to some place pointed out on a map..l sing/ photograph/dance to disco under a disco ball/crazy about music...crazy. Xtina00, 24, 129986

SHY ROCKER!

shy girl but warms quickly. I love funny, silly guys. I'm a low maintenance, shorts and t-shirt, meat and potato kind of gal. So, if this sounds good to you...email. **rush_girl**, 36, **0** #117353

(SIGH)

What do you want to know? I'm very honest, open minded, ready for anything. I love to laugh, hangout, read, drink and be outside. I really can't explain... skeley, 20, 101, #129960

UNINHIBITED, NOT SUBTLE

tattoos. I love creativity, poetry, and swimming in Barton Springs after dark.

My appearance changes constantly

and I don't take myself too seriously

GORGEOUS, POSITIVELY

TENACIOUS BRAINIAC

WONDERFUL

EMPATH

Havor of the Week

Water which is too pure

I am seeking someone as open minded as me

terested in life and learning. Likes to go out, hear music, dance,

Sexy, funny, capable of discussing emotional issues and theoretical topics while willing to laugh about them. In-

starcrossed23, 20, 27, 10, #129965

Well I just moved here & I'm lookin to make new friends & then whatever

else comes along. I enjoy just about

everything as long as the company is

good! Shortcutie, 25, 🖾, #129887

Sensual person seeks someone to

live life passionately with! I believe

what is put out is what you receive

so please no players or novices of

humble living need apply. kindred-spirit101, 47, 10, #129907

Ardaraith

Slím 20, slender, and have a few

CURIOUS AND COMPLICATED Curious, playful, happy..looking to meet a few new people. Say hello! lovelieatxgirl, 33, 101, #129928

AWESOME NERDY CHICK

'm honestly an amazing person. I love laughing, reading, and town lake. I'm just looking for a guy that will make me laugh, read with me, and hang at the lake. nerd2know, 24, 10, #129890

COUNTRYGIRL SEEKS SOULMATE

Seeking someone intellectually stimulating, down-to-earth and responsible, but can cut loose sometimes and loves to laugh. Spiritual, not overly religious, open-minded and thinks outside of the box. TXJewels, 36. **IGI. #129881**

MANIFESTING PEACEFUL BLISS

SWF looking for laughter-filled conversations. Must love live music and dancing and be capable of enlightened dialogue about complex issues I am spiritual, yet unconventional. lím looking for optimistic souls TracyLane876, 48, 🕿, 🔯, #129852



STUCK ON SHUFFLE

I have resorted to using the Internet to meet men because standing around like a traffic cone in bars has lost it's urban mystique wanderlust tx, 39, 01, #129886

CRAZYLADYFROM THECOUNTRY

I AM A LADY! i wear panties! but, you can sneak around them if you are the right man.... Whit, 27, 🕿, **O**, #129892

I ALWAYS SMILE

I smile and maintain a positive at-titude with ease in the face of adversity. LaurieB, 31, 🔯, #129867

EXUBERANTLY QUIRKY ARTIST Late 40s, youthful and high-spirited, unusual honest (unusually honest?) artistic type seeks playmate for laughing, scheming, dreaming, and ul-

timately, loving. You are open-minded, open-hearted and youthful. Let's have fun! LadyLafsalot, 49, 101, #129838 LETS TALK.

I am understanding, a good listener. Shy at first, but don't be surprised. Once you get to know me I am totally opposite, well kind of. **swalshmi**, 23, #129850

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Lets go Tornado Chasing! Seriously! That is my dream date. A little about me. I'm into playing guitar, working out, running, writing, reading, movies, chasing storms, campi canoeing, and education. hansgf, 30, **O**, #130084

SHAMEFULLY CURIOUS

am me. The only me that I know. Easy on the eyes (If you squint). Never married and childless (Go figure). 1)Sane. 2)Clean (nobody likes a slob). 3)Honest 4) Independent. DevilCed666, 42, 101, #130080

l'm a happy, funny, loving, caring guy. i can also be a little corny. Love

101, #130072

PLEASE WOW ME

looking to find a great girl, who's cute...5'0 to 5'10..98 lbs to 140lbs. I'm tall, athletic, green eyes and brown hair I prefer a fun woman with no

If you don't like nerds; turn away Super nerd looking for his nerdette for conversation / cuddles / coffee. 1Hopelessromantic, 24, 101,

LOVES INTELLIGENT WOMEN

women and am not shy about it. COMPASSIONATE, CREATIVE, FUNKY

the world as a place of adventure and wants to experiece it. Play music, cook, play outside, and take it as it comes. chirah, 40, 10, #130058

I'm someone you'll never regret I have lots of energy, ambition, and diversity in my lifestyle. Iím looking knowing. krisnm, 21, 12, #129775 LAUGHING, QUESTIONING for someone who knows herself, I stay up late because that's when what she wants out of life, and en live music is. I love Sinners' Brunch joys the path getting it. RKW78751,

& Blues Monday East. I'm not look-ing for answers, but rather enjoying the research. QGirl, 38, 12, #129630

FUNNY, SERIOUS, CONFUSED

unique. I'm sure I'm just like everv

other 21 year old out there except

Even though I like to think I'm

NEW TO AUSTIN

REATE A PROFILE AND BROWSE MORE ADS ONLINE!

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> Lets see the sites and hope romance blossoms. I'm a spontaneous. sarcastic, romantic chick. Originally from Hollywood California. NewLezinTown, 24, 129376

SSSEXICAN

i live my life one day at a time. love morning coffee, watching movies, live music, cooking, sports, mt. bon-nell, & people with a sense of humor call me :). posdata, 28, 101, #129223

SARCASM GALORE

I'm new to the Austin area, and looking to meet some cool new people to show me around this lovely place. love traveling, cooking, dancing, electronic music, & watching movies.

erinlagrif, 26, 101, #128758 **BROWN BUTCH SEEKS**

Hello, my name is Chris. I'm 30 vears 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, 101, #128732



FUNNY~WARM~ALIVE! Masculine, warm, friendly, and passionate about showing up in a full capacity for everything in life- that friend, that job, that romance. iust all of it! Life is good! DancingFaun, 38, C 0 #130045

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indicates that a photo is posted online.

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your own profile for FREE online at

LOYAL These are a few words that people have described me. I try to "look on the bright side of life." I enjoy movies, performing arts, and other activites in Austin! heisolo2003, 25, **101**, #130023 **CUTE PASSIONATE FUN**

GOOFY ROCKIN' GUY

38. IOI. #130013

#130008

FREAKIN' COOL

THE KID MIKE

DEAD MOON

AWESOMEBOT

26. OL #129948

I'm very hard working and enjoyletting go and just having fun. I am very easy

going and have always been alot of fun to be around. looking for some-

one fun! petez08, 25, 10, #130038

CRATIVE, COMPASSIONATE,

CHANCING YOUR CURIOSITY

Autobiographies aren't nearly as good as the real thing ;) But here's

a few things about me to keep you

interested ... Charismaticman, 28,

Looking for someone to hang out with and enjoy what life brings.

FUN, FRIENDLY, OUTGOING

I'm an outdoors enthusiast and love the park. I go play frisbee or just lay

in the grass. Also spend time paint-

ing or at my sister's house with my

nieces. jluther6, 23, 🖸, #129991

very passionate about music&film.

currently going to school for audio engineering. love:writing screenplays

and coming up with weird scenes and dialogue. looking for someone to

enjoy these arts with. junkie_cosmo-naut, 20, [0], #129985

"Its ok, you don't have to run and

If you don't know don't bother

DeadMoon. 32. 101. #129974

hide away it's ok, we've all seen bet-ter days it's ok, we love you anyway.

HUMOROUS, MAGNANIMOUS,

I'm a computer nerd and a car

nut! I'm looking for a girl similar to

my playlist; indie, metal, hip-hop,

electric, new-wave, classical; for a

conversation and a coffee. dedrick,

CabinLife, 30, 101, #130003

FUN FOLLOWS ME

to laugh out loud, sing at the radio (satellite), see live music and more? Just ask? jackguitar, 49, 🕿,

kids yet. mattymatt, 30, 101, #130064 WITTY, FUN OPEN.

Intelligent, witty, fun, respectful, chivalrous; a rare breed of man?

#130062

I am a complete computer nerd with

artistic side. I love to think, play, laze around and chat, and travel. I love mano, 43, 🔯, #130057

Im looking for someone who sees

Seeking wild-eyed writer-journalist who gets off on headlines containing double entendres, regards copyedit-

26, **101**, **#127095**

ing a form of foreplay and can't resist a man whose highest goal is to speak the truth. **ThatReporterGuy**,

HUMOR ADVENTURE IR-REVERANCE looking around. busy working. got projects, like my little bike, like riding around on it. need riding partners, someone to watch plays or random stuff about town, good food, good. dtx, 41, 101, #129967

THE WRITE ONE

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Lane with your photo before 5pm, Monday, May 11, and you could win **12 PASSES** to **REGAL CINEMAS**!

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FUNNY, WEIRD INTROVERT

geeky introvert looking to share my passion for david foster wallace books, obscure music and theatre. i love bicycling, the Alamo Ritz and long walks. let's meet over burgers. antisecurity, 22, 101, #129863

FUNNY, SWEET, NAUGHTY

Looking for adventure. I like doing anything from stimulating my brain to "Stimulus Packages". Need a guy who's friends with his inner-child and is open to anything. Is it you? **spongebob_naughtypants**, 23, **D**,

#129945 COOKING UP COMMITMENT.

I want THAT commitment, the bond that only happens when your partner is never on the back burner OR the front burner, but is the fire under all we do. Austinactor, 47, 10, #129916

LAID BACK

Just an average guy here who gets into many things from cooking and reading to kyacking and wine and beer tasting. ahernan3880, 29, Kolt, #129387

UNCONVENTIONAL, NON-SCENE, MASCULINE

Non-scene unconventional bearded guy n2 coffeehouses & outdoors lkng 4 similar types. Talby, 41, 37, 101, #129374

SHY CARING ROMANTIC

Im a very laid back easy going type guy I like the outdoors reading going out etc I love meeting new people & traveling Like guys that are in shape. mgf2005, 45, 121, #101030

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, **101**, **#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, 58, 00, #115402

wo FRIENDS

LOOKIN FOR ME?

Looking for cool, openminded, funny, adventures, crazy, sexy, honest and I like her to be kinda mean. As far as me: Spontaneous, Random, Loving, Dirty, Funny find out the rest. **TimboATX**, 26, **CI**, #130041

ADVERTUROUS HOMEBODY TRAVELER

Hispanic lady ISO fun, friendly people. Can't wait to have long summer days at barton springs followed by some tasty bbq and beer. interested? KarlaX, 28, Kal, #129798 SPONTANEOUS

I just looking for FRIENDS mostly

gals to go out during the weekend. Long term friendships is nice. I love horror movies and rock music. Hvany, 25, C1, #129772

a shot in the dark

KERBY LANE.

Kerby lane on Lamar. You were standing by the door, sweeping You were so adorable, I got nervous and rushed straight for the cake. I should of talked to you. When: Monday, April 27. Where: kerby lane on Lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904053

PURPLE DRESS HCRA

You-gorgeous beauty at Love Boat. Me-tall cyclist in yellow jersey. I couldn't stop staring. Your smile overwhelmed me. I'd love to take you to dinner. Sound like fun? When: Saturday, April 25. Where: Hill Country Ride Love Boat. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904052

3RD BASE ROUNDROCK

Rockets game 3rd Base Round Rock. We eye'd each other. Unable to make move with two guys at table. You: petite, brunette, hisp?, bubbly, fun. Me: tall, bald, blue shirt. When: Sunday, April 26. Where: 3rd Base Round Rock. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904051

LEGISLATE/GOVERN ME

You: Passing out bills and giving me chills all over the Senate floor. Me: A Gallery Guy requesting passage to engrossment. 'Clack' When: Monday, April 27. Where: Texas Senate Floor. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904050

ARCADE UFO

Luminous blonde in green in the corner chilling with friends. Was the scruffy haired metal kid smiling like a dork getting quarters. Trying to compsensate for shyness. How's this? When: Sunday, April 26. Where: Arcade UFO. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904049

TATTOOS AND DIFFUSERS

Being random at target figuring out which diffuser complimented me as a person. Liked your smile. Love tattoos. Lets hang and figure out which diffuser compliments you as a person! When: Sunday, April 26. Where: Target South Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904048

OUTRAGEOUS MOMENT #5

Is shooting-in-the-dark as audacious as buying a well-deserved drink? You weren't the only one who ended up with a shiner, though I found mine in your bedroom, not the saloon. When: Saturday, April 11. Where: Barton Springs Saloon. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904047

WE TRADED PHOTOS

N, You sat next to me; I asked to photograph you, and you wanted mine in turn. I haven't stopped smiling. Thank you. I'd love to meet you again. –J When: Saturday, April 25. Where: Eeyore's Birthday. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904046

PALM TREE ANGEL

You: biology with 3.9 GPA, x-Navy mom of two kids. Me: you thanked me for the Strawberries. Call me after you activated your new life. Best Wishes. When: Monday, March 2. Where: N. Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904042

ROB@ TINIEST BAR

Just wondering if you ever found Katy at the Tiniest Bar. It was nice briefly meeting you and your dog, Neko, before dashing off to my show. When: Tuesday, April 21. Where: Tiniest Bar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #904041



STRAGERS FROM PLANES

You sat beside me ago as we flew over South America. We spent 7 great days in Austin. Hope to one day see you in the Great White North. Swoon! When: Tuesday, January 20. Where: On a plane to the US.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904045

SERVER AT ELCHILE

You were the cute server at ElChile at happy hour on 4/23. I was with my friends in purple. I ordered the nachos that did, in fact, exist. Coffee sometime? When: Thursday, April 23. Where: El Chile on Manor. You: Man. Me: Woman. The #904044

QUACK'S GODDESS

You were studying with some dude. I had on a red t-shirt. Seemed we kept glancing at one another. Wishful thinking? I liked your fuzzy yellow pen. And other things... When: Thursday, April 23. Where: Quack's 43rd St Bakery. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904043

SIDEBAR BESIDE YOU

you: stripes of gray and blue me: solid green 3/4 sleeve mirror my malady? I'll show you what all the howl is for. When: Friday, April 17. Where: Side Bar, You: Woman. Me: Man. #904029

DRINK CART GIRL...

You: Kelsy, I told you to "pick a lane" cause you looked way hung over on the golf course, the cure is a drink, have one with me...? When: Wednesday, April 22. Where: Golf Course. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904040

ROCKER CHIC...

You: Cristy that works at Guitar Center, said you play bass and just bought a new PA, I invited you out while you were working :-/ wanna jam out sometime? When: Wednesday, April 15. Where: Guitar Center. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904039

BLIND JEN

You: Intriguing blonde working small bar, I asked your advice on a girl's text message, but I really wanted to ask if I could text you sometime, here's your S.I.T.D. When: Sunday, February 15. Where: Blind Pig. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904038

TOO LATE RESPONDING

I meant to contact you through your Yahoo ad. Marc 36, tattoo on upper arm. It's a very slim chance I'll find you, but I thought I'd try. When: Thursday, February 19. Where: Yahoo Personals. You: Man. Me: Woman, #904032

BUBBLE-BURSTING

PHILANTHROPIST XOXO I don't care about fads. If you are real and don't care either and just want a true friend that wants to know you for you. Lets get together sometime. Magenta28, 28, **©J**, #130000

FILMFREAKISHLY DUTCH SCREENWRITER

I've been to Austin last summer and fell in love with the place and the people. I'm going back and it would be great to know somebody in Austin... YeahMeDutch, 33, I☉1, #129765



CHARLIE !!!! -MARRILEE

FALLING BEAUTY...

Amanduhh... You were my beautifully dreaded skydiving instructor, I asked if you had ever jumped tripping but forgot to ask if you like swimming holes... Care to hit one up? When: Sunday, April 19. Where: Temple Skydiving. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904037

GREY TANKTOP, STUDYING...

I sat to your right as you wrestled with study, but what you really wanted to do is people watch. Iet's do so? I couldn't help sneak'n peeks. When: Tuesday, April 21. Where: Whole Foods Dinning area (mid-day). You: Woman. Me: Man. #904036

INDIANA GURL REGGAE

U mauled me inna good way during the wailers set. didn wanna let u go,wanted 2 make out insted.then u were gone...tall blond guy,shades who lives in the country When: Sunday, April 19. Where: Auditorium Shores Reggae Fest. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904035

STUNNED AT NEWFLOWER

You:KISS patch on jeans. Me; dressed from the office in slacks and button down! Eyes met. I was stunned. Would love to talk about where you've been. When: Friday, April 17. Where: New Flower Market. You: Woman. Me: Man. T #904034

HEB FAR WEST

HEB FAR WEST 4/19/09: Stunning brunette in white asking about lean cuisine coupons. I was speechless staring into your magnificent brown eyes. Can't get you out of my mind. Coffee? Milkshake? When: Sunday, April 19. Where: HEB Far West. You: Woman. Me: Man. T #904033

HOTTIE ON WESTGATE

u- a petite brunette, sometimes your hair curls and sometimes it is

straight but you always walk a little white dog. cross to starbucks you can have anything you want. When: Monday, April 6. Where: Westgate Blvd.. You: Woman. Me: Man. #904031

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny for May 1-7

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An engineering company has plans to grow flowers on the moon. Paragon Space Development intends to land mustard seeds inside a small greenhouse dome on the lunar surface by 2011. If all goes well, they will bloom within two weeks, and, thanks to the marvels of communications technology, we earthlings will soon thereafter view one of the most iconic photographs ever seen. Paragon hopes the inspiring image of yellow blossoms on the lunar landscape will incite a new wave of space exploration. Take your cue from this vignette, faurus. Come up with a riveting new personal symbol: some photo or image or object that thrills your imagin nation and inspires you to outdo all your previous efforts in pursuit of an ambitious future goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "A Pain in the Ash: Volcano Irritates Alaskans." That was the headline of a news story about how the people of Anchorage, Alaska, are dealing with the erratic behavior of nearby Mount Redoubt. As of this writing, the volcano hasn't exploded yet, but it keeps hinting that it might. Meanwhile, it regularly burps clouds of ash that float around and wreak a lot of inconvenience. "I would like it to have a big boom and get it over with," said one native. In accordance with your astrological omens, Gemini, let's use this situation as a metaphor for your life. The fact is, there's no sense in getting irritated or impatient with the primal force in your vicinity. Doing so would be a waste of your precious emotional energy. Besides, cultivating calm equanimity is the best way to acquire the grace you'll need to respond appropriately when the primal force does go boom.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If His Holiness the Dalai Lama (like you, born under the sign of the Crab) had a Twitter account, I bet that this week he'd Tweet something like this: "Nothing's permanent, and we should never be attached to anything, but wow! - the goodness rising up now may send ripples through eternity!" What he'd mean is that while reality is always in continual flux and it's wise not to cling obsessively to either its pleasures or sadnesses, the powerfully healing mojo that's moving through Cancerians' lives these days could have long-term positive consequences.

LEO (July 23-Aug, 22): America's Republican Party has lost a lot of style points lately. Its National Committee chairman, Michael Steele, even went so far as to say. "We need to uptick our image with everyone, including one-armed midgets." Your reputation isn't anywhere near as in need of rehabilitation, Leo - in part because you don't make references about one-armed little people - but it could still use some work. Fortunately, the coming weeks will be an excellent time, astrologically speaking, for you not only to tidy up your stature but also actually to enhance your respectability and increase your influence. Take advantage!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The coming weeks would be an excellent time to devote extra care and attention to your home away from home – you know, the place that's second-best at making you feel like you truly belong here on this earth. Enhance the ambience in this alternate power spot, Virgo. Add beauty to the decor. Let the people who hang out there know how much they mean to you. And if you don't yet have such a sanctuary, then I suggest you hunt down one. You need to experience more of the pleasurable stimulation that comes from going back and forth between two different comfort zones.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may not literally have X-ray vision right now, but you certainly have a metaphorical version of it. With a little concentration, I bet you could peer beneath the surface of anything you want. My analysis of the omens suggests that you have the power to see hidden agendas, invisible frameworks, and maneuverings that are unfolding behind the scenees. Please keep in mind that not all of the secret stuff is corrupt or insidious. Some of it is quite beautiful, even elevating. Don't push your enhanced perceptiveness to search exclusively for the worst in human nature.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): According to the legends of the Scottish Highlanders, this is the anniversary of the fallen angels' expulsion from paradise. That's why, they said, it was so crucial for humans to be well-behaved at this time. To blindly indulge in sin and error would set up a resonance with the malevolent exiles, making oneself vulnerable to being preved on by them. While you and I can chuckle at this quaint superstition, it does have a grain of truth for you to meditate on. At this juncture in your yearly cycle, you tend to be more receptive to bad influences than usual. That's why you should do everything you can imagine to attract good influences and cultivate experiences that give you the feeling that this world is a paradise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An Arizona woman was jogging in the woods when a fox ran out of nowhere, leaped up, and clamped down on her arm with its teeth. Unable to pry it loose, the woman ran back to her car, which was a mile away, with the fox hanging on. She drove herself to the hospital, where doctors removed the creature and treated her successfully. I imagine that right about now you might feel a bit like she did, Sagittarius: bustling along energetically, in a state of alert, as some nagging vexation clings to you parasitically. Now here's the good news: I predict that you will get rid of the pest and will ever thereafter enjoy an enhanced confidence in your ability to function well under pressure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Since it's the Capricornian season of romance, I thought I'd give you some tips on how to thrive in the mysterious, paradoxical, crazy-making game of love. 1) Love shouldn't be a lottery, so don't gamble on unlikely odds. 2) Love shouldn't be a power struggle, so try to purge any subconscious yearnings you might have to control people you care for. 3) Love can't be a self-sustaining perpetual motion machine, so I hope you work on it at least as hard as you do at your job. 4) Love isn't an endless vacation in the promised land but neither is it a wrestling match with a three-legged pit bull from hell, so don't you dare indulge in all-or-nothing fantasies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The kitchen table will be a power spot for you in the coming weeks. Your own table will be a supreme vortex for visionary brainstorming, but even those in other households could be epicenters for brilliant planning, crucial shifts in attitude, and increased solidarity among allies. To encourage eruptions of creative behavior, make sure the tables are nice and clean. Try to have good food and drink on hand. I also suggest you keep at least one notebook and pen lying around.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In April, I was grateful whenever you obeyed all the signs, stuck to the beaten paths, worked a little harder than usual, and averted your eyes from the places where "interesting" bursts of chaos were unfolding. In May, I'd appreciate it if you did pretty much the opposite: Question authority rigorously, wander off into less-traveled regions, play harder than usual, and tune in to commotions that could be productive learning experiences. In the past month Pisces, I was hopeful that you'd pay your debts to society before society's collection agency started making harassing calls. In the coming month, I invite you to ask everyone to do you extra favors.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little," said the writer Sydney Smith. While this is always good advice, it's especially apt for you right now. You're in a phase when giant leaps of faith are irrelevant and fast, massive accomplishments are impossible. This is the season of incremental progress – a time when painstaking attention to detail is your best strategy. Inch by inch, Aries. Hour by hour.

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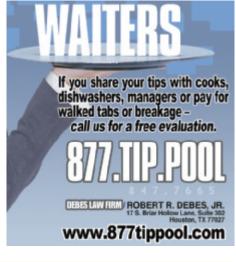
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