

ADDRESS DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

Dear Editor,
 "We're now a big city, and we have to start addressing [the drug problem] like a big city," says Police Chief Art Acevedo in Savlov's article "Crime and the City Solution" [Music, June 26]. How about starting by addressing the drive-by shooting that happened on Red River and Fourth Street on Friday, June 19, around midnight? No one was hit (not even the car the shooter was aiming at); however, there were about 20 people total divided among the street corners mulling about, and the shooter was in a dark green Caddy with cursive writing all over the back windshield (so artistic that we couldn't read it and were only feet away). The worst part about the entire incident is that later on our friends who were with us saw the cars involved hanging out under I-35 at Seventh (across from the police station), told the cops just east of that intersection, and were reprimanded by said cops for flagging them down on "the wrong side of their com-system." Huh? Since then I have yet to be able to track down a single mention of the incident save for a Yelp entry. I have always felt safe in Austin and don't like where it looks like it's going.

Jennifer Smith

'LIVE MUSIC' NEED NOT BE TOO LOUD

Dear Editor
 As is too often the case, the most vocal of the advocates for a position have alienated me and driven me to the other side. In this case the cause is live music. There needs to be some balance in this issue. The South First Street area was residential long before Freddie's Place was there. Barton Springs Road and the adjacent neighborhood was a residential area before Shady Grove started offering live music. And, believe it or not, Sixth Street had residents before most of the current clubs even existed. A prominent architect and a member of the City Council were among the earlier contemporary residents. To remain viable, a community must work for all its citizens.
 The 360 complex and the Music Hall are excellent examples of how music can cooperate and coexist with other uses. The music venue predated the residential development, so the developer took the initiative to arrive at a

cooperative, and I'm sure not inexpensive, solution. It is a commendable example. Live music advocates must work to offer solutions as to how to coexist with other uses instead of taking an antagonistic either/or stance. Just repeating that Austin is the live music capital does not further the discussion.
 Austin is many things to many people, and music is just one of its attractive components. Austin can still be the live music capital without being the loud music capital.

John Moore

DON'T CUT FUNDING FOR SPAY/NEUTER PROGRAM

Dear Editor,
 The city will be shooting itself in the foot if it cuts or eliminates funding to Emancipet's free spay/neuter program, which provides 4,000 free pet sterilizations of Austin dogs and cats. Programs like this have been proven to reduce the population of homeless animals living in city shelters.
 This program costs the city of Austin \$195,000 per year. The program is a proactive approach to controlling the pet population that saves the city more money than it costs. The cost of a single surgery is \$33. The cost to shelter a single animal is \$140. A single, unfixed female dog could give birth to five to 30 puppies a year. Litters of unwanted dogs, especially from low-income areas where the residents depend on Emancipet's services, very likely end up at Town Lake Animal Center, where they have to euthanize nearly 11,000 animals a year.
 The two proposals on the table don't do enough to ensure the future stabilization of the city's animal population. One proposal, which relies on private donations, is unreliable, and the other cuts the number of annual sterilizations available to Austin's pets in half.
 I urge the city to keep its partnership with Emancipet the same as it considers ways to remedy the budget shortfall. I understand that our city officials face terribly difficult decisions right now, but I sincerely hope they look at the long-term costs before making a final decision.

Jessica Hendrick

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

APD HAS AN EXCESSIVE BUDGET

Dear Editor,
 I must agree with our friend John Nordstrom in his assessment of the Austin Police Department as of late ["Postmarks," June 26]. It seems that despite our cash-strapped city budget, it has had no problems acquiring brand-spanking-new patrol cars, which have begun to outnumber the old Crown Victoria models on Austin streets. No fewer than four were present for my recent speeding citation, and I can assure you they are very, very nice. Furthermore, APD parades its excessive budget every weekend on Sixth Street, with a full cadre of horse-mounted cops that disrespectfully spread feces all over our fine city, without any appreciable increase in public safety.

Among other recent APD purchases is a small fleet of armored, military-style vehicles for combating imaginary supervillains. Is all of this really necessary?
 The city has bent over backward (or is it forward?) for the department and gotten very little return on its investment. It's time to cut budgets. I'd start with the stable fees, advertising campaigns, and new vehicle purchases. Maybe even shift some resources away from marijuana enforcement to drugs that actually cause some harm? And I'd get a move on to save that money before the citizenry decides en masse to go after your bloated, ridiculous salaries.

Cordially,
 Mike "Dub" Wainwright

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Original Artwork by:
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