

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

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JULY 2, 2010



texas tea

HAPPY DEPENDENCE DAY

NEWS City Hall's Tire Blowout **THE ARTS** Chris Jordan's Big Numbers **FOOD** Dining del Lago
MUSIC Went Up to the Crossroads (Festival) **SCREENS** Caution: 'Birdemic' in Austin
VOTE NOW! 'BEST OF AUSTIN' BALLOT ON P.46

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Making Their Marks

Austin loses two legends in one week

BY LOUIS BLACK

"Hark, now hear the sailors cry
Smell the sea and feel the sky
Let your soul and spirit fly into the mystic

"And when that fog horn blows I will be coming home
And when the fog horn blows I want to hear it
I don't have to fear it"

– Van Morrison, "Into the Mystic"

"In my hour of darkness
In my time of need
Oh, Lord grant me vision
Oh, Lord grant me speed"
– Gram Parsons, "In My Hour of Darkness"

It may be a perfect day for bananafish, but for most of us it is beyond terrible. Even walking through the pouring rain, I don't get wet. I sigh so deeply that it is as if I have no breath left. Our dear, dear friend Luke Zimmermann died this week. Tuesday night, Austin legend, promoter, brigand, highwayman, and constant swashbuckling lead in his own movie Jim Ramsey was taken off of life support and passed away. I am hollow. It is as though my ears are full of water, so I cannot really hear; the whole world is distant.

In any creative scene, there are those who are stars. In Austin, it's musicians, filmmakers, writers, artists, actors, and their ilk. But alongside those outlined in glaring neon are the armies of those who support them: the ones who run the clubs, book the bands, program the movies, show the art, publish the books, help make the movies, run the restaurants – the ones who show up at shows, galleries, movies, and theatres, the ones who are there in the bad times as well as the good.

They are those who respond when called upon – and often do so long before.

Luke was an artist, provocateur, an often overly loud enthusiast, entrepreneur, and creative force. Luke leaves behind Pat Mares, his partner, best friend, co-worker, co-cook, and co-conspirator, and artist. The two are most well known for starting and running Ruby's BBQ, which is famous both for its exceptional natural beef and its commitment to and interaction with the greater community. In ways, however, they are just as well-known for their larger-than-life passions, humor, generosity, and creative involvement.

Luke was born in Oklahoma and raised in Minneapolis. He moved to Berkeley, Calif., for the crazy years of 1968-1974, then back to Minneapolis. After that, he moved to San Francisco for a year. Then, in 1983, along with his great friend singer/songwriter Gregory Schilling, he moved to Austin.

Pat wrote me that Luke "requested a quick cremation and no public services. His philosophy was 'when you're dead, you're gone, and it's time to move on.'" She added, "The best way for friends to have closure and honor LP would be to stimulate their minds and senses by attending a music show or going to a gallery or museum to challenge their way of thinking. They could do this in remembrance of Luke."

Luke did not want any tributes. He didn't ask for or expect this column. But that was just like Luke: He always was worried more about others than himself, always more concerned with doing good than getting famous. It comes as no surprise that the suggested way to honor him is to go out to hear music or look at art. My first memories of Luke are from when we were in the audience at the same shows.

And some will say, "Why give him the honor he didn't want?" They'll ask why he should be mourned in print when that is exactly what he asked for not to happen. The answer is that there is mourning in this town. There are those who knew Luke and those who loved him. He is missed. I feel like I must discuss Luke with love and affection to fulfill the *Chronicle's* obligation. We'll all remember his glasses, his machine-gun-speed talking when excited, his gesticulation, and his warm presence.

We were not that close, but we were a lot more than just friendly. On any number of occasions, we worked together, with Luke catering. There were many staff meetings over the years at Ruby's, and there were out-of-town friends who always insisted on making it, if not the very first stop, then one of the earliest ones when they got to town. That I'm never going to see him again, exploding with words or hard at work serving

people or just lit up burning with enthusiasm, hurts. It's a hurt that won't stop any time soon.

"It's gettin' dark, too dark to see
I feel I'm knockin' on heaven's door."

"Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door"
– Bob Dylan, "Knockin' on Heaven's Door"

There is no way to remember the year, but as always I was racing from one place to another, going so quickly that I really was almost never at any place at all. It was downstairs at Club Foot, during the day when any smack-'em-to-the-wall-and-then-let-go music venue would be so dank and empty that it would be exactly like the dark side of the moon if the moon smelled of cigarette smoke. Racing across the room, frenzied beyond reason, Jim Ramsey called me over to the back. He was with a band, a trio. He introduced me. Already pushing off with rudeness bred of no sense of civility, I was brusquely shaking hands with the last band member as Jim was saying, "and this is Sting."

It's been a couple of years since I ran into Jim Ramsey, but the man I knew would not be so modest as to decline funeral and eulogy. Ramsey was a promoter, gangster, pioneer, trickster, an up-and-down con man, an artist, a hustler, and a showman! If there wasn't a bit of an odd angle to what he was doing, then it just wasn't as much fun.

If Jim were here, he'd supervise a bonfire large enough to be seen from dozens of miles away to say goodbye to himself. The reason is that it would not be those of us who knew Jim, worked with him, were mad at him, and loved him saying goodbye to Jim. It would be Jim Ramsey saying goodbye to Austin and to us. And Jim being Jim, with a crazy grin and eyes wide, would have to give us all the finger from the center of the fire to let us know that it was Jim Ramsey we were saying goodbye to, goddamnit!

Over the years, Ramsey booked, among many other acts: Pantera, Suicidal Tendencies, the Ramones, Patti Smith, Iggy Pop, the Go-Go's, Soundgarden, Blur, Tool, John Cale, Rage Against the Machine, Dangerous Toys, Pariah, Jane's Addiction, Mother Love Bone, the Fleshtones, the Police, Stone Temple Pilots, Pearl Jam, and Dash Rip Rock

Margaret Moser e-mailed me about Ramsey last night: "6:30pm is the turnoff."

CONTINUED ON P.6

page
two

Showers of Sparks

In honor of the Fourth of July holiday (or in order to recover from it),

The Austin Chronicle offices will be closed Monday, July 5. We will resume regular hours on Tuesday, July 6.

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"I was there to see him today around 3pm, having just lectured at a media class at ACC. A student asked me to talk about people who made a difference to my career. 'Let me tell you about Jim Ramsey ...,' I said."

In a *Chronicle* piece on the closing of the Back Room, Ramsey's former employee and partner Ray Seggern wrote, "The conversation here invariably shifts to Jim Ramsey, the notorious promoter who booked the club between 1986 and 1993. The refrain is always similar: 'Whatever you thought of Ramsey, he made his mark there.'"

Ray went on: "He opened Club Foot and put a bevy of talent, including U2, on its stage. He almost single-handedly willed South Park Meadows into existence alongside landowner Abel Theriot; the Police's landmark 1983 stop was but one of his shows. He was part of the legendary 'Ivory Tower' consortium that ruled the scene from the One Texas Center high-rise at South First and Barton Springs, built on the very foundation of the Armadillo. This loose-knit group included promoter legends Tim O'Connor and French Smith, omnipresent band manager Marc Proct, ticket man Brad Meyer (Star Tickets), and Steve Hauser, the Pace Concerts prodigy who went on to become a vice-president at William Morris Nashville. Save Liberty Lunch and niche venues likes Antone's and the Cactus Cafe, they pretty much ran the town."

Ramsey, larger than life, didn't really seem to care what other people thought of him in even the slightest way. He seemed inordinately proud to have won "The Worst Thing to Happen to Austin Music" in the *Chronicle* Music Poll a number of times. Ramsey booked any number of legendary shows, frequently bringing the next year's hot bands to town when they were still touring by station wagon. Talking about booking Suzanne Vega into the Back Room, he told the *Austin American-Statesman* that she said, "Jim, why am I playing a heavy-metal club?" I said, "Suzanne, tonight it's not a heavy-metal club."

If Jim said it wasn't, then it wasn't. It was Jim's rules in Jim's world, which for the most part we all went along with, because that was just the way.

We have lost truly great friends and brothers. The world is a sadder place today.

"Tonight's the night, yes it is,
tonight's the night
Tonight's the night,
tonight's the night
Tonight's the night,
tonight's the night
Tonight's the night,
tonight's the night
Tonight's the night,
tonight's the night."

– Neil Young, "Tonight's the Night" ■

"There'll be one child born and a world to carry on, to carry on."

– Laura Nyro, "And When I Die" ■

Postmarks

AUSTIN SUPPORTS CAR CULTURE

Dear Editor,

As the graph ["City Announces 'Multimodal' Bond Package," News, June 25] noted, even as BP oil spews into Gulf, the "multimodal" bond package only delivers 2.4% of revenue to mass transit.

Also, as your comment ["1915 David St.," News, June 25] on a contested building permit noted, the city still requires builders to provide "sufficient parking" for residences. That forces the car-free to subsidize parking spaces they don't use. Austin could emulate Portland, Ore., where builders are allowed to offer parking or not, just as any other amenity. Renters and buyers there can choose whether they want their dollars to go for parking spaces. Tokyo requires proof of access to parking before issuing a car license.

As long as Austin shovels money to road building and legislates in favor of autos, we will never develop alternatives. (At least not until oil runs out and we are caught with no way to move around.)

Philip Russell

CAR VS. BIKE LETTERS TEDIOUS

Dear Editor,

The letters to the editor are one of my favorite parts of the *Chronicle*, as it gives a forum for people to add often very interesting information (or rebuttals) to articles or raise issues that are otherwise not covered in the *Chronicle*.

However, the one subject that I have seen endlessly droning on over the years with nothing

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

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new ever being added is the letters from motorists complaining about cyclists and letters from cyclists complaining about motorists.

These letters are usually run without an original article to make them pertinent, and printing them only serves as a public forum for two groups to make sweepingly generalized accusations about the other.

Printing letters from either camp extolling their own virtues while denigrating the other's serves no public interest, raises no new issue, and takes space away from much more interesting letters. I would like to suggest that in the future car vs. bike letters only be printed if they pertain to a specific article or issue in order to stop fanning the flames and free up the column space.

Thank you,
Gwendolyn Norton

CONTINUED ON P.8



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THE CAR IS KING

Dear Editor,
 Contrary to what many car drivers believe, we all pay heavily to subsidize cars, roads, and parking lots. Property taxes, sales taxes, and bonds pay for roads and parking lots, even though many very expensive roads are restricted to motor vehicles and form barriers to progress for people on foot, on bicycles, and in wheelchairs. The U.S. government uses our tax money to subsidize oil, to keep it cheap for car drivers and airlines. We all pay for the oil spills, the oil wars, the pollution, the deadly streets. Every year, at least one-fourth of the people killed by cars are pedestrians. A disabled man lying in bed indoors was recently run over and killed by a car in Austin. Two women standing on a sidewalk at a bus stop were killed by a car in February. The bus stop was demolished. Who pays? We all pay, and only some benefit.

A hundred years ago, people wrote of the pleasures of walking, of "the democracy of the road," of the same camaraderie and equality among all road users, including pedestrians. All that is gone. The car is king, and the king kills and maims the people. The king has made people afraid to walk in the streets. That's why sidewalks were invented. But the king consumes so much of everyone's money that our city leaders say that we can't afford sidewalks. Whatever happened to walking – the free, clean, satisfying mode of transportation by which our ancestors migrated across continents? The king killed it. The king will kill us all, if we don't come to our senses soon.

Yours truly,
 Amy Babich

OIL SPILL FUN FACTS

Dear Editor,
 Oil spill fun facts: The rate of spillage in the Gulf is about 35,000 to 60,000 barrels/day (1.47 million to 2.52 million gallons) according to *The Washington Post* (June 15).

There are 42 gallons to a U.S. barrel of crude oil.

There are approximately 7.35 barrels to a ton.

For comparison, the *Exxon Valdez* incident spilled about 221,000 barrels into Prince William Sound, and the area has yet to fully recover.

Nigeria supplies the U.S. with about 40% of the oil we import.

The Niger Delta has experienced some 2,000-plus spills since the early 1970s, adding up to more than 1.5 million tons or some 11,025,000 barrels.

Drill, baby, drill indeed.

Daniel Lea

POWERFULLY, PEACEFULLY REVOLT

Dear Editor,
 While I advocate the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" in principle, I appeal to gay teenagers and young adults to reject the armed services as a career or education prospect. I appeal to the president and the Pentagon to immediately withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan.

CONTINUED ON P.10

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE SENSIBLE LIBERAL'S GUIDE TO SENSIBLE LIBERALISM IN THE AGE OF OBAMA

NOW FEATURING "CHUCKLES" THE SENSIBLE WOODCHUCK!

HOW MUCH WOOD WOULD A WOOD-CHUCK CHUCK, CHUCKLES? **NONE, IF HE WAS BUSY MARGINALIZING OBAMA'S LEFT-WING CRITICS INSTEAD!**

EXCELLENT POINT.

SENSIBLE LIBERALS UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN'T GET EVERYTHING DONE OVERNIGHT!

I'M SURE HE'LL START TO GET US OUT OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN EVENTUALLY! HE'S ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE A YEAR AND A HALF!

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T CRITICIZE A PRESIDENT WHO'S ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE FOR A YEAR AND A HALF!

...AND THAT ANY CRITICISM OF OBAMA CAN ONLY LEAD TO ONE INEVITABLE OUTCOME.

EITHER WE POLITELY OVERLOOK HIS RECORD ON HABEAS CORPUS, RENDITION, TROOP ESCALATION, PREDATOR DRONE STRIKES, WIRETAPPING, AND WHATEVER ELSE THESE WHINERS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT--

--OR SARAH PALIN WINS IN 2012-- GUARANTEED!

BE AFRAID! BE VERY AFRAID!

LA LA LA LA LA I CAN'T HEAARRRR YOOUUU!

TRUE THAT! REMEMBER HOW MUCH TROUBLE GEORGE BUSH HAD GETTING ANYTHING HE WANTED?

THEY ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT INCONVENIENT FACTS ARE EASILY IGNORED...

THIS NUTCASE BLOGGER SAYS OBAMA ACTUALLY TRADED AWAY THE PUBLIC OPTION IN A BACK-ROOM DEAL AT THE VERY START OF THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE!*

*AS DETAILED IN THE RELIABLY RADICAL NEW YORK TIMES.

BESIDES--ALL THAT STUFF IS OKAY IF YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT!

UH, LET'S NOT GO THERE.

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I appeal to them to cease all drone missile attacks, because it is both cowardly and profoundly counterproductive to proceed with that policy. I call upon them to abandon the heroin and opium production from the poppy crops they protect and to abort the decades-old plan to attack Iran.

Iraq has been a disaster of unparalleled proportions. Afghanistan is lost. How can the American people tolerate for one minute propaganda promoting our staging an invasion of Iran? This is utter madness.

We are in the process of leaving to future generations a Third World country of squalor and disease. History will have been rewritten to exclude all mention of the Bill of Rights, Posse Comitatus, and habeas corpus, and like zombies, those generations will attend daily pep rallies to cheer on the endless manufactured wars.

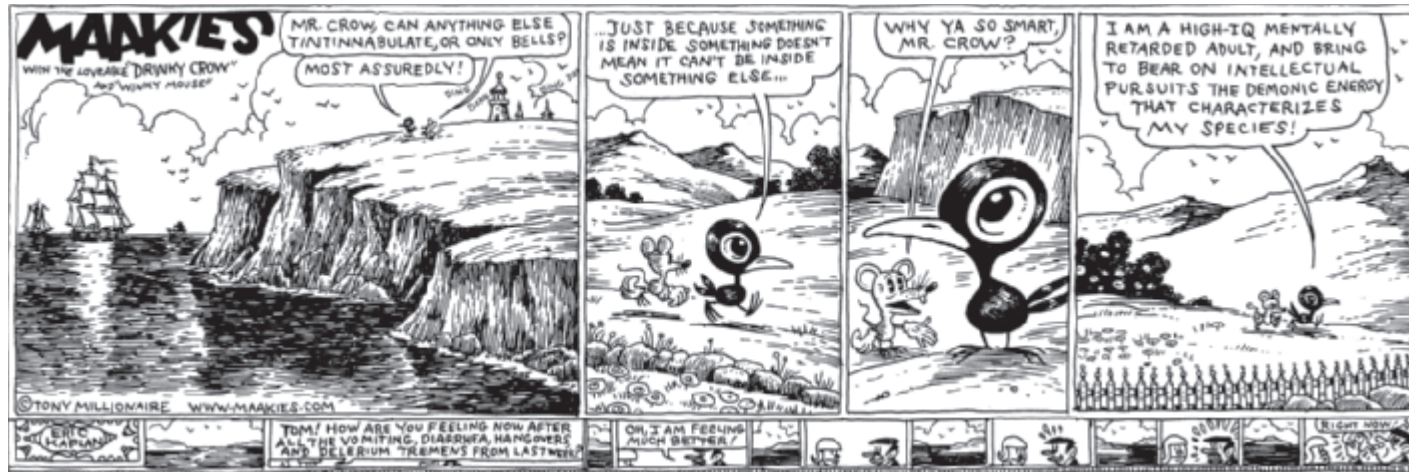
It is now or never that the people must powerfully and peaceably revolt. It is a poisonous psyops deception that to do so is futile and pointless, that what we see now in any way resembles what the Founding Fathers envisioned, that this is merely the swing of the pendulum, and exactly how the republic is meant to operate. Enough!

Sincerely,
Kenney C. Kennedy

'MAAKIES' HAS 'NO REDEEMING QUALITY'

Dear Editor,

I never really understood what the term "no redeeming quality" meant when used to refer to art or literature until I saw your "cartoon



strip" *Maakies*. The strip never makes sense and frankly is often stupid and gross. The latest strip showing the "true story" of the author defecating on a public street and then cleaning it up with a doggie bag is pretty par for the course. The only thing that I can figure out is that someone on your staff is good friends with the cartoonist. With so many good local cartoonists available, why do you waste your space with such, um ... excrement?

Cary Jones

PROBLEMS WITH ANTI-ISRAEL ATTACKS

Dear Editor,

John Callaghan ("Postmarks," June 11) has it wrong when he claims that Israeli citizens are

required to be Jewish. Actually, at least 15% of Israel's voting citizenry are Arab Israelis who are Muslims or Christians and who are represented by several non-Jewish members of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. This has been true of the Knesset since the founding of the state of Israel in 1948.

As for Helen Thomas, her remarks were not confined to the West Bank or Gaza; rather, her position is that Israel itself is illegitimate, which is nonsense. Despite her many decades described as a journalist, Thomas is utterly ignorant of Israeli demographics in her apparent belief that most or all Jewish Israelis have their roots in Europe or elsewhere in the West. The fact is that most Jewish Israelis are the descendants of Jews from the Muslim world, such countries

as Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, etc., from which they were "encouraged" to leave (forcibly expelled, for the most part) and to do so after being dispossessed of everything but their lives during the 1940s and early 1950s. And, no, these were not "Zionist agents" but communities of centuries-old duration that were made refugees in numbers (as many as 800,000) which equaled or exceeded the number of Arab Palestinians displaced by the 1948 fighting. These Sephardi or Mizrahi Jews have been the majority in Israel for about 40 years. You would think a journalist like Thomas might have been aware of this fact; it's hardly a secret. But this would have required her to crack a book or, oddly, read a newspaper of some stature.

Lee Hartman

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Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Señor de Papantla (Man from Papantla), 1934–1935 from Fifteen Photographs by Manuel Álvarez Bravo, 1977, courtesy the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin

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news

Headlines

- ▶ **City Council** has entered its summer hiatus, returning to the dais for a full meeting July 29. Recycling contract negotiations and planning for upcoming bond elections will give the council a bunch to mull in the meantime. See "City Hall Hustle," p.14, and "TDS, Balcones to Split City Recycling Work," p.19.
- ▶ The city held its first public forum with **Austin Energy** general manager candidates this week, after one finalist dropped out and questions mounted over the parameters of the search. See "The Flickering Search for an AE Chief," p.16.
- ▶ The **Environmental Protection Agency** on Wednesday overturned Texas' flexible air-permitting policy, saying the state standards violate the Clean Air Act.
- ▶ **Austin Community College's** empire keeps growing: In anticipation of a vote by Hays County residents to join its taxing district, ACC has purchased 96 acres in Kyle, south of Austin. This brings recent land acquisitions to a total of \$35.4 million.
- ▶ Local artist/music lover/entrepreneur **Luke Zimmermann** – best known to generations of University of Texas students as the co-owner, with wife **Pat Mares**, of **Ruby's BBQ** on Guadalupe – died June 26 at the age of 61. For more, see "Page Two," p.4, and "Food-o-File," Food, p.37.
- ▶ **Public school teachers** scored a rare victory this week. School superintendents have been fighting over whether House Bill 3646, passed last session, ordered them to give teachers a raise across one year or two. Attorney General **Greg Abbott** issued an opinion Tuesday that the legislation covered both years. The news is a boon to struggling teachers, but a headache for financially strapped school districts.
- ▶ Services for former Gov. **Dolph Briscoe Jr.**, who died June 27, will be held today, Thursday, July 1, in his hometown of Uvalde. A moderate Democrat who remained active in party politics until his health began to decline, Briscoe served as governor during the oil-drenched Seventies. He will be buried in a cemetery on the family ranch.
- ▶ The **Green Party of Texas** is being denied ballot access in the November election after Travis County District Judge John Dietz ruled last week that the signatures on their petitions were paid for with illegal corporate contributions. The court heard that Republicans close to Gov. Rick Perry were involved in not one but two potentially illegal petition drives, apparently intended to split the Democratic vote in the general election.
- ▶ Who'll stop the rain? **Hurricane Alex**, the first hurricane of the 2010 season, was expected to make landfall in South Texas late Wednesday, amid growing concern over its impact on attempts to clean up the Gulf oil disaster.
- ▶ *Chronicle* staff writer **Jordan Smith** was named a runner-up for a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for her investigative story, "Believing the Children" (March 27, 2009), on the flawed 1991-1992 inquiry and prosecution of a southwest Austin day care center. The Casey awards are sponsored by the University of Maryland's Journalism Center on Children & Families.



JOHN ANDERSON



JANA BIRCHUM

There's nothing like a little hand-holding in a time of crisis. At this June 26 event, Austin residents joined hands across the sand on Auditorium Shores as part of a world day of action to protect beaches and support the Gulf of Mexico, currently under siege by the BP oil disaster. The event also provided an opportunity to promote alternative energy sources in place of offshore drilling.

Something Must Be Done

City Manager Marc Ott needs to clean up Fleet Services management

BY MICHAEL KING

It's not about scrap tires.

Somebody at City Hall needs to understand, once and for all, that there's a major managerial mess at Fleet Services. This week, the *Chronicle's* Jordan Smith continues her reporting on the story she broke last December concerning the scrap-tire program at Fleet, which manages and maintains the city's thousands of vehicles. As Smith documents, Fleet managers were informed of potentially serious problems in the tire program as early as May 2008, yet they did little or nothing to address the issue – beyond asking the personnel at the center of the problem to investigate themselves. About that same time, Fleet managers decided to stop monitoring the city's considerable inventory of reusable tires, a policy (or rather lack of one) that city officials now say is without "fiscal implications."

How would they know?

Worse yet, the managerial response to persistent allegations of serious problems within Fleet has been to shoot the messengers. That's what apparently happened to former Operations Manager Hiram Kirkland, who was dismissed on dubious charges of self-dealing when he tried to clean up Fleet. Now

it's a cloud hanging over Fleet service manager and whistle-blower Daniel Lomas, who this week in Smith's story goes public with his numerous allegations of mismanagement (and worse), primarily because every attempt he has made to alert city officials about Fleet's problems – ranging from sloppy record-keeping to alleged bid-rigging – has been met with indifference or obstruction.

Instead of treating seriously Lomas' concerns about the negligent way managers were handling valuable inventory (and not just scrap tires), administrators have either explained the problems away or reprimanded Lomas for raising them.

We certainly hope that Lomas' decision to make his complaints public will not evoke more of the same from the city. As I wrote in December 2009, such a response "hardly inspires confidence that the current crop of managers is capable of adequately addressing the rest of the mess."

The Last Resort

Unfortunately, this week's official response to Smith's questions suggests that little has changed. In December, Chief Financial Officer Leslie Browder

CONTINUED ON P.15

QUOTE of the WEEK



"They have now kissed and made up."

– Council Member Bill Spelman, asked to comment on a tense exchange between City Manager Marc Ott and former Austin Energy General Manager Roger Duncan over the search for AE's new general manager (see p.16)

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► **DUNN IS DONE** On May 13, 2009, former Austin Police Detective **Chris Dunn** wrote an e-mail suggesting a review of Nathaniel Sanders II's probation records as part of an internal inquiry into Sanders' death at the hands of former APD Officer **Leonardo Quintana**. "Just as the face of Helen of Troy launched 1000 ships, this e-mail launched an investigation that yielded thousands of pages of statements and reports." So wrote **Thomas Cipolla**, the hearing examiner who decided this week that Dunn will not be getting his job back. Dunn was fired last year for sending what his superiors called a biased e-mail to APD colleagues and for failing to ask a series of questions of Quintana during an IA interview, actions that demonstrated his lack of impartiality and brought discredit to the department, Chief **Art Acevedo** said then. Dunn appealed that decision at a weeklong hearing before Cipolla in April – to no avail. Dunn's actions have "obviously undermined the integrity and credibility of the APD," drawing into question the department's ability to police itself. "His actions were more serious than say pulling a traffic ticket out of the system for a friend or accepting a free meal," Cipolla wrote. "The consequences are also more serious in that his actions have opened the door to assumption that any IA investigation may be corrupt from the outset," he continued. "This is a serious matter with serious consequences for which serious discipline is justified." Also last week, the city won a summary judgment removing it as a defendant in a federal civil rights suit filed against the city and Officer Quintana by Sanders' family. Quintana, however, will remain a defendant; the trial of that case is slated to begin July 19. – *Jordan Smith*

► **HALL HEARING CONTINUES** Travis County prosecutor Allison Wetzel is asking a nine-man, three-woman jury to hand **Laura Ashley Hall** the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for her role in covering up the gruesome 2005 killing of former UT student **Jennifer Cave**. At press time, jurors were still hearing evidence in Hall's resentencing. Hall was convicted in 2007 of hindering the apprehension of her friend **Colton Pitonyak**, who was convicted of killing Cave in his West Campus apartment in August 2005. For her role in the partial dismemberment of Cave's body, she was also convicted of tampering with evidence. Hall's original sentence of five years in prison for the tampering charge was overturned, and a new sentencing hearing ordered, when the 3rd Court of Appeals found that prosecutors had failed in their duty to hand over evidence to Hall's defenders. Prosecutors are urging the jury to impose the 10-year max for tampering, plus one year for the hindering charge; Hall's attorney has asked the jury to impose probation. The hearing is expected to conclude this week. – *J.S.*

► **DEATH PENALTY ON TRIAL** Harris County District Judge **Kevin Fine** has scheduled a hearing for Nov. 8 to consider whether Texas' **death penalty system** fails to protect against the possibility of executing an innocent person. In March, on a motion filed by attorneys for **John Edward Green Jr.** (facing death for the 2008 robbery and murder of **Huong Thien Nguyen** in Houston), Fine ruled that capital punishment as practiced in Texas is unconstitutional for failing to adequately protect the innocent. Fine quickly rescinded that original order, but he last week granted Green's attorneys the right to a hearing on the matter this fall. Green's attorney Casey Keirnan told the Associated Press that he expects the hearing could last up to two weeks and that death penalty experts from around the country will likely testify. "I think everybody in the United States would agree that the possibility exists" that an innocent person has already been executed, he said. – *J.S.*

BIG THINKERS

Council's pre-vacation litany looks toward the biennium

BY WELLS DUNBAR

City Council hasn't been through a 152-item stemwinder like last week's meeting in a while – and won't do so again until late July, when they next meet again. Just as council's current monthlong hiatus predicated an item-overloaded agenda, so too, invariably, will their break bloat the roster they return to July 29, pregnant with a summer's worth of new items, actions, and major decisions on matters like the **city budget**.

But the items receiving the most attention at council's 12-hour marathon Thursday looked even further into the future – to 2012, when a slate of ambitious initiatives may be placed before the voters: the **omnibus bond election**, including both general construction spending and a likely vote on urban rail, and an item that, if voter-approved, would make the **city attorney** report to council instead of the city manager. Even the **recycling contract** negotiations council initiated (see "TDS, Balcones to Split City Recycling Work," p.19) have ramifications that will reverberate for decades.

It's a hallmark of **urban rail's** mammoth footprint that the city needs to spend \$100,000 just to figure out how to finance the actual project itself – and with that total projected at \$1.3 billion, that's arguably money well spent. Failing any new revelations about the rail line (still projected from Mueller to Downtown, then out to the airport along Riverside), other than some nods to regional connectivity, it was the price tag that drew attention. Along with federal help, which the project depends upon to some degree, the city will need a full range of funding options. The Hustle is reminded of former Council Member **Brewster McCracken's** notion to consider whether Austin-Bergstrom International Airport connectivity could trigger an influx of airport-earmarked dollars. (We're also reminded of an outstanding balance burdening Capital Metro, but that's a topic for a whole 'nother column.)

Meanwhile, Transportation Department Director **Robert Spillar** was on double duty, talking up not only the 2012 elections but also this fall's proposed **transportation bond**. The biggest takeaway from Spillar's presentation of the package – which still confusingly bundles projects ID'd for funding with the \$85 million bond money along with projects to be paid for from separate pots – was his admission that the \$17 million **Lady Bird Boardwalk project**, belittled by road warriors as lacking impact and by multimodalists for not being funded via waterfront development contributions, could be divvied up: "In short," said Spillar, "I believe that particular project could be phased, and that could free up capacity."

That acknowledgment may give heft to speculation that the fattened boardwalk calf was always set to be slaughtered, coming in high in order to be frittered away to appease development (i.e., road) interests. If so, that looks pretty self-defeating, as Spillar's presentation arrived attached to some eye-opening numbers on disproportional spending. Tallying Texas Department of Transportation, Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, Cap Metro, and city spending on regional transportation projects through 2018 (totaling \$1.76 billion): 1.1% will be spent on trails and sidewalks, 1.3% on bike lanes, 1.6% on mass transit – and a whopping **94.7% on roads**.

However the tweaks to the transpo bond shakeout, it highlights the importance of not just thinking big but thinking smart. Returning to the 2012 election and potential charter changes that may accompany it, Council Member **Randi Shade** deployed a bit of critical thinking, noting that simply changing the reporting structure of the city attorney (on a proposed charter vote) might not prevent another catastrophe like the **KeyPoint Government Solutions** episode. "I think citizens are best served

when we take a strategic and holistic approach and a less politically expedient approach. ... It feels like a piecemeal approach, and I wanted to raise that point." She later expanded on her remarks in an e-mail: "Changing the reporting structure of the City Attorney doesn't come close to solving the problems associated with KeyPoint and/or the larger issues associated with having better policies in place to ensure that information on legal risks is provided on a regular basis to the Council and City Manager. ... It is complicated regardless of whether the City Attorney reports to Council or City Manager."

Also pertinent to 2012 were remarks from perennial council petitioner **Paul Robbins**, rightly pointing out the need for a charter revision committee to examine other issues to be put to the voters – possibly including single-member districts and other similarly messy but necessary conversations we've put off for too long as we continue to grow in size and prominence. (Elections to alter the city's charter can be held only every two years.)

Going big is obviously on people's minds: With **Lee Leffingwell** commemorating his first year in the mayor's office, we can reflect on council's achievements (attracting high-profile employers), controversies (KeyPoint, the Arizona travel ban), and future priorities (the upcoming elections). With council stretching out for the summer before returning to the thick of budget deliberations, let's hope everyone's thinking similarly big – but still sweating the small stuff. ■



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FOR MORE DETAILS AND EVENTS, SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, P.54.

FRIDAY 02

ROSEMARY RUSSELL VINES' RETIREMENT PARTY

Help bid the beloved Miss Rosemary adieu as she retires from four decades of entertaining – er, teaching – the luckiest 3-year-olds in Austin. (See "Teaching the Teacher," June 23, 2000, for more on Russell Vines' accomplishments.) 5-7pm. Kleberg Hall, St. George's Episcopal School, 4301 N. I-35, 452-6063.



VICTOR AGOSTO As he faces court-martial for refusing redeployment, war resister Victor Agosto shares his thoughts before a screening of Robert Greenwald's doc *Rethink Afghanistan*. 7pm. 5604 Manor, 965-3726. \$10 donation requested. www.5604manor.org.

SUNDAY 04

INDEPENDENCE DAY CHILI COOK-OFF fundraiser for Fredericksburg's **Habitat for Humanity**. (Want to be a contestant? Call 512/567-2835. Fee: \$20.) Noon. Becker Vineyards, 464 Becker Farms Rd., Stonewall. \$5. www.beckervineyards.com.

CHAIN-OFF Join retired APD Cmdr. **Bobbie Oliver** in protesting the inhumane practice of dog-chaining. 5am-10pm. Garrison Park, 6001 Manchaca Rd. www.dogsdeservebetter.org.

MONDAY 05

SIERRA CLUB'S GREEN MONDAY Do a little phone-banking for clean energy, eat a little pizza. 6-8pm. Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club office, 1202 San Antonio. www.texas.sierraclub.org.

TUESDAY 06

AUSTIN SIERRA CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC Bring a dish to share and join the fun on the hill in front of the Barton Springs Bathhouse. 6:30-10pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.



WEDNESDAY 07

CAPITAL CITY YOUNG DEMOCRATS MONTHLY MEETING 6-8pm. Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina. www.traviscountymdemocrats.org.

ZERO WASTE ALLIANCE Learn what you can do to bring your waste output down to nothing at all. 7pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. Free. www.ctzwa.org.

THURSDAY 08

TRANSITION AUSTIN MEETING Join this group attempting to make a smooth transition from an oil-based society to a more sustainable future. 7pm. Lars Stanley Studio, 1901 E.M. Franklin. Free. www.transitionaustin.org.

reported to the City Council that Fleet managers only learned of the problems in tracking scrap tires when the *Chronicle* inquired (in November 2009) about the legally required tracking manifests. Browder reiterated that chronology this week in her latest CYA memo to City Manager Marc Ott, insisting that Fleet Manager Gerry Calk only learned about the "scrap tire pile" through Smith's November inquiries. About the exact location of the pile, maybe – readers (and City Council members) can review with Smith's story the litany of memos stretching back to May 2008 (when this ongoing Fleet discussion was apparently first reduced to writing) and consider whether Browder's version of the history is accurate, or even responsive.

Or they can reflect upon Ott's own written response this week to Smith's question, "When were you first alerted to possible improprieties at Fleet involving the tire program?" Ott answered, "Daniel Lomas first contacted me in May 2009 about his concerns related to tire issues." Among the officials Ott copied on his May 2009 reply to Lomas ("My my, it sounds like we have some very serious issues in fleet") was CFO Leslie Browder.

Lomas only wrote to Ott after a year of vainly attempting to get the substantive attention of the front-line Fleet managers and administrators, who either dismissed the problems he raised as imaginary or reproved Lomas for bringing them up. Given renewed motivation by a city ethics training class, Lomas wrote to Ott: "Mr. Ott you are my last resort, I have documented many acts of unethical behaviors and have submitted them to my Manager, Deputy Officer's, Fleet Officer, and the City Audit Department."

The Lomas paper trail is ample evidence that it simply won't do for the city to keep insisting that all of this brouhaha about Fleet is a big surprise to everybody in management, and that if he had just made his concerns more specific (another tack taken by the Browder memo), no effort would have been spared in making things right.

Much too little, much too late.

The Buck Stops at City Hall

Fleet officials (and their city managers) may believe that Fleet's problems disappeared with the dismissal of tire program manager Bill Janousek – dismissed not for mishandling inventory but instead for tangential violations of policies concerning loans to subordinates. We've certainly not heard the end of that matter (Janousek is appealing his dismissal, and the Austin Police Department is still investigating), but more importantly, the buck simply doesn't stop with Janousek – it goes all the way up the chain of command, to City Manager Ott himself. Judging from the self-contradictory responses to the *Chronicle*'s questions provided by officials this week, it would certainly be reasonable for Ott to conclude he isn't being well-served by several of his subordinates, and that Fleet management in particular needs a serious house-cleaning. (Former City Attorney David

It simply won't do for the city to keep insisting that all of this brouhaha about Fleet is a big surprise to everybody in management.

Smith is no longer available to fade the heat.)

"Something had to be done ... and if I didn't do it, it wouldn't have been done." That's what Daniel Lomas told me this week, when I asked him if during the past

two years he had ever considered just throwing in the towel on his reform efforts at Fleet – concluding, "I've tried, but nobody's listening," and just giving up the fight. The strain of being the odd man out has clearly worn on him and negatively affected his health. He's watched colleagues who've taken similar risks be steadily frozen out of meetings and responsibilities, pressured to resign, or worse. Now that his name is public, he fears more retaliation, although he says that in recent weeks, the supervisors who have dismissed his complaints have "mostly just left me alone."

But Lomas also says he's been gratified by the encouragement of Fleet staffers who have privately congratulated his efforts, who have said they're no longer "looking the other way" at unethical or corrupt practices – because, they say, Lomas has shown at last that if you speak up, eventually somebody will listen. "There are a lot of really good people working at Fleet," Lomas says. "And we know that it can be fixed. This can be done. Something can be done." ■

ONGOING

AUSTIN STRATEGIC MOBILITY PLAN SURVEY Let city planners know your transportation priorities at www.austinstrategicmobility.com/get-involved/survey.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR Find out how badly you're treating the planet – then maybe do something about it – at www.coolaustin.org.

CITY BUDGET SURVEY Which programs should make the cut? Through Friday, July 9. www.cityofaustin.org/citymgr/budget_input.htm.

COUNTY RESOURCES WEBSITE has all kinds of useful info, such as how to get your name changed, renew your passport, and pay your property taxes. www.texascounties4u.org.

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES wants to know which local businesses deserve an Access Award this year. Deadline: July 9. www.cityofaustin.org/ada/access_nomform.htm.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERING PROGRAM Spearhead your own neighborhood improvement project with help from the Public Works Department. www.cityofaustin.org/publicworks/ncd.htm.

YOUR THOUGHTS ON NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT The city needs feedback on funding priorities for housing, community and economic development, and public services for fiscal year 2010-2011. Submit comments at www.cityofaustin.org/housing. Deadline: July 12.

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The Flickering Search for an AE Chief

A lot has happened since the city announced its short list of candidates for **Austin Energy's** new general manager, though very little of it has to do with the actual finalists, three California guys – utility execs Ronald Davis, Larry Weis, and David Wright.

First, there was grumbling over who wasn't on the list, most notably AE's vice president of distributed energy services, **Karl Rábago**, heavily favored by the environmental community (see "AE Finalists: California Dreamin'," June 25). Then, recently

retired GM **Roger Duncan** leapt into the fray to urge consideration of his former boss **Juan Garza**, who preceded Duncan as AE's general manager and was suddenly available to take the job back, having been freshly fired from the same position at the **Pedernales Electric Cooperative**. Then a bunch of environmental groups and low-income advocates petitioned the

city manager to give them some alone time with the Californians, saying that Wednesday night's planned community forum would be "too limited to permit us to have a meaningful conversation with the candidates."

It would seem that after a months-long, nationwide candidate search, City Manager

Marc Ott was not feeling the love. It probably didn't help that on Monday, Davis announced he was dropping out of the contest. One outsider down, two to go.

The decision over AE's new chief is, as Council Member **Bill Spelman** recently put it, "critically important ... to the long-term fiscal health of the city." If the wrong guy gets the job, it would have implications beyond utility bills and the Climate Protection Plan – it would jeopardize AE's general fund transfer,

through which the city gets a substantial chunk of its income. The weight of the decision is enough to put someone a little "on edge," suggested Spelman when asked about the recent tension. It could explain Duncan's 11th-hour request, copied to council members, imploring Ott to "alter the selection process" to include Garza; it could also explain Ott's brusque written response defending the candidate list,

canceling a planned meeting with Duncan, and concluding with, "I am very disappointed."

The two have since made amends. "Marc and I talked by phone, and we, in essence, apologized to each other," said Duncan. "I still think that [Garza] would be a very strong candidate. ... I felt like that was a unique circum-

"So many of the requirements and desires of the job description are things you can't read in a résumé."
– **Matt Johnson,**
Public Citizen



Council Member Bill Spelman says he "made a pitch" to the city manager to consider former Austin Energy head Juan Garza to fill the GM vacancy.

stance that I was making Marc aware of, but ... I'm very respectful of the hiring process, having gone through it many times myself."

As it turns out, Duncan wasn't the first person to suggest giving Garza a chance. Just before the finalist list was announced, said Spelman, he "made a pitch" to Ott to consider the former PEC chief: "He's done this before, he's a national figure, he's very well regarded in the public power industry, and he seemed like a natural person to at least consider." According to Human Resources Director **Mark**

Washington, the city hasn't closed the door on the idea. "Our intent is to hire the best person for the job," he said. "Our search efforts will continue until we have done exactly that." (At press time, the *Chronicle* had not been able to reach Garza for comment.)

On Monday, the city announced that Davis' withdrawal had created an opportunity for "additional vetting by stakeholders" during the remaining two candidates' midweek visit. The city scheduled two panel interviews on Thursday (today), one with the business com-

A Glimpse at AE's GM Candidates

Austin Energy's new general manager will be facing no shortage of challenges in coming years, among them rate hikes, the transition to more renewable energy, and a new business model that can encourage conservation while protecting the bottom

line. Both candidates for the position – **Larry Weis** and **David Wright** – come from California, a state that has led the way in tackling just such challenges. (A third finalist, Ronald Davis of Burbank, Calif., has dropped out of the running.) On Wednesday,

Weis and Wright were in town to meet with city officials and were expected to speak at a public forum in the evening. For those who missed the visit, here are some of the candidates' thoughts on how their experiences might shape AE's future.

Larry Weis

Turlock Irrigation District, Turlock, Calif.

Weis began his career almost 30 years ago as a "preacher of energy efficiency" in commercial and industrial buildings, he says. Today, he is general manager and CEO of **Turlock Irrigation District**, a publicly owned water and electric utility that draws 28% of its power from renewable resources, the highest percentage in the state, says Weis. With the exception of a contract with Oregon's **Boardman coal plant**, Weis says, TID owns and operates all of its generating resources: "Strategically, what I've tried to do with renewables is not get into **purchase power agreements** where a few years down the road we've got to do it all over again."

TID has taken on four rate increases during Weis' decadelong tenure. "What I've tried to do ... is get us to 28 percent



Larry Weis

without having huge rate shocks, and I've been very successful at it," he says, warning that it's best not to get "too ambitious too quickly." Smaller, more gradual rate adjustments have eased the transition, he says, as has TID's decision to leave its contract with the coal plant in 2018 to avoid the costs of investing in emissions-reducing technologies.

"As you move forward into distributed energy and other programs," says Weis, "you also need to be very careful about how your rates are designed. It's very difficult to sort of lead the customer down this path unless they know there's something in it for them, and **incentive-based programs** that offer a carrot instead of a stick is the philosophy that I tend to

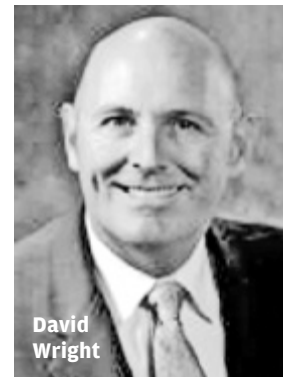
follow." Rather than tiered rates that punish customers for using energy at peak hours, Weis says he prefers incentive-based programs that say, "If you reduce your peak [usage], I'm going to pay for it."

David Wright

Riverside Public Utilities, Riverside, Calif.

Before becoming general manager of **Riverside Public Utilities** five years ago, Wright began his career as a certified public accountant, followed by a stint as city controller, after which he entered the utility as a chief financial officer. "Because I came up from the financial side," says Wright, "I'm really into: What are our goals? How can we do it? How can customers afford it?" Wright says that as long as AE conducts a **cost-of-service study** that accurately reflects its true goals, the rates will be set appropriately and "the revenue will naturally follow." However, he says, "if you put those goals into your cost of service study and it throws your rates beyond what your customers are willing to pay, then you have to go back and revisit your goals."

Right now, says Wright, Riverside is getting 19.8% of its power from renewables, putting it right on target for its goal of 20% by the end of the year. Wright has overseen two



David Wright

cost-of-service studies and tackled rate restructuring. Such initiatives work best when "you talk to every community group you can and get them educated on why you need it," he says.

Wright supports **time-of-use rates** that send "a much stronger price signal so customers adjust their usage patterns ... to lower-cost time frames." However, he says, "you have to be careful" to maintain affordability for low-income customers, especially the elderly, who are often stuck at home during the hottest – most expensive – part of the day. "It actually has health impacts," he says. Riverside's solution has been to ensure "that the peak price in the summer isn't quite as high as [the cost of] our resources," while the winter prices aren't quite as low. Wright also sup-

ports programs to provide services such as free insulation to low-income customers: "It lowers their bills, rather than create this low rate that doesn't have any benefit of encouraging conservation." – N.A.

munity and another with the advocates who had requested extra face time the week before, among them **Matt Johnson** of Public Citizen. "There's an opportunity here for the city manager to observe how these candidates interact with the stakeholders that will be working with them on a weekly basis," said Johnson, who expressed disappointment that the event would not air on Channel 6 for a broader audience. He also said, "I want to reserve as much judgment as I can for the interview because so many of the requirements and desires of the job description are things you can't read in a résumé."

Unlike some past forums that have been "kind of catch-as-catch-can as to whether you get your questions answered," Spelman said, the panel interviews would be different: "People will be able to see: Do [the candidates] have grace under pressure? How are they answering the questions before this group, before that group? I think people will be able to develop a more finely tuned judgment." (However, the panels are open to the invited groups only – not the general public.)

As to what he hopes to see in the ideal candidate, Spelman said: "I'm persuaded they know renewables are important, they know the costs are important, they know they're in a complicated regulatory environment – you can get all that by reading the newspaper." (He's right: See "A Glimpse at AE's GM Candidates," p.16.) The critical question, said Spelman, is this: "Are you prepared to deal with conflicting interests, conflicting concerns, in real time, and keep the lights on?"

– Nora Ankrum

GOP Gets Back to Basics

Getting ready for the November elections, the **Travis County Republican Party** has decided to target a new Democratic political action committee. On June 24, they filed a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission about an attack ad from the new **Back to Basics PAC**. Titled "Rick Perry: Penny Pincher," the ad savages the GOP incumbent for living a profligate lifestyle while state agencies are slashing their budgets. Leaving it to Perry's people to challenge the content, TCRP Chair Rosemary Edwards argued that the group had violated Section 22.1 of the Texas Ethics Commission rules, which requires a PAC to wait for 60 days after it is established and have a minimum of 10 contributors before spending more than \$500. With only a \$250,000 contribution in the bank and 23 days left on the clock, the TCRP said, the PAC should be fined and its treasurer prosecuted. Back to Basics fired back that the Travis County GOP wasn't reading the law right, as subsection D of Section 22.1 gives an exemption to the restrictions if the PAC receives a contribution from a multicandidate PAC registered with the Federal Elections Commission: So, \$200 from the Communications Workers of America – Committee on Political Education PAC on June 3 means the ad was completely legal.

– Richard Whittaker



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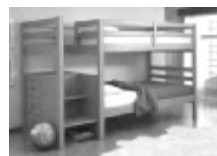
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Funding Questions Follow Cap Metro's Court Win

As if the relationship between **Capital Metro** and its unionized workers weren't already strange enough, a June 8 court victory for the transit agency made it a little weirder. And even though it's a legal win, it's raised the question of whether Cap Metro's federal funding could be jeopardized.

First, the requisite background, which followers of Cap Metro have heard before: State law forbids public employees from collective bargaining and striking. However, federal law requires that any agency receiving federal funds must grant employees those rights. To get around this conundrum, in 1991 Cap Metro created a shell corporation named **StarTran**, which then technically became the employer of most of Cap Metro's mechanics and bus drivers. The official line is that labor contracts and labor disputes are between StarTran and Amalgamated Transit Union **Local 1091**, not Cap Metro.

But Cap Metro seemingly argued nearly the opposite in challenging a \$500 fine against StarTran in 2002 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for failure to turn in requested paperwork. **OSHA** has jurisdiction over private employers, and Cap Metro claimed that OSHA has no jurisdiction over StarTran because it is a public agency directly under the control of Cap Metro. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.

So StarTran is a private contractor separate from Cap Metro ... except when it's not. (Cap Metro's other labor contractors, **First Transit**, **Herzog Transit Services**, and **Veolia Transportation**, truly are private.)

The situation raises a big question: If StarTran is a public agency, are its employees forbidden to strike under Texas law? And if so, could federal dollars be withheld from the agency? ATU 1091 President **Jay Wyatt** believes it's a problem. The *Chronicle* was unable to reach the vacationing Wyatt, but he told the *Statesman*, "Their grants are going to be held up based on this."

Cap Metro interim CEO Doug Allen doesn't agree. "The National Labor Relations Board looks at different things than OSHA," Allen told the *Chronicle*. "[NLRB] looks at ... who controls the work rules, who controls the daily operations, and who does collective bargaining. What the 5th Circuit looked at is who controls the StarTran board, and they viewed it that Capital Metro controls that.

"It is confusing, as we've all been talking about for a while," Allen continued. "It's a confusing arrangement between Capital Metro and StarTran, and that's why in the [Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization] peer review a couple of years ago it said something needed to be done, and in the **Sunset** review [see "Cap

Metro Promises to Be Good," May 14] it said something needed to be done, and that's why we're looking at something different. But it doesn't directly affect our ability to get federal funds at this point, because the 5th Circuit ruling looked at something different than what [NLRB] would be looking at."

Allen says the agency is currently examining a range of options. Among them:

- Convince StarTran employees to become direct hires of Cap Metro. Those unionized employees would lose their right to

Empty Seats on the Red Line

The MetroRail is still going the wrong way: Ridership in its second full month of service declined again, hitting a daily average of 775 boardings in May. (The actual number of riders is much lower, since presumably most commuters go round-trip.) That's down from 901 boardings per day in April, the Red Line's first full month of revenue service.

— Lee Nichols



NORA ANKRUM



JOHN ANDERSON

"It is confusing," says Cap Metro interim CEO Doug Allen of the transit agency's arrangement with StarTran.

strike and switch to the "meet and confer" status under which other public workers negotiate.

- Contract out all the labor by bid, which would put StarTran on the same footing as First Transit and Veolia in competing for Cap Metro work. This was the option called for by the Sunset Commission report.

The former option obviously would pose a real threat to that federal money. Allen said he spoke with Wyatt recently and says the union might be willing to give up the right to strike if it could have binding arbitration instead, something which Allen says is currently prohibited by state law.

Allen also says the transit agency is not warm to that idea, because it "would really give up the [Cap Metro] board's fiduciary responsibility to a third party. ... The recent Sunset report [wanted] the board to be more responsible for financial issues, not less."

The *Statesman* report needed Cap Metro for spending \$60,000 in legal fees to fight a \$500 fine, "but it actually would have cost us more had we actually had to do the duplicative work of all the OSHA reports and all the work associated with that," Allen claims. "We probably would have spent that much if not more on an annual basis." — Lee Nichols

End of the Road for Eastside Urban Renewal?

So what are the odds that the tri-party agreement between the **Austin Revitalization Authority**, the **Urban Renewal Board**, and the city of Austin will survive past the end of October, when it's due to expire? Apparently not high, if one judges by comments last week from members of the URB.

The agreement, which makes ARA the lead developer for trying to revitalize and protect the culture of the East 11th and East 12th corridors, has been maligned by many for failing to deliver on that goal, as ARA has accomplished a few projects on 11th but very little on 12th Street. Back in April, the Robertson Hill and Swede Hill neighborhood associations called for an end to the deal, in which the city provides substantial operational funding to the ARA.

More recently, URB Chair **Ben Sifuentes** said he's done with the tri-party and even thinks the URB itself, which oversees the 11th and 12th streets project, should go.

"The URB and the tri-party agreement didn't work," Sifuentes told the online city politics newsletter In Fact Daily. "Why do we need it? Why do we have it? Do away with

them. The Urban Renewal Agency's sole power is eminent domain, and we've already gotten the land that we've gotten, and it can't be developed right now."

Sifuentes told In Fact Daily that protecting the area's culture has become a moot point now that the area has become heavily gentrified, and natural market forces should be allowed to take over, as has happened along East Fifth and Sixth streets.

Another URB member, former *Chronicle* news staffer **Mike Clark-Madison**, at least partially agreed and said similar sentiments are held by other members. "We really have to ask ourselves and the community: What is the best way to move forward, given that the ARA is unlikely to develop any new projects for some time and might not be able to for a couple of years?," Clark-Madison told the *Chronicle*. Both the ARA and real estate experts at a recent community forum said that the current economic climate has slowed development everywhere and that the Eastside would likely be even harder hit than most places.

"The dream of restoring the old East End is dead, done," he said. "Right now, there

is no support for renewing the tri-party agreement on the URB."

However, he disagreed with the notion of doing away with the URB itself. "We may need an urban renewal structure in other areas of the city," Clark-Madison said. "But it may not be the current URB."

The ultimate decisions on those questions lie with City Council. "We need to keep supporting redevelopment of East 11th and 12th," said Council Member **Chris Riley**. "But the present tri-party agreement may not be the best structure for that effort." Council Member **Sheryl Cole** sounded less certain. "I don't know if the tri-party agreement will be renewed," she said. "There are several complicating factors. ... It's a little early in the process to make that call.

"I think it's fair to say there has not been the redevelopment anticipated on 11th and



JANA BIRCHUM

Momentum is building to end the city's development agreement with the Austin Revitalization Authority.

12th streets, but it's also fair to say there has not been the redevelopment anticipated at the **Domain** [a city-subsidized retail center in North Austin], and nobody brings that up. These have been down years, and to blame all that on the ARA I don't think is fair, but to not recognize they could have done a better job is not fair either."

— L.N.

TDS, Balcones to Split City Recycling Work

The latest chapter of Austin's recycling saga comes to a close with a less-than-unanimous vote to negotiate long-term contracts with **Texas Disposal Systems** – banned from the city's since-abandoned bidding process – and with bidding process finalist **Balcones Resources**. Both firms, along with current recycler **Greenstar North America**, can also negotiate to meet the city's short-term recycling needs.

The 5-2 vote to initiate negotiations with the named firms instead of using the request for proposals bidding process – available to council only in specific public health and safety instances – came after nay votes **Bill Spelman** and **Sheryl Cole** fought to reissue the bid. Spelman said he was "concerned about the propriety of negotiating with one of the companies not included in the RFP," before noting his preference to reopen the RFP process, "if it can be done in an expeditious way." But despite having just been through an RFP, Purchasing Officer **Byron Johnson** informed council that a five- to six-month window was the shortest the process could span, meaning a contract still wouldn't be ready a year after council started the process and before the September expiration of the city's current contract with Greenstar.



JOHN ANDERSON

Sheryl Cole joined Bill Spelman in casting a "no" vote on the long-term recycling deal.

To that end, Spelman and Cole offered their own resolution, one that would negotiate a short-term extension with Greenstar, while negotiating a contract with Balcones. But after **Randi Shade** moved passage of the TDS/Balcones resolution, Cole, feeling the need for an RFP process for a contract of this size (Johnson estimated the total impact at \$25 million to \$35 million), made a substitute motion to begin a new RFP process, including new metrics such as a company's environmental record and whether it would create a positive cash flow to the city. "The sanctity of the procurement process is on the line," Cole said, later intimating that if the TDS-negotiating contract was passed, "we say to every other contractor that comes before us, 'This is how we do business.'" But Cole's substitute motion failed 5-2, and Shade's original motion, with a friendly amendment from **Chris Riley** that would also seat Greenstar at the negotiating table for a short-term contract, passed.

With negotiations under way, City Council is expected to ink a short-term recycling contract when they return to the dais at the end of July, with a long-term contract, including creation of a materials recovery facility, in September. – Wells Dunbar

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Don't Go Into the Light

If you're trying to find the University of Texas **McDonald Observatory** from space, it's the thing that's not there. Rebecca Johnson, the observatory's press officer, explained, "If you look at a picture of the globe at night and you look where the observatory is, it's just a black spot." However, much of the rest of Texas, the U.S., and the northern hemisphere is afflicted with light pollution. That's the ambient glow in the night sky from streetlights, billboards, and building lights that just shine into the sky, illuminating nothing. Now staff at UT are working to teach Texans that light pollution isn't just a nuisance to stargazers but a pervasive problem with real health impacts.

UT's astronomers have been aware of the problem for years, but through July 4 they're highlighting the issue in their two nationally syndicated radio shows (the English-language *StarDate* and the Spanish-language *Universo*). There's also a new video highlighting the issue available on the observatory's website, and discussions of light pollution will become a key part of presentations to visitors to the West Texas facility. With new funding from a grant from Premack Law Office of San Antonio, Johnson said, "We're trying to spread that word out even more."

Light pollution is a problem with simple solutions. The technology – from light fittings with reflective shields to low-voltage motion sensors and LED lighting – is commonly available and improving every year. Rowena Evans, editor of the **International Dark-Sky Association's** *Nightscape* magazine, said

it's the only form of pollution that can disappear with a flick of a switch: All it takes is better planning and retrofitting of old fixtures. "We don't want to turn off the lights," said Evans, "just to make you think about how you're going to light."

For the McDonald Observatory, it's a simple equation: The more glow in the atmosphere, the tougher it is to see the stars. That's why the facility was built out in a remote part of West Texas in the first place, far from any streetlights. The observatory's light pollution expert **Bill Wren** said, "It's the darkest spot left for a North American observatory, and it's my job to try to keep it that way."

Yet light pollution isn't just a problem for rural stargazers: It has a serious impact on the urban environment as well. Evans said, "While it's not as immediately threatening as the Gulf oil spill, at the same time there is this steady encroachment and it's becoming an issue to a lot of people." It has been shown to affect migratory patterns for birds, damage the breeding cycles of certain species of frogs and sea turtles, and cause insects to swarm in unnatural cycles. There are also severe concerns about the effect on humans: In 2009, the American Medical



Astronomy ain't light pollution: The Painter observatory on the UT-Austin campus contends with some well-illuminated neighbors.

COURTESY OF UT AUSTIN/ASTRONOMY DEPT.

Association passed Resolution 516, which cites the disruption to sleep patterns caused by excessive nighttime lighting, and that disruption has been linked to depressed immune systems and increased rates of certain cancers. There's even a cultural impact. Evans said, "When you think about how much of human history – creation myths, navigation, the desire to put things in space – has been inspired by the starry night – now, for the first time, children are growing up without seeing that."

More insidious than the visible light pollution may be the invisible emissions from power plants burning fossil fuels to light empty sky. According to the International Dark-Sky Association, 22% of all energy produced in the U.S. goes toward lighting. Even just reducing the light pollution from the 1.8% of all U.S.-produced electricity that goes toward public outdoor illumination would have a measurable impact on pollution and costs. When he lays the case out, he said, "suddenly the cash registers start kerchunking."

He's worked with neighboring communities like Marfa and Alpine to pass ordinances and

work on building codes to encourage the use of nonpolluting fixtures. That helps keep the McDonald competitive for research with facilities like Chile's La Silla Paranal Observatory and Hawaii's Mauna Kea complex, and the resultant ecotourism dollars make the ordinances "a soft sell for the local community," Wren said.

Texas does have some light pollution legislation, but it is gappy at best. Similarly, the city of Austin has introduced building guidelines to help reduce light pollution – but there are some big offenders in Downtown Austin, including the state Capitol and even UT itself, with the floodlights at the stadiums, Intramural Fields, and UT Tower causing a glow in the night sky. Encouraging big urban centers to work on light pollution has been part of Wren's job for more than a decade: He's worked with communities as far away from McDonald as Midland and El Paso, showing them the ease and benefits of cutting down on wasted light. "I don't dwell on the bad lighting; I show people the good fixtures," he said. "Tens of billions of dollars in light going up into the night skies does nobody any good." – Richard Whittaker

Packing Heat in the Windy City

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 28 overturned a longstanding Chicago ban on **private handgun ownership**, ruling that it runs afoul of the Second Amendment's right to bear arms. A group of Chicago residents had challenged the city's 1982 handgun ban, saying the restrictions left them "vulnerable to criminals," Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the five-justice majority. The residents sued but were initially shot down when the federal circuit court ruled that the Supremes' 2008 ruling in another case, which invalidated a similar ban in Washington, D.C., had not decided whether the Second Amendment protections extended to the individual states. On Monday, Alito wrote that protections on gun ownership are indeed "fully applicable to the States." Not surprisingly, the ruling pleased Texas' Attorney General **Greg Abbott**, who authored a friend-of-the-court brief in the case on behalf of 33 state attorneys general. "The decision marks a victory not only for law-abiding gun owners, but also for the constitutional rights and liberties that our Founders guaranteed to all Americans," Abbott said in a statement.

– Jordan Smith

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BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE CHAMBER OF COMMIES

In the category of “big news that has gotten little coverage,” consider this stunner: The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** has openly embraced **socialism!**

Not for you and me, of course, but for one of the world’s largest and wealthiest corporations: **BP**. On May 27, the chamber’s president, **Tom Donohue**, came out of his Leninist closet to assert his communitarian affinity for corporate socialism: “Everybody is going to contribute to this cleanup,” Donohue declared. “We are all going to have to do it. We are going to have to get the money from the government and from the companies, and we will figure out a way to do that.”

What a hoot! The guy who earlier this year was screeching in horror against government health care coverage for ordinary Americans has now flipped over to the compassionate side, demanding that those same ordinary Americans simply must “contribute” their tax dollars to clean up the disaster caused by the greed of a foreign oil corporation. Hypocrisy, thy name is Donohue! Even *Saturday Night Live* wouldn’t air a skit this crude.

BP might be a British outfit, but it’s also a member and major funder of the U.S. Chamber, which in turn has been a major backer of deregulating Big Oil’s offshore drilling schemes. Thus, it’s really no surprise that Donohue’s inner flower child would bloom in the midst of BP’s oozing oil disaster. And don’t you love his kumbaya sensitivity, his we’re-all-in-this-together social sensibility?

Let’s all sing along with Tom’s heart-tugging song: “We are going to have to get the money from the government/We will figure out a way to do that/Kumbaya, Lord, kumbaya.”

Adding to the hilarity, Donohue later tried to retract his socialist stand, but he only came off as a rhetorical contortionist, still leaving taxpayers on the hook for BP’s mess.

BP’S STEADY FLOW OF BS

Urgent memo to the shareholders of the oil corporation formerly known as **British Petroleum**: Cap that gusher! And the other one, too!

Some of the worst damage being done to BP’s credibility and reputation is not coming from the 30,000-40,000 barrels gushing every day from its well on the Gulf floor but from the torrent of stupid comments gushing from the mouths of various BP honchos. The oil giant’s CEO, **Tony “Tone Deaf” Hayward**, has already been enshrined in the Goofball Hall of Fame for what apparently is his bottomless well of gushing insensitivity. From his early assertion that the environmental impact of BP’s failed well “will be very modest” to his recent narcissistic whine that “I’d like my life back” – Tony is a one-man plume of pollution.

Unfortunately, he’s not BP’s lone ranger of galloping goofiness. In mid-June, Chief Operating Officer **Doug Suttles** stupidly spewed his own stream of nonsense by flatly announcing that the gusher would be reduced to a “relative trickle” within days. Days passed. Oil kept gushing. More and more birds, turtles, and other wildlife died. More marshes and beaches were soiled. And, once again, the hopes of people on the **Gulf Coast** were suffocated, having been thoroughly coated in the goo of BP’s steady flow of BS.

The oil giant’s top executives can’t even apologize without mucking things up. At the White House on June 16, BP Chair **Carl-Henric Svanberg** declared: “I hear comments sometimes that large oil companies are really companies that don’t care, but that is not the case in BP. We care about the small people.”

Small people? The more this giant talks, the smaller it becomes. Memo to shareholders: Invest in some duct tape. Pronto!


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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Kicking the Tires at Fleet

A city whistle-blower confirms that the trouble at Fleet Services has been much worse than neglected scrap tires and bad record-keeping. And nobody in charge wants to hear it.

BY JORDAN SMITH

Documents recently obtained by the *Chronicle* show that officials within the city's Fleet Services Division, and many others in City Hall – including former City Attorney David Smith, Chief Financial Officer Leslie Browder, and City Manager Marc Ott – despite their official denials, were told about possible wrongdoing involving the city's dumping of scrapped tires at least six months before we first reported the problems in December.

Correspondence between city officials and Daniel Lomas, manager of Fleet's vehicle service center across the street from Austin Police Department headquarters on Eighth Street, show that, beginning in May 2008, Lomas reported record-keeping problems and possible violations of state law by Fleet officials, including potentially criminal allegations involving former Tire Program Manager Bill Janousek. Janousek was fired earlier this year officially for violating a personnel policy and remains under investigation.

Nonetheless, it is still unclear what Fleet or other city officials did, if anything, to investigate the serious allegations of impropriety that Lomas had reported – allegations not only of dumping scrap tires but also of possible bid-rigging on at least one tire-related contract and theft of new spare tires meant for use on police cars.

Last week, when we requested additional information concerning the tire program, we were told that documents are being withheld due to an ongoing criminal investigation. Austin Police are “working with [prosecutors] and soon there will be clear direction on the issue of whether to recommend prosecution,” we were told in a statement from the city's Public Information Office.

In late November 2009, city officials first told the *Chronicle* that prior to our reporting the matter, they had never been alerted to the problem of scrap tires being abandoned by the city on property southeast of Downtown. The tract was leased by Victor Almaguer, owner of Vic's Tire Service, which formerly held a city contract to repair flat tires. Almaguer was not registered with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to transport or to store large numbers of tires, as required by state law. Nonetheless, he had been doing just that since at least 2003, at the request of Janousek, Almaguer told us, work for which Almaguer said he'd never been paid. When we asked the city for information about the tires left moldering for years on Almaguer's property, we were told that our inquiries were the first they'd heard of the problem.

Later, however, the response began to change. In a subsequent official statement provided by city spokesman Reyne Telles, we were told the “allegations are something we take seriously” and it had been “determined that the claims are part of an ongoing investigation.” Then, in a Dec. 8, 2009, memo, Browder explained to Mayor Lee Leffingwell and City Council that it was during the “process of researching and compiling the records” responsive to a *Chronicle* open records request that “management at Fleet Services became aware there was a breakdown in the record-keeping process used to track tire disposals.” Moreover, she informed council that the first time the city had actually heard about the tire mound at Almaguer's property was via an anonymous report made to the city's

Health and Human Services Department at some time prior to our first report.

When we finally had the opportunity in April to directly ask Fleet's top official, Fleet Officer Gerry Calk, about when he first learned of the scrap tire mess, he said he hadn't known of it until we brought the problem to the city's attention. When pressed, however, he said that at some point in August 2009, he had gotten an “unspecified allegation” that tires “were being diverted from the scrap stream.” But he said he was never given any evidence that it was happening – in essence, he said he had nothing to go on from which to investigate the matter.

Yet according to documentation provided by Lomas – including an audio recording from a meeting on Aug. 24, 2009, involving Lomas, Calk, and Sharon Huckabee, Fleet's human resources manager – numerous Fleet officials, including Calk and Deputy Fleet Officer Jennifer Walls, had previously been made aware of a host of allegations involving Janousek and the tracking of city tires, including those intended for the scrap heap.

Moreover, the documents reflect that Lomas had been reporting the same allegations of wrongdoing to high-ranking city officials, including Ott, since at least May 2009 – more than six months before our first report. On May 6, the day after an ethics training class, Lomas wrote to Ott in part, “When I [hear] you plea for the City to join together and conserve our resources, it makes me think that you are not aware of the abuse being allowed and the thousands of tax payers dollars that are not being accounted for.”

It bears noting that in 2008, both Calk and Ott were relatively new to Austin. Ott was appointed in January 2008, and Calk arrived at Fleet from a similar position in Kansas City in July. It's unclear whether that transition had any bearing on their responses to persistent problems at Fleet.

Through the following months, Lomas continued to write to Ott and other city officials about the ongoing problems at Fleet. “Victor Almaguer said he has a stockpile of used scrap tires that he got from Bill Janousek that will cost \$45,000 to \$65,000 to dispose of,” Lomas wrote in an Aug. 2, 2009, memo to Ott. “Victor Almaguer said he was not subcontracted by TCI Tire Co. for picking up scrap tires, as ... Janousek had claimed.” Moreover, Lomas told Ott that Almaguer “is not registered with the [TCEQ] as required by law for transporting, disposing or storing scrap tires.” Less than three hours later, Ott responded in an e-mail sent from his iPhone. “I have received many complaints about Fleet lately and I'm very very concerned,” he wrote. “I assure you that we are going to get to the bottom of it. If what you're saying is true those responsible will be held accountable.” And in a postscript to then-City Attorney David Smith, Ott wrote, “Let's discuss asap. Thanks Marc.”

This week, city officials released statements reiterating that they only learned of the scrap tire problems when the *Chronicle* inquired about them in November 2009, although they also acknowledged receiving some allegations as early as August – and Ott specifically said Lomas contacted him about the problems in May. In short, the official responses thus far can best be described as inconsistent.



It wasn't the first time Lomas had reported possible improprieties at Fleet, and it wasn't the first time he hadn't received any substantive response.

Disappearing Inventory, Official Silence

Although Lomas reported his concerns about the tire program directly to the city manager beginning in the spring of 2009 – in a series of back-and-forth communications on which a number of city officials were eventually copied, including Browder, Smith, Police Chief Art Acevedo, and Deputy Chief Financial Officer Jeff Knodel – Lomas says he received very little response beyond brief e-mail acknowledgments.

It wasn't the first time Lomas had reported possible improprieties at Fleet, and it wasn't the first time he hadn't received any substantive response.

Lomas came to the city's Fleet Services in 2006 after a successful career owning an auto repair shop in Corpus Christi. When his family moved to Austin, Lomas sought a job that would use the skills he'd developed over the last 25 years. Fleet Services was an obvious choice. Lomas was first employed as the Fleet Program coordinator, in charge of training for mechanics and keeping track of their professional certifications, among other things. He was promoted to manager of one of the city's eight auto-service centers in January 2008, running the shop that handles most of the work on Austin's police vehicles, a position he still holds.

It was while he was working as program coordinator that Lomas began to see that there were certain things wrong with the city's Fleet operations – including major problems with the way tires were handled. Indeed, Lomas was one of just a few managers asked by the division's former operations manager,

CONTINUED ON P.24

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Hiram Kirkland, to look into possible wrongdoing within Fleet's operations. In particular, Lomas was asked to help with an investigation involving missing inventory at one service center and to undertake an investigation of how the tire program was being run, Lomas said. Kirkland "had me looking at different processes with inventory and how we did work within Fleet," Lomas recalled recently. "He told me to look at everything."

But Kirkland was placed on administrative leave in March 2008, while officials looked into a six-month-old allegation that he'd been steering warranty-covered fleet-vehicle work to a dealership where his son worked. Nevertheless, Lomas said, Kirkland directed him to continue with the investigations. (Kirkland was ultimately fired in the spring of 2009, and he filed a whistle-blower lawsuit against the city alleging that instead of looking into the allegations that he had raised and weeding out the bad apples in Fleet, city officials, including within the city's Human Resources Department, instead focused on him. Among Kirkland's specific allegations were that certain contracts were rigged in favor of certain vendors, that \$250,000 in auto parts had been literally thrown away, and that at least one employee at one of the service centers was stealing parts and supplies and manipulating inventory documents to hide the theft. In late 2009, Kirkland's lawsuit was dismissed in a summary judgment; the case is under appeal.)

Lomas did as he was told. According to e-mail communications, his earliest reports to his supervisors about possible problems within the tire program came in May 2008, two months after Kirkland was placed on leave. In mid-May, Lomas said he met with several Fleet supervisors – Deputy Fleet Officer Walls, Fleet Operations Manager Irvin Schmidt, and Urcha Dunbar-Crespo, an acting deputy Fleet officer – to report problems with the way the department was recording so-called tire "credits," in essence a tally of all tires removed from city vehicles for repair or retreading. Put another way, the tire credits are a count of all tires removed from city vehicles that remain usable and aren't yet destined for the scrap pile. By early 2008, the number of credits being recorded was dwindling, and by May (just after Kirkland was placed on leave), Fleet officials decided to stop recording the credits at all. Lomas was concerned that failing to record those credits could be a sign of, or lead to, fraud or theft. Indeed, it was Kirkland who had required the credits to be tracked; when Kirkland left, Lomas said, Fleet officials ended the practice. Lomas' concerns about what might happen if those tires were no longer tracked were ignored, he said.

This week, city officials acknowledged that the practice of tracking the credits was ended in "April/May 2008" and that they do not believe it has "any fiscal implications."

At the same meeting, Lomas said he raised two other issues that had come to his attention during the inquiry into the city's handling of tires. First, he said, it did not appear

that the tire program manager, Janousek, was following the city's procedures for handling spare tires, especially those that are removed from police cars during the "make ready" process. Because police carry a lot of equipment, there isn't room for a spare in the trunk; when new police cars arrive, the spares are removed and are supposed to be recorded back into inventory and then sent out to be used on the cars as needed. Lomas says he told supervisors he didn't think Janousek was following the proper procedure. Eventually, he said recently, dozens of spare tires simply disappeared from inventory.



JANA BIRCHUM

The back parking lot of the Fleet maintenance building

Lomas raised concerns about the handling of spares at the meeting on May 28, 2008, and then returned to the subject in at least six subsequent e-mails to supervisors (including Walls, Schmidt, and Calk) – including an Aug. 1, 2008, e-mail in which Lomas told his supervisors that 30 spares taken from the city's fleet of 2008 Crown Victorias had apparently disappeared. It wasn't until July 1, 2009, says Lomas, that he was told that an investigation of the matter was complete and that no wrongdoing had been found. (In all, Lomas told the *Chronicle*, 60 Crown Vic tires went missing, at a cost of roughly \$18,000, and an additional 50 spare tires for garbage trucks, worth about \$25,000, also disappeared.) But Lomas said the investigation itself was suspect: "Janousek audited the missing spare tires."

City officials have responded that the audit was in fact performed by Walls, Dunbar-Crespo, and Schmidt and that it found no tires unaccounted for.

Responsibility and Ethics

As it happens, Lomas' complaints were not the first the city had received about apparent problems in the tire program. According to a March 2006 report from then-Assistant City Auditor Susan Wynne, an anonymous complaint had been received that then-city-contractor Almaguer was colluding with an

"unnamed Fleet Services Tire Shop employee" to mark as "scrap" tires that were still good. Those tires would then be sold out the back door, the tipster alleged in part. But according to Wynne's report, there was no evidence that anything was amiss. "However, it is important to note that we met with some difficulty when attempting to review Fleet Services inventory records," which were not standardized, she wrote, "which may have impacted our ability to fully detect such patterns, if they existed."

Notably, the *Chronicle's* report in December 2009 about the scrap tires abandoned on Almaguer's property also recounted that the

we've been doing of discarding these tires improperly. And we're talking about thousands of tires that have been dumped, and we're liable for them."

Calk responded, "As long as we are paying a contractor who is registered ... to pick up those tires, who he has come and pick them up under his name is irrelevant to us." Lomas insisted that the city was on the hook for those tires, including their disposal, but Calk disagreed. "Well, they are disposed of when the contractor picks them up for us. If we've got a manifest from a contractor saying they are licensed to do that, showing that they're picked up, our liability [is over]," he said. When Lomas pressed, Calk said he was the "one that's responsible for that" and that if he was wrong he "will take the responsibility."

So far, it does not appear that has happened.

Lomas felt that he had appropriately reported his concerns to his supervisors, but as almost a year passed without any apparent investigation into the issues he'd reported, or even a substantive response, Lomas began to contact officials outside Fleet. In March 2009, he wrote an e-mail to Wynne, saying, "I have not heard anything about the tire issues I reported last May and the abuse appears to be continuing." He was concerned that "hundreds of thousands of dollars" worth of rubber was not "being accounted for," he wrote. "The issues I am referring to can be easily audited and verified," he continued. He says Wynne never responded.

So on May 6, 2009, he forwarded that e-mail as part of his first direct communication with City Manager Marc Ott. "I wish I did not have to write this e-mail, however during an ethics training class yesterday, I was told that I could be held responsible if I gave up and quit reporting illegal acts observed within the City," Lomas wrote. "Mr. Ott you are my last resort." Lomas wrote that he had reported impropriety to his supervisors the year before but had heard nothing in return.

According to Ott's response, it seems that perhaps Lomas wasn't the only Fleet employee with concerns about the way the department was being run: "My my, it sounds like we have some very serious issues in fleet," Ott wrote. "Other fleet employees have expressed various concerns as well. I will look into the issues you have raised." In a postscript, he wrote to Browder that he believed that in light "of the series of recent e-mails" that a meeting should be convened with Ott, Browder, and Deputy CFO Jeff Knodel "to meet and discuss. Please make the arrangements."

Spinning the Wheels

Lomas says he was pleased to hear back from someone at the city who seemed to care about what was going on, and he was more confident that the problems would be addressed. On May 11, 2009, he sent another e-mail to Ott, with a bulleted list of concerns he'd previously reported to his supervisors, allegations that dated back to February 2008. In response, Ott wrote that he would have Knodel look into the matter.

Lomas was thrilled: "I don't know how to thank you, I want you to know that I have not given up."

But Lomas would later come to believe that his confidence had been premature. On July 14, 2009, he penned a memo to Ott to say, in part, that Knodel had done little to address his concerns. During a July 1, 2009, meeting with Knodel, for example, Lomas had learned that none other than Janousek had been tapped to do the inventory audit to determine if any tires had gone missing. "The investigation for the tire theft and abuse was conducted by the same people suspected of perpetrating the abuse," Lomas wrote to Ott. "To this day not one single person has been held accountable for any of the wrong doing which I reported," he continued. "Mr. Ott you are my last hope within the City ... for obtaining a full and ethical ... investigation and resolution to the wrong doings I have reported." In a response from Ott, to which Browder, Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald, and then-City Attorney David Smith were copied, Ott said he would "take a more direct look into your concerns. I am very disturbed by what you have described." And, again, in a postscript, he addressed Smith directly: "David, please see me re the attached. I am very concerned about the allegations described below."

What exactly happened at City Hall after Lomas' mid-July 2009 e-mails isn't clear.

On Aug. 2, 2009, Lomas again wrote to Ott, this time detailing a conversation he'd had with Almaguer about problems at Fleet. The previous week Almaguer had called Lomas to share a series of recordings of conversations between Almaguer and Janousek that Almaguer had made. Almaguer also confirmed for Lomas that he was not registered with TCEQ to handle scrap tires and that he had a "stockpile" of scrap that would cost thousands to dispose of. And Almaguer leveled a host of other allegations against Janousek – including that Janousek had "rigged some of the information on the tire service [contract] bid sheet" in order to give unfair advantage to "one of the bidders," Lomas wrote to Ott.

In a recent phone conversation with the *Chronicle*, Almaguer repeated his claim that the tire-service contract, which Almaguer previously held, had been rigged by Janousek. Almaguer says Janousek told him that he put into the contract a "fake tire size" – listing a real tire but one that the city never uses, in order to allow a knowing vendor to offer an artificially low repair price on that tire, thereby lowering the overall bid.

Janousek's attorney, Andrew Williams, denies that Janousek was involved in any bid-rigging. In fact, he said that Janousek repeatedly reported to supervisors, mostly via e-mail, his concerns with the scrap tire program and other issues in Fleet. Janousek hasn't yet been able to prove that, however,

CONTINUED ON P.26

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because the city – citing the pending investigation – has declined to release the e-mails in question, Williams said. Instead of protecting his client, Williams said, the city has made Janousek a scapegoat for its Fleet problems. “Basically he is a fall guy for the city and a fall guy for Vic [Almaguer],” he said. According to Williams, Janousek is nothing more than a “hardworking, blue-collar guy who has been through a lot and wants to help people when he can; he does the right thing.”

When Lomas wrote to Ott about Almaguer’s charges, Ott again responded by saying he was “very very concerned” and he would “assure” Lomas that “we are going to get to the bottom of it.”

As far as Lomas could tell, that did not happen. This week, city officials told the *Chronicle* that they had “never received an allegation that the tire service contract ... was rigged to favor a specific vendor.”

On Aug. 24, 2009, Lomas was called to a meeting with Calk, Schmidt, and Huckabee – a meeting that Lomas recorded. The subject of the meeting was not Lomas’ complaints but rather to reprimand Lomas for being “confrontational and unprofessional” during a May

2009 contract bid-evaluation meeting. During the meeting, Lomas had made a flippant comment to Janousek about what seemed to Lomas a hostile reaction to news that a Janousek-preferred vendor had not gotten the tire-replacement contract. Lomas received a formal written reprimand for allegedly being rude to Janousek. (Janousek was also reprimanded for his behavior at that meeting.)

Perhaps it was just a coincidence of timing, but to Lomas it seemed that the reprimand, the second he received last year for being “confrontational,” was retaliation for his continued reporting of problems inside Fleet. That’s what he told Ott in an Aug. 26, 2009, e-mail; Ott responded that he understood Lomas’ frustrations. “I assure you that these matters are being investigated in the most serious way,” he wrote. Lomas replied once more, to offer Ott additional information about possible improprieties in Fleet. This time, Ott’s response was more circumspect: “Please be advised that I have asked the City Attorney to lead this investigation. I must now ask you to direct any future information regarding this matter to our City Attorney David Smith.”

In a follow-up e-mail, Ott insisted that Smith was “fully engaged and committed to

getting this matter resolved” and asked Lomas not to e-mail him directly any more. “Since at some point, I may be required to make decisions regarding your allegations and complaints, it is important that the investigation proceed independent of my involvement until I am presented with the City Attorney’s findings and recommendations.”

Lomas did pass information along to Smith expressing his concerns about problems in Fleet and about his feelings that he was being retaliated against for reporting the possible wrongdoing. Notably, he told Smith about the recording he’d made of the Aug. 24, 2009, meeting with Calk and other Fleet officials, and during a sit-down meeting on Feb. 5 of this year, Lomas says, he played the tape for Browder and then Assistant City Attorney Lee Crawford.

Still, nothing seemed to be happening. One month later, Smith wrote a memo to Lomas to say that he and Crawford had determined that Lomas’ complaints about retaliation were without merit and that a “criminal investigation” of Fleet’s “Operational Issues” was pending. If they needed any additional information from Lomas, they’d let him know, Smith wrote.

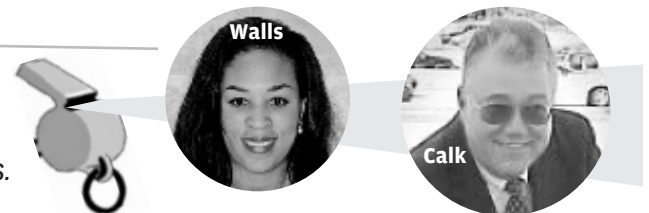
In May, following a very public controversy over his handling of the KeyPoint Government Solutions report into the Nathaniel Sanders II police shooting, Smith abruptly resigned his position.

‘Just Crazy’

Since then, Lomas has heard very little from the city about any of the allegations he’s made, and he’s concerned that the city still isn’t fully committed to weeding out the problems at Fleet. Janousek may be gone, but Lomas believes that he was in part a scapegoat, a way to avoid having to make any real systemic changes that would prevent these kinds of problems from happening again. For example, he said that even though he’d played the tape of the recorded August 2009 meeting with Calk for city officials – the recording in which Calk tells Lomas that the abandoned tires aren’t the city’s problem to worry about – when Lomas later spoke with an Austin Police Department detective assigned to investigate the various problems at Fleet, Lomas was surprised to learn that no one at City Hall had bothered to tell APD about the recording.

Blowing the Whistle Selections from correspondence

Beginning in May 2008, service-center manager Daniel Lomas began reporting problems in Fleet operations to his supervisors and officials at City Hall. Below is a selection of e-mail and memorandum correspondence, from and to Lomas, regarding his concerns. – J.S.



MAY 30, 2008
Daniel Lomas to Jennifer Walls, Fleet Services (deputy Fleet officer)
Re: Police Car Spare Tires
 Yesterday I met with Urcha [Dunbar-Crespo, acting deputy Fleet officer], Irvin [Schmidt, Fleet operations manager], and Bill [Janousek] about the spare tire [standard operating procedures] (credits, etc.), during the meeting the Police car spare tires came up, Bill said he sent an undocumented amount to [service center 5] to be used on the police cars, I don’t understand why he would let these tires go out with out even an account of them. ... I don’t think it is a good idea to just send them over there without some type of tracking, I’m afraid we would only be asking for trouble. ...

JUNE 3, 2008
Daniel Lomas to Jennifer Walls
Re: Tires
 I have been thinking about the tire situation I spoke to you about yesterday and I think that at this point, we would be better off letting the Integrity Department handle it from here. ... I am afraid that if too many people start asking questions about the process, Bill might catch on and delay any further activities. ...

AUG. 1, 2008
Daniel Lomas to Jennifer Walls and Irvin Schmidt
Re: Spare Tires
 During this week’s managers meeting, Bill Janousek said, he had issued 30 spare tires ... to [service center 5], from the 2008 Crown Victoria’s, after reviewing M4’s records there has been no record of that transaction. ...

AUG. 21, 2008
Daniel Lomas to Jennifer Walls
CC: Gerry Calk, Fleet Services officer
Re: Daily Duties
 [...] As for the tire investigation, my concerns were that not enough was being done, as you recall I first brought my concerns to you in May and since then there has been other tires disappearing and I have been implicated in their disappearance, while you continue to tell me you have not had a chance to do an inventory in order to verify the problem. When I said it appeared we (the City) were trying to sweep something under the rug, that was a response to you telling me that the tires were missing and that there was not any way you could bring them back and we just needed to make some procedures to avoid having it happen again. ...

SEPT. 12, 2008
Daniel Lomas to Irvin Schmidt, Jennifer Walls, Gerry Calk
CC: Urcha Dunbar-Crespo
Re: FSOP 408A Spare Tire Process
 Ran into this [standard operation procedure] on handling the spare tires taken from the new Police Cars, looks like we already had a written policy that was not followed.

MARCH 12, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Susan Wynne (assistant city auditor, manager of fraud investigations)
Re: Tire Issue
 I have not heard anything about the tire issues I reported last May and the abuse appears to be continuing. ... I am talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars that are not being accounted for and as we found out with the other tires nobody is being held accountable. The issues I am referring to can be easily audited and verified. ...

MAY 6, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott, city manager
Re: Unethical behavior
 I wish I did not have to write this e-mail, however during an ethics training class yesterday, I was told that I could be held responsible if

I give up and quit reporting illegal acts observed within the City. Mr. Ott you are my last resort, I have documented many acts of unethical behaviors and have submitted them to my Manager, Deputy Officer’s, Fleet Officer, and the City Audit Department. It’s been over a year since I first submitted my first report and I have not been informed of any resolve. ... When I [hear] you plea for the City to join together and conserve our resources, it makes me think that you are not aware of the abuse being allowed and the thousands of tax payers dollars that are not being accounted for. ...

MAY 6, 2009
Marc Ott to Daniel Lomas
CC: Chief Financial Officer Leslie Browder, Ott’s executive secretary Rose Marie Martinez
Re: Tire Issue
 My, my it sounds like we have some very serious issues in fleet. Other fleet employees have expressed various concerns as well. I will look into the issues you have raised.

MAY 11, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott
Re: Tire Issue
 [Lomas provides a lengthy “list of the reported abuse along with [his] complaints of retaliation,” from February 2008 to December 2008]

JUNE 3, 2009
Marc Ott to Daniel Lomas
Re: Tire Issue
 [...] I have a member of my management team, Jeff Knodel, looking into the issues you have communicated.

JULY 14, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott
Re: Harassment, Retaliation, and Corruption Rebuttal
 I regret having to write this rebuttal, however I have been left with no other option. ... [Lomas describes meeting with managers from Fleet and Human Resources, who he says criticized his conduct and did not acknowledge his charges of corruption.] ... Upper management sent a clear message, which not only were they not interested in putting a stop to the wrong doing, but that they fully supported the perpetrators. ...

JULY 14, 2009
Marc Ott to Daniel Lomas
CC: City Attorney David Smith, Assistant City Manager Michael McDonald, Leslie Browder
Re: Fleet Issues
 Ok Mr. Lomas I will take a more direct look into your concerns. I am very disturbed by what you have described. ... David, please see me re the

attached. I am very concerned about the allegations described below.

JULY 23, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott
Re: Fleet Issues
 Since we last communicated the harassment has increased and has become even more blatant. I understand that some investigations take time, but I have to ask you if there is anything you can do to stop the harassment. ...

AUG. 2, 2009
Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott
Re: Fleet Issues
 [Lomas recounts more information about Victor Almaguer, Vic’s Tire Service, and Bill Janousek, alleging corrupt and unethical practices in the scrap tire program] Mr. Ott, I first reported over one year ago to Jennifer Walls, Urcha Dunbar-Crespo, and Irvin Schmidt, my concerns about the services we were receiving from Vic’s Tire Service. ... In the close out meeting with Emilie Hall, Sharon Huckabee, Carla Scales, and Randy Moore from [human resources] and Urcha Dunbar-Crespo from Fleet, I was informed of their determination of no wrong doing in any of their investigations. As I have stressed before, it has been clear to me that there have not been any efforts to unveil the truth about the corruption that has taken place at Fleet. ...

If Lomas hadn't contacted APD, he wonders, would the police ever have known the recording existed?

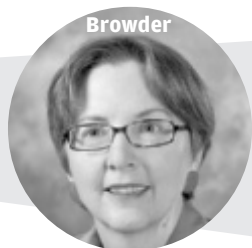
Asked about Lomas' recording, city officials released a statement saying "the part of the recording we heard didn't appear relevant to APD's investigation." They also claimed that Lomas hadn't provided the city with a copy, yet when Lomas wrote Crawford offering to provide one, he was told just to "hang on to it."

Although it's been more than two years since he first began reporting possible wrongdoing inside Fleet Services, Lomas is, amazingly, still determined to see the investigation through to the finish. Indeed, he said the reason he came forward to provide his e-mail correspondence to the *Chronicle* is that he was surprised that officials at Fleet and various officials in City Hall had told us last winter that our report was the first they'd heard about the scrap tire problem. "When I first saw that article you wrote, I thought that was crazy," he said recently. "I'd been telling Jennifer [Walls] since May 2008, and I'd just talked to Gerry [Calk]

and Sharon [Huckabee] and Irvin [Schmidt] in August" about the problems, "and I told them exactly what the law was and what we were supposed to be doing," he continued. "So I thought that it was just crazy that they would say that."

In the end, Lomas said, he most wants to see Fleet run efficiently and honestly. "Fleet is made up of a lot of good people – really good people. Most want to do the right thing," he said. "But the way the city has handled this ... where things are hidden and nothing really happens to people responsible for wrongdoing" sends a bad message. "What I'd like to see is something major happen where the people on top realize that the city is not going to stand for this," he continued. "We have to have a transparent business that says this is not right and this is not acceptable. And right now, that's not the way it is." ■

City officials responded to Chronicle questions for this story via a prepared statement, and CFO Leslie Browder released a memorandum to City Manager Marc Ott concerning the matter. The documents are posted with this story online at austinchronicle.com.



Browder



Smith



Ott

AUG. 2, 2009

Marc Ott to Daniel Lomas
CC: David Smith

Re: Fleet Issues

I have received many complaints about Fleet lately and I'm very very concerned.

I assure you that we are going to get to the bottom of it. If what you're saying is true those responsible will be held accountable.

AUG. 24, 2009

Gerry Calk to Daniel Lomas

Re: Written Reprimand

The purpose of this Written Reprimand is to bring to your attention your recent behavior that is unprofessional and inappropriate. ... [Reprimands Lomas for "confrontational and unprofessional" behavior toward Bill Janousek at a May 7, 2009, evaluation team meeting, during which Lomas alleges Janousek attempted to disqualify the winning bidder in favor of Vic's Tire Service.]

AUG. 26, 2009

Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott

Re: Harassment Issues

I have attached a letter of reprimand I was given from Gerry Calk

and Sharon Huckabee. ...

Previously, I have made you aware of the fact that Bill Janousek has been involved in illegal activities that include; fraud, theft, purchasing violations, along with other ethics violations. I have also made Gerry Calk, Jennifer Walls, Urcha Dunbar-Crespo, Irvin Schmidt, Kathie Harrison, Susan Wynne, and David Smith aware of the corruption. This letter of reprimand demonstrates to me that the City of Austin is not interested in resolving the issues within Fleet, but acts to intimidate, harass and eventually get rid of those [who] expose them. ...

AUG. 26, 2009

Marc Ott to Daniel Lomas

CC: David Smith, APD Chief Art Acevedo, Austin Human Resources Director Mark Washington, Leslie Browder, Jeff Knodel
Re: Harassment Issues

Daniel, I appreciate the update and the additional information. I assure you that these matters are being investigated in the most serious way. ...

AUG. 26, 2009

Daniel Lomas to Marc Ott
Re: Harassment Issues

[...] Keep in mind that I first brought these tire issues to Jennifer Walls and Urcha Dunbar-Crespo in May of 2008, so it's been over a year since I first reported the wrong doing, and Bill Janousek continues with his illegal [activities] as recent as two weeks ago. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help resolve this matter.

The Chronicle published Jordan Smith's first story about the scrap tire program on Dec. 4, 2009; on Dec. 8, CFO Browder made a report to City Council:

DEC. 8, 2009

Leslie Browder to mayor and City Council
Re: Disposal of Scrap Tires

[...] During the process of researching and compiling the records to respond to the Austin Chronicle's requests for information, management at Fleet Services became aware that there was a breakdown in the recordkeeping process used to track tire disposals. ...

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Dead and Alive on the Fourth of July

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Tom Sawyer is dead. Huck Finn is not. The “can do” all-Americans that Tom Sawyer symbolized are cyber wizards who cannot win wars, educate the masses, plug undersea gushers, or govern. Meanwhile, avoiding officialdom of any kind, Huck Finn lives. Independent, tolerant, skeptical, mischievous, impossible to repress, sometimes miserable but never self-pitying, Huck still smokes his corn cob (or whatever), laughing at follies, intent on his kind of good time, and, now and then, freeing something or someone enslaved. Stays off the grid. Manifests in several genders. Has no ideology. Doesn't need a reason. Does things “just because.”

Thomas Jefferson is dead. Sally Hemings is not. Jefferson's ideal of freedom has degraded into “I want to do whatever I want” – which enslaves you to what you want. Jefferson's slave and lover, Sally Hemings, was not allowed to want. Her strength was being – a strength that these days doesn't get much ink. (*Grapes of Wrath's* Ma Joad knew all about it, as did Willa Cather's *Antonia*.) This strength is the power of expressing one's being in spite of one's circumstances. I believe this is the strength from which originates all that is most valuable.

Jackie O. is dead. Emily Dickinson is not. Every facade Jackie cherished has crumbled, but Miss Emily eternally sits in her garden, noting where the real and not-quite-tangible converge into something unique which society may or may not catch up with.

Bruce Springsteen is dead. Bob Dylan is not. The world Springsteen sang of was dying as he sang it. (In his early albums he knew that.) Meanwhile, Dylan's “Desolation Row” has become Main Street. His “Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands” has reincarnated as Joanna Newsom, a spooky woman who plays harp and sings tendrillike songs from within events, instead of outside them, as Dylan once did (though she employs means that are nothing like his or anybody's). Newsom sings with the voice of, sometimes, a 4-year-old and, sometimes, an old lady of maybe 12. There's something very wrong and right about that, which amounts to something very alive.

Woodstock is dead. Stonewall is not. Woodstock marked an end, not a beginning. That same summer, Stonewall ignited a profound and utterly unanticipated transformation. The word “gender” will never be the same.

Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres are anything but dead. Winfrey was born in 1954; DeGeneres, 1958. If, in those years, anyone

prophesied that a black woman and any shade of lesbian would be welcomed into millions of American living rooms every afternoon – well, no one even imagined such things back then. Hope is often a front for fear, but possibility is endless.

NASA is dead. Marie Laveau is not. We're not going to the moon any time soon, but sorceress Marie Laveau's sense of ritual – revelatory, exploratory, and devout – is alive in every household with a Laveau-like altar. (Full disclosure: I have one. So do many of my friends.)

The Grateful Dead, the Supremes, and the Sex Pistols are dead. The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and the Doors are, amazingly, not even a little bit dead. Many high school kids know all their lyrics.

Humphrey Bogart, alas, is dead. James Dean, doubly alas, is not.

Patti Smith, Dolly Parton, and Annette Funicello are dead. Jolie Holland, Carmen Consoli, and Patsy Cline are not.

Michel Foucault is dead. Groucho Marx is not.

John Ford is dead. John Cassavetes is not.

Frank Sinatra is dead. Billie Holiday is not. A sentimentalist singing songs that veer between cheerful belligerency and sticky self-pity – well, poor Frank. When Billie Holiday sings the same songs, you hear not self-pity but self-recognition, not bravado but an often exhausted yet always game willingness to face the odds.

Much that I'm happily ignorant of – hip-hop, sitcoms, animated shows, any band that takes after Nirvana, and what presently comes out of Nashville – is quite alive and/or dead. How would I know?

Marilyn Monroe is not dead, merely absent. She'll return when young women again realize that the flesh on their bones is not an enemy.

Martin Luther King Jr. is not dead, merely slumbering. Nonviolent mass action, performed consistently and with specific goals, remains the most effective means of structural, societal change. People remember this, forget it, remember it. At the moment, we endure a period of forgetfulness.

The Hollywood movie is really dead. TV is not. *Angels in America*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The Wire*, *Deadwood*, *Band of Brothers*, *Dr. Who*, *Justified*, *Saving Grace* (the first season), *Burn Notice*, and their ilk – the writing is, well: writing! Like this, from *In Plain Sight*: “Your friends are God's way of apologizing for your family.”

Male identity is one big question mark. None of the antique male identities functions well anymore, and nobody knows what will



take the place of traditional male (especially white male) personas. “Nobody knows” is an interesting state of aliveness.

Ahab, to my regret, is not dead. He's thrashing around Afghanistan. But Hester Prynne isn't dead, either. Through her, Nathaniel Hawthorne prophesied that America's lasting contribution to humanity would be the liberation and equality of women. This ongoing revolution is the most fundamental change in thousands of years. To paraphrase James Baldwin: The world is male no longer and will never be male again.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance on and on and on in that realm where dead and alive don't matter.

Elvis Presley is dead. Muddy Waters is not. Rock stardom, as a quality of being, has been clichéd into a living death, while funky blues seduce in dingy venues where the unexpected is expected and you never know what dream will walk through a dive's door.

Still, none dare write Elvis' obit. Kids no longer care about his music, but what he started is far from finished. It has to do with that bugaboo, male identity. As Gillian Welch sings: “He shook it like a chorus girl, he shook it like a Harlem queen, he shook it like a midnight rambler, baby, like you never seen.” In those first gyrating years, Elvis modeled a male relationship to the body that changed, and is still changing, everything.

Johann Sebastian Bach is dead. Duke Ellington is not. The order Bach imposed upon sound is stunning, but it ain't the

way the world works. Ellington's miscegenation of harmony, melody, and rhythm is the world we experience. As the Duke said: “Come with me to my emerald rock garden, just off the moon, where darkness is only a translucency.”

Ernest Hemingway is dead. Yogi Berra is not. A man who played great baseball long ago is quoted more often than any writer of the American canon, and what's more American than that? As Berra says: “If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be.”

Walt Whitman is dead. Walt Whitman is not. Leave it to Whitman to be dead and alive. America's left him behind, but he never leaves. He did not shatter all conventions, social and literary; he simply and heartily stepped beyond them when, 11 lines into his great poem, he stripped naked and rolled in the grass, insisting that your body is equal to your soul. His “barbaric yawp” still echoes across rooftops. I believe it was Sharon Olds who said that Whitman makes humanity seem like a good idea.

Huck Finn attended his own funeral, don't forget. America may do the same. We'll listen to eulogies spoken over the coffin of our empire; we'll mourn for ourselves a little or a lot; then (for there is life after empire), forever changed and forever the same, with little worldly power to rant of, we will continue being what at our core we are: vast and always edgy, sometimes disastrous and sometimes astounding – an ever uncertain experiment in the wonder and danger of liberty. ■

letters
at 3am

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

This notice of maximum proposed salaries and allowances for Travis County elected officials during Fiscal Year 2011 is pursuant to section 152.013 of the Texas Local Government Code. A Public Hearing on the FY 2011 elected officials' salaries and allowances will be held on July 13, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 314 West 11th Street, Austin Texas. This ad reflects the budgeted salaries for the elected officials. All elected officials have the right to decline the salaries set for their office. All persons are invited and may participate in the hearing. Commissioners Court will then set the elected officials' salaries and allowances.

Elected Official ¹	FY 10 Budgeted Salary	Proposed % Change	Proposed \$ Change	Proposed FY 11 Salary
District Judge (State Salary) ^{2,3}	\$125,000.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$125,000.00
District Judge (County)	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>
District Judge	\$140,000.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$140,000.00
Court-at-Law Judge (County Salary) ⁴	\$140,026.86	0.00%	\$0.00	\$140,026.86
Probate Judge (County Salary) ⁴	\$141,026.86	0.00%	\$0.00	\$141,026.86
Probate Judge (Administrative) ⁵	<u>33,000.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>33,000.00</u>
Probate Judge	\$174,026.86	0.00%	\$0.00	\$174,026.86
Justice of the Peace 1-5 (County Salary) ⁶	\$105,000.00	0.0%	\$0.00	\$105,000.00
District Attorney (State Salary) ²	\$125,000.00	0.0%	\$0.00	\$125,000.00
District Attorney (County)	<u>33,272.00</u>	<u>2.5%</u>	<u>832.00</u>	<u>34,104.00</u>
District Attorney	\$158,272.00	0.5%	\$832.00	\$159,104.00
County Attorney	\$150,757.00	2.5%	\$3,769.00	\$154,526.00
County Judge ⁷	\$108,329.00	2.5%	\$2,709.00	\$111,038.00
County Commissioner 1,2 ⁸ ,3 ⁹ ,4	\$90,109.00	2.5%	\$2,253.00	\$92,362.00
Constable 1-4	\$84,478.00	2.5%	\$2,112.00	\$86,590.00
Constable 5	\$87,938.00	2.5%	\$2,199.00	\$90,137.00
Sheriff	\$124,372.00	2.5%	\$3,110.00	\$127,482.00
District Clerk	\$109,581.00	2.5%	\$2,740.00	\$112,321.00
County Clerk	\$109,581.00	2.5%	\$2,740.00	\$112,321.00
Tax Assessor-Collector	\$109,581.00	2.5%	\$2,740.00	\$112,321.00
County Treasurer	\$87,165.00	2.5%	\$2,180.00	\$89,345.00

- Travis County pays for health insurance for every county employee and elected official. If a county employee or elected official had and continues to have other health coverage and has continuously declined this county coverage since September 30, 2003, that person may receive an additional \$184.86 per month. This amount may, at that person's option, be added to their total annual FY 11 salary or placed in an IRS approved flexible spending account for the reimbursement of health care or dependent care expenses.
- The State Salary is the least state compensation received by any of these officials. If these officials have been employed by the state continuously since August 31, 1995, they also receive \$1,026.86 as a "benefit replacement pay" supplement. The Legislature specifically said that this supplement is not "salary," but it is included in the total amount received by these officials for purposes of comparing the salaries of other elected officials.
- Effective September 1, 2007, if these officials have been an active judge and a member of the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan One or Two for at least 16 years, they also receive \$3,874.00 as "judicial longevity pay." The Legislature specifically said that this pay is not "salary," but it is included in the total amount received by these officials for purposes of comparing the salaries of other elected officials.
- The County Salary is the least compensation received by any of these officials. A supplement of \$3,874.00 based on judicial longevity is added to and part of the salary of an official if the official has been an active county court or probate judge and held an elected judicial position in Travis County for at least 16 years.
- As of January 1, 2010, the Probate Judge was elected Presiding Judge of the Statutory Probate Judges of Texas for four years. For the additional duties as Presiding Judge he is paid \$33,000 per year.
- The County Salary is the least compensation received by any of these officials. A supplement of \$2,906.00 is added to the salary of an official if the official has been an active Justice of the Peace and held an elected judicial position in Travis County for at least 16 years.
- This includes \$4,800 paid for service on the Travis County Juvenile Board.
- Pursuant to Texas Local Gov't Code § 152.052, the Commissioner Precinct 2 has requested that her compensation for FY 2011 be the annualized amount for FY 2010, plus the 2.5% recommended increase \$88,812.
- Pursuant to Texas Local Gov't Code § 152.052, the Commissioner Precinct 3 has requested that her compensation for FY 2011 remain the same as the annualized amount for FY 2010 \$90,109.

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10/13 JUST ADDED! BILLY COBHAM	12/19 DAVID BROZA
10/17 MY MOTHER'S ITALIAN, MY FATHER'S JEWISH & I'M STILL IN THERAPY	1/29/11 DAVE MASON
	2/3/11 LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO
10/24 CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO	2/11/11 JERRY JEFF WALKER
	2/18/11 ARTURO SANDOVAL
10/29 JUST ADDED! LITTLE RIVER BAND	2/27/11 JOHN PIZZARELLI
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Chris Jordan: Running the Numbers has been organized and distributed by the Museum of Art/Washington State University, Pullman, WA.
AMOA gallery photo © Peggy Tenison

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AUSTIN IMPROV

'Dusk,' Confidence Men, and PGraph go the distance

Improv troupes are so numerous in Austin nowadays that you likely wouldn't notice if one or two were to go missing some week. Thus, it's my duty to inform you when troupes disappear, especially when they're among the scene's more polished, clever, and successful ones. Last week, it was Confidence Men, whose improvised playlets channel the testosterone-fueled attitude and style of David Mamet's works, and Parallelogramophonograph, the B. Iden Payne Award-winning creators of improvised Charles Dickens, improvised French farce, and improvised screwball comedy, among other formats. Next week, it's *Dusk: Improvised Tween Erotica*, which gleefully riffs off the *Twilight* series and all its vampiric/sexual angst. But not to worry, these absences are only temporary, and the troupes are going away for the best of reasons: They've been booked to perform in other parts of the country. PGraph and Confidence Men were both part of the Twin Cities Improv Festival in Minneapolis-St. Paul, while *Dusk* will be off to New York City for a three-night stand with the Tank, an arts presenter in the heart of Manhattan.

It's becoming increasingly common, this Austin-improv-hitting-the-road situation. The musical-improvising gang of Girls Girls Girls has also been to the Twin Cities, as well as Atlanta, and last week's visit to the Twin Cities was a repeat for PGraph, which has also toured to Providence, R.I.; Omaha, Neb.; Tulsa, Okla.; Seattle; and Honolulu. In April, *Dusk* was slaying audiences at the Chicago Improv Festival, while *Dusk* mastermind Shana Merlin and improv partner Shannon McCormick have

taken their duo troupe, Get Up, to improv festivals in Seattle, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Amsterdam, where they were the sole American representatives in the 2010 International Improvisation Theatre Festival: more proof, as if any were needed, that our city's booming improv scene is as much about quality as quantity. More and more we're seeing that the cream of our improvisational crop can stand with the best improvisers on the continent – and perhaps even the planet.

And the best thing about that news to date? After our local improv artists wow crowds in other cities with their quick-wittedness, ingenuity, and ensemble playing, they always come back home. Which means we get to savor their skills ourselves all over again. Of course, you'll have opportunities with all three of the traveling troupes mentioned. *Dusk* is holding the second of two fundraising performances for its New York trip Friday, July 2, 8pm, at Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd. (For tickets, visit www.dusksummer2010.eventbrite.com.) PGraph is back in its weekly slot at the Hideout, 617 Congress, teaming with a different troupe each Friday at 10pm for the show dubbed *The Spectacle*. This month, they'll partner with Junk on July 2, the Starter Kit on July 9, and on July 23, none other than Confidence Men. (For information, visit www.hideouttheatre.com.) As for those Mametian rascals, they'll also have a show of their own on Saturday, July 17, 10:30pm, at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. (For information, visit www.confidencemenimprov.com.) Think they'll show vacation slides?

– Robert Faïres



The cast of *Dusk: Improvised Tween Erotica* (top) and PGraph in Seattle (bottom)



ACIA GRAY A very special Hooper for a very special hooper

The great American art form of rhythm tap couldn't ask for a more graceful practitioner or more committed advocate than Acia Gray, and now it's giving her a great big thank you. On July 10, the American Tap Dance Foundation will honor the co-founder and longtime artistic director of Tapestry Dance Company with a Hooper Award, presented to prominent tap artists for "their unique contribution to the form and for inspiring future generations." Those of us who have been fortunate to see Gray's masterful footwork on local stages for three decades, her skill as a choreographer of tap, and her company members' proficiency in the form know how deserving of such an honor she is. But it's gratifying to see that recognition for Gray's gifts aren't limited to our town.

And as honors go, this one is major. Only 14 people have been given a Hooper Award to date, and they represent the top of the field: tap legends Gregory Hines, Ernest "Brownie" Brown, Jimmy Slyde, Mercedes Ellington, and Buster Brown. This rarefied company also includes peers of Gray's who have been part of the Soul to Sole Tap Festival that she founded and has run for 10 years. Like Gray, Dianne Walker, Brenda Bufalino, and Sarah Petronio belong to a "lost generation" of tap artists – mostly women who studied with the founding tap artists of the 20th century and kept their traditions alive but without the fame or attention accorded to younger dancers such as Savion Glover. Acknowledgment of their efforts is especially meaningful.



Acia Gray

Not that Gray was expecting it. She hadn't a clue that she would be one of this year's Hooper honorees – the other is Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards – until she received a call from the foundation's executive director, Tony Waag. "I just kind of sat there," Gray says. "When you hear it, you can't believe it. Really? I started to think, 'What have I done to deserve it?'" But even Gray admits that keeping the country's only professional tap company going for 20 years and taking over the International Tap Association, for which she currently serves as president, are notable achievements. And Gray's efforts, including her artistic mastery, have already inspired other honors: induction into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame, a Legacy Award from the Third Coast Rhythm Project in San Antonio, and a Texas Tap Legend award from the Dallas Dance Council.

Presentation of the Hooper will take place during Tap City, the New York City tap festival that Gray has attended for years as a performer and teacher. And this year will be no different; she'll be leading classes, then dancing in an all-star program at Symphony Space on Friday, July 9. But on Saturday, Gray will have to sit and let people pay tribute to her in the 2010 Tap City Awards ceremony at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. And one of those people has a special connection to Gray: Nicholas Young, a Tapestry company member for years and protégé of Gray's. "After I got off the phone with Tony, I turned to Deirdre [Strand, Gray's partner] and said, 'The only thing that would be more perfect is if Nicholas was involved.' And he is. He's dancing a tribute for me." – R.F.

CREATEAUSTIN Council to creatives: It's a plan!

By the time the resolution endorsing the CreateAustin Cultural Master Plan was taken up by City Council on June 24, the clock had moved a full three and a half hours past the scheduled time for its consideration. While that meant that only a handful of the plan's supporters were still in chambers when the matter came up, it didn't really faze the CreateAustin crew. "We've waited two years for this," mused Cookie Ruiz, chair of the plan's planning process and its current leadership team. "What's a few more hours?"

Indeed. The resolution sponsored by Council Member Laura Morrison and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez was intended to make up for council's lack of activity when the plan was presented to the body in June 2008. Morrison acknowledged as much from the dais when she said that she thought "we've been remiss as a city" in taking so long to endorse "this great work." The lack of endorsement hadn't stopped participants in CreateAustin (of which this writer is one) from working to implement it anyway these past two years (see "Plan, Be," Sept. 25, 2009), but they were pleased to finally have that approval – like a punctuation mark at the end of a sentence, as Ruiz put it.

For more CreateAustin information, visit www.cityofaustin.org/culturalplan and see "Shape of Things to Come," March 7, 2008.

– R.F.

Increments of Destruction

Chris Jordan's 'Running the Numbers' at Austin Museum of Art

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

"What is any ocean but a multitude of drops?"
— David Mitchell, *Cloud Atlas*

A picture, they say, is worth a thousand words. And how many numbers is that picture worth?

Americans use 60,000 plastic bags every five seconds. Twenty-eight thousand 42-gallon barrels of oil are consumed in the United States every two minutes. Four hundred twenty-six thousand cell phones are "retired" in the U.S. every day. One hundred million trees are cut down in this country each year to make the paper for junk mail.

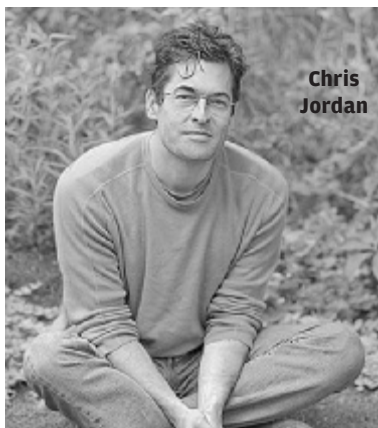
Big numbers. Ooh, ooh, big giant numbers. The implications would chill you, maybe even inspire heart-racing terror, if only you could wrap your head around all those big fucking numbers. But, cognitively, we're at a loss; we're stuck in the tallying of prehistory. One, two, three, many: That's about it. You move into the hundreds and beyond, you might as well try to get to first base with infinity. What would these big numbers even look like?

Chris Jordan, whose mind-blowing "Running the Numbers" exhibition is currently shocking the verticals at the Austin Museum of Art, knows what those numbers would look like. He's depicted what they do look like, in image after wall-sized image, using research and photography and software and a design sense of the caliber more often used to sell you things than to portray the hazardous consequences of reckless consuming.

Twenty-nine thousand, five hundred sixty-nine handguns in a pile as large as the eye can see, equal to the number of gun-related deaths in the U.S. in 2004. Two-point-three million folded prison uniforms stacked together, equal to the number of Americans incarcerated in 2005. One hundred twenty-five thousand \$100 bills (\$12.5 million), the amount our government spends every hour on the war in Iraq, arranged to form an enormous portrait of Benjamin Franklin.

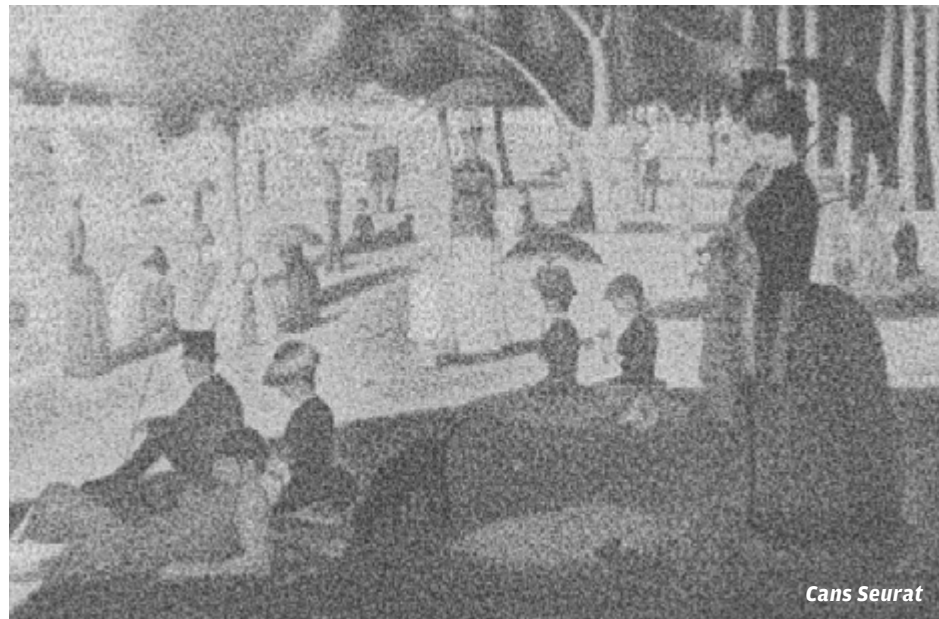
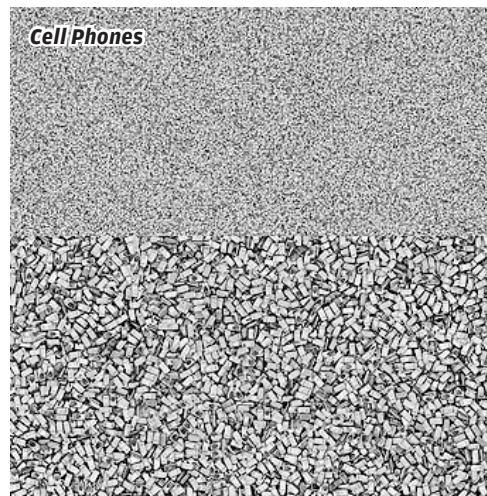
You think you've logged a lot of hours in Photoshop, design maven? The point-and-click muscle of Jordan's right index finger could probably flip a Humvee.

"The pieces that are on display here," says the artist, "I didn't use any stock photography; I did all of them myself. Like, to make the Seurat piece with the cans," he nods toward his homage to *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, "I went to all the markets in town and brought back 80 aluminum cans. Then I made a little pedestal in my studio and photographed each can at five different rotations – so if a bunch of cans ended up next to each other in the final image, they wouldn't look too duplicative. Then I turned down the lights and made five pictures ... turned up the lights and made five pictures ... and did the same with neutral lighting. So I ended up with 15 pictures of each can at different brightness levels. And then, in Photoshop, I made a slightly cooler and a slightly warmer version of each one of those, and I cropped them all so they were exactly the same pixel size, so they'd fit



Chris Jordan

together with no white space in between. And I ended up with a folder of ... I can't remember exactly how many, something like 400 or 800 images in a folder. And then I worked with a photo-mosaic program. I knew I needed 106,000 cans, so I got a high-resolution image of the Seurat painting and rezzed it down until it was exactly 106,000 pixels, so each pixel could be replaced by one can. And the mosaic program goes and finds



Cans Seurat

that pixel number 1 in the upper left corner has an RGB – a red-green-blue – value of whatever, and it goes and looks through all the images in the folder, and it averages the pixel values for all of those images, and it goes 'Oh, can number 623 goes right there.' And so on, until the entire thing is completed."

But, hold on a minute here. The internationally renowned Chris Jordan, the man whose

"Yeah," says the artist, "I'm like the guy at the party where everybody's clinking their glasses and having a good time, and I'm like: 'No, no, no! Everybody stop – we have to deal with the big bloody rhinoceros head over in the corner!'"

"Running the Numbers" tours all over the country and has been presented at the TED talks and featured in newspapers and journals and magazines and TV shows and blog after blog after blog? He has no ... interns?

"Now I have interns, because it recently occurred to me, 'Wait, I don't need to do 20,000 cut-and-paste clicks in Photoshop: I could have someone help me!' But I didn't have any when I was creating the pieces for this exhibition."

The work, in these photographic mosaics and the other, nonallusory pieces: labor-intensive, for both man and machine. The results, due to Jordan's professional manipulations of shape and pattern and hue: stunning, for all who can see. The irony: not lost on this artist who, before he moved deeply into photography and the cautionary beauty he could render from its potential, was a corporate lawyer for British Petroleum, defending that beleaguered company against litigation surrounding an oil-pipe explosion.

"That's right," says Jordan, nodding, a lopsided smile brightening his handsome features. "And of course, the general irony of my work is very uncomfortable to deal with. The pieces themselves are all printed on petroleum-based plastic paper, using petroleum-based inks, and they're laminated with petroleum-based surface laminate. They're framed in wood and put into wooden crates, and they travel around the country in a truck that leaves a thousand-mile-long line of diesel smoke behind it everywhere it goes. And I flew here in a jet to say that." He laughs, and his laughter is tinted with embarrassment and rue.

"I would guess," says your reporter, "that the effect these pieces probably have will far outweigh that footprint, though, right?"



Because how many thousands and, with the Internet, eventually *millions* of people are going to see this work and make changes in their lives? Even incremental changes, which will build up. I mean, the next time someone goes to throw something away – that cell phone, those bottles, a plastic bag – the visual memory is going to stop them, going to make them think. Because of the art you've taken pains to create here."

"Yeah," says the artist, "I'm like the guy at the party where everybody's clinking their glasses and having a good time, and I'm like: 'No, no, no! Everybody stop – we have to deal with the big bloody rhinoceros head over in the corner!'"

The work: labor-intensive, for both man and machine. The results: stunning, for all

who can see. The impact: Only time will tell, as the world turns and the human-produced detritus that's confounding and killing so many of its inhabitants continues to pile up. But Jordan – with a bloody rhinoceros head to guide him – toils on.

"When you stand back from one of these pieces," he says, "you can't make out the individual images – you can only see the collective image that they add up to. And then, when you move closer, you see that the collective is made up of lots and lots of individuals. And when you get up really close, you can only see the individuals and

you can't see the collective anymore. It's this sort of deep, zooming thing that we have to deal with as individuals in an incredibly complex society, in the world of 6.7 billion people. And I wrestle with the question – and I think we're all wrestling with it, in one way or another – of 'Do I matter?' And 'Does my consumption make a difference, to the point where I should make changes to my behavior?'"

"Because it's easy to make the argument that, if I bother to turn off the light when I leave my studio, there are still whole cities of *millions* of people with their lights on all the time, so will it really make a difference if I try to reduce my own consumption?"

"In the green movement, there's this kind of one-dimensional argu-

ment that you keep hearing, which is that Every Vote Counts and You, Too, Can Save the World. Which is true, really; but there's this *other* truth, and that's that each of us is one of that 6.7 billion. And another way you can look at it is: Of *course* every one of us matters. That's how we got into this giant mess in the first place: hundreds of millions of people behaving as if they don't matter. And the question I have is, 'How can we collectively begin to choose a different way, given that we're all individuals with freedom of choice?' That's the issue I'm trying to raise with all of this work." ■

"Chris Jordan: *Running the Numbers*" is on display through Aug. 15 at the Austin Museum of Art – Downtown, 823 Congress. For more information, call 495-9224 or visit www.amoa.org.



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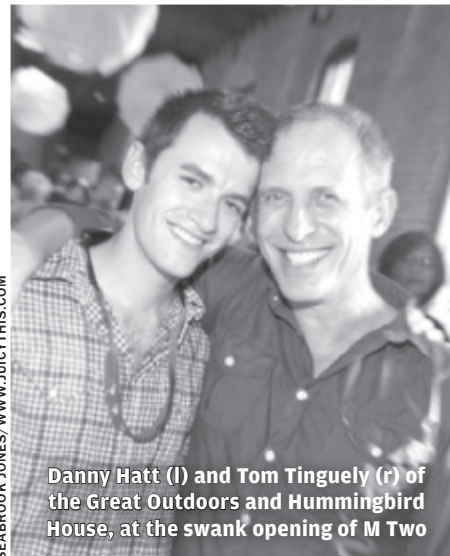
after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

BOOKED I was on **Facebook** and noticed that there was a suggestion that I become friends with **Willie Nelson**. Well, Willie and I have met a couple times, and he's been exceedingly kind and gracious, and I'm certainly friends with the adorable and talented **Paula Nelson** and with the gorgeous and chic **Connie Nelson**, so I thought, "Why not be friends with the legendary Willie himself?" So I clicked on the link and it took me to Willie's page. I clicked again to send a friend request, and the message came back, "Sorry, this user has too many friends." What? Too many friends? Who the hell is Facebook to decide that someone has too many friends? How many is too many? Didn't we just read about **Barack Obama** having more FB friends than anyone else? Maybe **Willie** decided that he had too many friends?

BOOKING On the charity circuit, upcoming events on my radar include **Celebrity Bartender Night** (Thursday, July 15, 5:30-7pm at Ruth's Chris Steak House, 107 W. Sixth) with all donations going to the **Red Cross**. I'll be participating – though not actually mixing drinks. My job will be to engage and entertain the attendees and urge them to tip more. I think I can do that, don't you? Please come out and be generous – the Red Cross needs you, and you never know when you may need the Red

Cross!... Needless to say, I'll be attending **Oilcan Harry's Red Hot 2010 Casino Host Party** on Friday, July 16, 7-11pm. It's OCH's annual AIDS fundraiser, and I think I've been attending for 10 years or so. Anyway, you'll have the opportunity to pose with me in the photo booth and have a souvenir photo that you can use for ... you know, dart boards, cat box liners, effigies, whatever you choose; I don't care, as long as you attend this terrific fundraiser... And **Skot Tulk** puts his own twist on the **Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival's** annual fundraiser, **Bloom: A Celebration of Groundbreaking Artists**, on Friday, July 23, 8pm-12mid at Action Figure Studios, 3000 E. Cesar Chavez.

BOOKISH I'm humbled (imagine!) to be listed among the **Out & About 500** (formerly the **Fortunate 500**) in the **Austin American-Statesman**. I know it's not supposed to mean anything, but it does to me. This past year has been devastating for me. I behaved very badly and am paying the price. Having moved out of the city to recapture my sanity has further distanced me – yet it's been wonderful for me to get away from everything else I knew. These days, I'm practically a ghost socially; I generally go into town one night a week. Of course, it's not like I've been forgotten or



Danny Hatt (l) and Tom Tinguely (r) of the Great Outdoors and Hummingbird House, at the swank opening of M Two

SEABROOK JONES/WWW.JUICYTHIS.COM

anything like that, but the constant refrain is, "We hardly ever see you anymore!" Here's to a better year.

BOOKERS I didn't really have the room in my column last week to say anything else about the **Worldwide Maniac Foundation** (www.worldwidemaniac.com) that brought us the tres glamorous **Richie Rich** fashion show two weeks ago. So I will now: Worldwide Maniac proposes a world where creators pay it forward. "Paying it forward" is such a hip phrase these days that I think

people ought to be fined for using it. But the concept, while hardly new, is a lovely one. Worldwide Maniac, founded by the handsome and charismatic **Michael Torres**, is a local enterprise dedicated to connecting fashion and entertainment with environment and humanity, believing, as Torres says, that "our creations have greater inspiration and a deeper meaning." That's all well and good, but what interested me was that they brought some fun talent to Austin and put on a hell of a fashion show. I did think it was funny that a couple of the sports celebrities that were in attendance declined to wear **Richie Rich's** designs on the runway. Something about already being associated with apparel companies. Huh. Too bad for them, I say. **Richie** and his collection were the stars of the evening. Another star in the Worldwide Maniac world is the glamorous and audacious **Lauren Elliott**, aka **Lala**, the marketing manager. This dame is an impressive powerhouse who will go very far in her chosen career. She is the entire package. Anyway, apparently Worldwide Maniac helps provide sustainable housing for those in need. With so many worldwide disasters in the news lately, thank God for Worldwide Maniac. Go to its site. Make up your own mind. I did.

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

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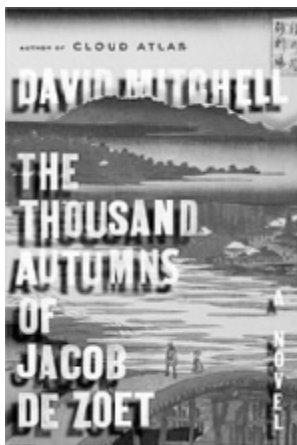
THE THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF JACOB DE ZOET: A NOVEL

by David Mitchell

Random House, 496 pp., \$26

David Mitchell has played his artistic hand very well. Being an immensely gifted writer helps, but knowing when to play which cards creates a perfect nest to place his latest work. In 2004, *Cloud Atlas* solidified Mitchell's place as one of the most original and talented writers of our generation, and his 2006 follow-up, *Black Swan Green*, ensured that no critic thought he needed narrative trickery to impress. With nothing else to prove, he faced a lack of pressure that formed a novel that lets the reader relish Mitchell's created world and become lost in the rhythm of the author's language.

The story – set during the turn of the 19th century at the financially flailing outpost of the Dutch East India Company, with the mannered and exotic Japan situated on the other side of a well-guarded gate – follows the title character as he tries to uncook the books of trade while getting sucked into the complex politics of tenuous East/



West relations. Other characters from the Japanese side of the wall offer their take on the novel's action and often get to spin their own yarns. This Cubist way of looking at the same story slowly untwists itself into a page-turning action yarn that is as rewarding as it is earned by the author's narrative legwork.

Mitchell abandons almost all of his previous postmodern trappings, leaving an engrossing tale told with deeply insightful language that has the effect of rewiring or refreshing tired linguistic synapses. *Autumns'* phrasing – for example, the description that a character's laugh “is born, lives and dies in his ever-congested nose” – often has an unpretentious conciseness that is accentuated by Mitchell's encyclopedic knowledge of the time and place in which his characters reside.

Myriad though his gifts may be, there's no reason for Mitchell to show off. Instead he brings to life an isolated trading post and an isolated nation during an oft-neglected time period with an ease that doesn't trumpet his brilliance, which lets the story and characters shine even brighter.

– James Renovitch

in
print

THE BEAUFORT DIARIES

by T Cooper, illustrations
by Alex Petrowsky

Melville House, 96 pp., \$15.95

T Cooper does the kind of thing that drives other writers mad: He takes the bones of stories told many times, in many ways, and shapes them into something singular and breathtaking. *The Beaufort Diaries*, his latest, might stake out new territory in some superficial way, but Cooper is still taking inspiration from some awfully common sources – climate change, Hollywood clichés, and the combination of the two – and shaping it into something few writers, or imaginations, could deliver. Like his breakthrough novel, *Lipshitz Six*, or *Two Angry Blondes*, this slimmer, more whimsical volume is at heart an immigration story, one in which the dislocation is as much psychic as it is geographic.

Named after the sea from which his mother launches him southward, Beaufort is a polar bear who makes his way to L.A., hustles as a busboy until Leonardo DiCaprio plucks him to co-star in eco-buddy pic *Separation of Oil and State*, and tumbles onward through the typical backwash of sudden public success. The work here is subtler than it sounds: In Beaufort, Cooper



inhabits entirely the voice of an outsider who is both shrewd and sensitive. He can have his heart broken by the shallowest of supermodels or naively take a dip at a Hollywood pool party before being told no one actually swims at those; he can also relate deceptively sublime details that read as innocent discoveries and cut to the bone.

The Beaufort Diaries is being characterized as a “graphic novel,” though in truth it's a novella with integral accompanying artwork that enhances its gentle absurdism. Alex Petrowsky's drawings take advantage of a polar bear's natural look of befuddlement, which is easy to mistake for gentleness; in this case, Beaufort's deadpan observations manifest the ursine killer instincts underlying a hapless demeanor. At the same time, Petrowsky's use of the drawings in photo collages underlines the constancy of Beaufort's displacement and differentness. There also exists

an animated short directed by Petrowsky and voiced by David Duchovny (www.t-cooper.com), but Cooper's nearly flawless prose is the meat of this work: It's as if the author challenged himself to test his talents with a scenario that in less able hands would almost necessarily lapse into cliché and cheap satire. Instead, Cooper makes it original, humane, and deeply funny.

– Cindy Widner

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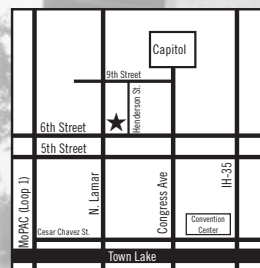
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food

Marfa Bites

A visit to Marfa affords many pleasures: spectacular high-desert scenery, vast starry skies, curious confluences of deep West Texas isolation, and world-class aggregations of contemporary art. Not least of these pleasures is an evolving high standard and variety of food. For a town of only 2,000 souls (give or take a few), dining opportunities are engagingly sophisticated (although posted hours aren't always completely in synch with reality). Here's a selection of excellent eats in Marfa.



Austin Street Cafe

AUSTIN STREET CAFE

405 N. Austin St., 432/729-4653
Breakfast/brunch, Sunday, 8am-2pm;
available other times for private
meals or receptions
www.austinstreetcafe.com

This sweet spot is open to the public only one day a week, but the cooking is so good, it's worth the wait. Green eggs – a garden-herb frittata dressed with an incredible tomato-chili and beans – may be the best bite in town. Live-in proprietors Jack and Lisa Copeland, formerly of Santa Fe, N.M., lovingly resuscitated every inch of this 1885 adobe once owned by Donald Judd, which is now appointed with quirkily wonderful furnishings and surrounded by gardens.



Pizza Foundation

PHOTOS BY MM PACK

PIZZA FOUNDATION

100 E. San Antonio St., 432/729-3377
Monday-Friday, 11am-8:30pm;
Saturday-Sunday, noon-8:30pm
(but check to make sure)
www.pizzafoundation.com

East Coast thin-crust pizzas the size of cartwheels may not be what you'd expect in far West Texas, but here they be, purveyed from a funky antique gas station. At \$12 (plus \$2 per topping), they're a delicious deal. Admirable hand-thrown crusts convey classic ingredients, including farm tomatoes and fresh basil, and are nicely complemented by fruity frozen limeades.

COCHINEAL

107 W. San Antonio St., 432/729-3300
Dinner nightly, 6pm; breakfast/
brunch, Thursday-Sunday, 8:30am-
12:30pm. Reservations recommended.

Cochineal's shady, flower-filled entrance and courtyard is one of the loveliest spots in Marfa, and the dramatic, minimalist interior is the setting for some serious fine dining. Tom Rapp and Toshi Sakihara brought their "global home cooking" from Manhattan to Marfa, showcasing fresh ingredients from onsite gardens, greenhouses, and resident chickens. The luscious date pudding is not to be missed.

Q WINE BAR

109 W. San Antonio St., 432/729-4599
Thursday-Monday, noon-9pm
www.themarfaquarters.com

Next door to Cochineal, this cozy venue is run by a pair of Houston refugees and is in yet another understatedly beautiful adobe house. As well as wine, the proprietors prepare inspired daily soups, snacks, sandwiches, and desserts. Hang out on the front veranda, inside by the fireplace, or in the backyard under rustling cottonwood trees.

FRAMA

120 N. Austin St., 432/729-4033
Daily, 8am-9pm
www.tumbleweedlaundry.com

Frama (an anagram of Marfa) is a bijou coffee bar appended to the Tumbleweed Laundry. It features well-prepared espressos and coffees from Big Bend Coffee Roasters, ice creams, Italian sodas, and wi-fi.

PADRE'S

209 W. El Paso St., 432/729-4425
Tuesday, 4:30pm-12mid; Wednesday-Friday,
11:30am-12mid; Saturday, 11:30am-1am
www.padresmarfa.com

If you're seeking Marfa nightlife, you'll find it here. Opened in a renovated mortuary by a trio of Houston buddies in 2009, Padre's is a sprawling tavern, music venue, dance hall, cafe, pinball parlor, and all-around community crossroads. Cheeseburgers are awesome, pours are generous, and regulars are welcoming to us *estranjeros*. – MM Pack

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Summers used to be so laid back around here, but this July is off to a flying start with plenty of water in area rivers and lakes, festive holiday celebrations, and eagerly anticipated restaurant openings. **Tyson Cole's** new venture, **Uchiko** (4200 N. Lamar, 916-4808, www.uchikoatx.com), opens July 6. While the menu will reflect many of the same Japanese influences that inspire Cole at Uchi, the new sibling's **Michael Hsu** design is completely different. There is a much bigger kitchen, many more seats at the sushi bar, and a larger dining room. Two of chef Cole's trusted, talented Uchi lieutenants are taking the reins at the new spot – the radiant smile and deft hands of **Yoshi Okai** are behind the sushi bar, and Executive Chef **Paul Qui** is the innovator in the kitchen. Sounds like it's a good thing Uchiko takes reservations all evening... Another busy Austin chef also created a new restaurant recently. **Parind Vora** has taken over the management and operation of **Bossa Nova Cafe**, rechristening it **Braise** (2121 E. Sixth, 478-8700, www.braiseatx.com) and implementing an affordable global comfort food menu. Braise serves dinner Tuesday through Saturday, providing a complimentary beer or glass of wine with food orders until its beer and wine license is approved. Vora encourages wine-loving patrons to check out the Braise menu online and then bring in their own wine for a \$10 corkage fee... I was all set to share my impressions of two new East Austin barbecue joints when I got the news that one of Austin's most beloved pit masters died over the weekend. **Luke Zimmermann**, co-owner of **Ruby's Barbecue** (512 W. 29th, 477-1651, www.rubysbbq.com) passed away at Christopher House on Saturday, June 26. He was 61 years old. According to his wife, **Pat Mares**, Luke's recently diagnosed liver cancer progressed rapidly, taking him quickly



Luke Zimmermann (r) with wife Pat Mares

COURTESY OF PAT MARES

Event Menu July 1-8

- ▶ **Central Market Cooking School** (4001 N. Lamar, 206-1014) offers cooking classes with recipes and musical performances by local artists featured in *Music on the Menu – Favorite Recipes From 'Austin City Limits' Performers*, edited by Glenda Facemire (UT Press, \$34.95). \$50 per class; see the artist schedule and make necessary reservations at www.centralmarket.com. Thursdays, July 1 and 8, 6:30-9pm.
- ▶ **Michael and Susan Parker**, owners of **Opal Divine's Freehouse** (700 W. Sixth, 477-3308, www.opaldivines.com), continue their staunch support of the Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas with a **Drink Pink fireworks viewing party**. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Order Divine Palomas, Pinky Friedmans, and prickly pear margaritas to contribute to the cause, and enjoy live music before the fireworks. Sunday, July 4, 7:30pm.
- ▶ There will be 5,000 pounds of barbecue, 30 different kinds of beer, live music, fun, and games at the second annual **BrewBQue** in Buda City Park (204 San Antonio St., Buda). Tickets are \$15 (8 and younger free) at the gate or at www.brewbque.com. Sunday, July 4, 11am-11pm.
- ▶ While Mom and Dad have tasty pork dishes and specialty cocktails at the **Hyatt's Southwest Bistro** (208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234), the kids can feast on refreshing Texas watermelon and watch movies before the family heads outside to watch fireworks from the Marker 10 patio. Sunday, July 4, 5-8pm.
- ▶ Cross the Final Buntier and join in the fun at the **Veggie Hot Dog Eating Contest** at the Tiniest Bar in Texas (817 W. Fifth). The Hot Dog King is bringing 1,500 Tofurky dogs, and there will be plenty of NadaMool! ice cream. A \$5 entry fee lets you compete for cool prizes in the solo or doubles competition. Complete details at www.ilovemikelitt.com. Sunday, July 4, 1-4pm.
- ▶ The Martinez family of **Matt's Famous El Rancho** (2613 S. Lamar, 462-9333, www.mattselrancho.com) invite their friends and customers to help them celebrate 58 years of serving their legendary Tex-Mex cuisine in Austin. Wednesday, July 7.
- ▶ Mike Baldwin and Jeffrey Lynd of **Zax Pints & Plates** (312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100, www.zaxaustin.com) host a seventh anniversary customer appreciation party with menu specials and select \$3 drafts. Thursday, July 8, 4pm to close. – V.B.W.

with little pain or suffering. Like many folks, Luke followed music to Austin in 1983. Initially, he drove a cab while managing and booking musician friends from Minnesota. Luke and Pat opened Ruby's just north of UT in 1988 and were the first local barbecue restaurant to serve all-natural beef and vegetarian dishes to health-conscious Austinites. They had no children, but probably put hundreds of kids through college over the past 22 years. Luke was an avid music fan who retired from active duty at Ruby's three years ago to pursue his love of painting and collage-making; he worked in his big backyard studio until last week. Luke will be cremated, and Pat will host a small, private gathering for family and friends at his studio sometime soon. It's difficult to imagine a *Chronicle* event or celebration without Luke's active participation. We extend our sincere condolences to Pat Mares and the entire Ruby's family. We share your loss.

Dining del Lago 2010

What a difference some rain makes!
The water is blue, the hills are green, and several new restaurants are cooking near area lakes.



Mizu: Prime
Steak & Sushi

JOHN ANDERSON

ARTISAN BISTRO, PATISSERIE & BOULANGERIE

900 RR 620 S. Ste. C-107, Lakeway, 512/263-8728
Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-3pm, 5-10pm;
Sunday brunch, 10am-3pm
www.artisanbistroaustin.com

A shopping center at the entrance to a Central Texas lake resort might be the last place you would expect to find an authentic French bistro featuring fresh pastries and breads, but here it is. The Lakeway Commons spaces that formerly housed Expressions Fine Chocolate and the Vino 100 wine bar have been transformed into an inviting bistro with an open kitchen, decorative wine racks, and comfortable seating for about 50. French chef Cesidio D'Andrea and his wife, Laureen, moved to the lake area three years ago and partnered with wine bar owner Gloria Parker to create this new business this spring. Cesidio bakes bread and pastries fresh every day and serves them alongside the traditional bistro classics of his homeland. The neighborhood appears to have an enthusiastic response to his efforts. Our group of four showed up for brunch on a recent Sunday to find the dining room full and a two-hour wait for a table. The moral of this story is that reservations, especially for the popular brunch, are a good idea. Laureen sent us on our way that Sunday with a complimentary bag of croissants and genuine encouragement to come again another day. I eagerly returned for lunch a few days later.

Meals here begin with a basket of house breads and a simple black olive tapenade. The hearty Salade Niçoise (\$12) features a bed of crisp local greens and crunchy haricots verts dressed in a simple vinaigrette; topped with good-quality flaked tuna, anchovies, and briny Niçoise olives; and surrounded by slices of tomato and boiled egg. It was lovely and satisfying. The quiche lorraine (\$12) offers a luxuriously eggy custard filling encased in its own three-inch-deep pastry shell. The bouchées à la reine (\$12) present a fluted puff-pastry cup filled with tender poached chicken and toothsome mushrooms in a light white wine cream sauce. Both of these delightful bistro

staples were paired with dainty side salads. The crowning glory of the meal was one of the best fruit desserts I've had this year. The warm *tarte fine aux pommes* (\$8) is whisper-thin slices of apple baked in a delicate pastry crust, topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and a generous drizzle of salted caramel sauce. That alone was worth the second trip!

The bistro's event calendar is packed with activities. If you're interested in a picnic for the coming holiday weekend, a traditional Bastille Day fete, group cooking lessons, or upcoming wine dinners, check out the website and sign up for the e-mail newsletter. Bon appétit! — Virginia B. Wood

THE GRILLE AT ROUGH HOLLOW

103 Yacht Club Cove, Lakeway, 512/261-3444
Sunday-Thursday, 11am-9pm;
Friday-Saturday, 11am-10pm
www.grilleatroughhollow.com

Lake-area dwellers suddenly have a relative embarrassment of dining riches. For several years, the best restaurant in the area had been Pao's. Ciola's added some class. Then the wave started with Zoot, then Mizu, and now the Grille at Rough Hollow — the centerpiece of a new development on the northwest side of Lakeway that includes a marina, yacht club, fitness center, and pavilion. The development is classy and casual: the type of place you can wear your shorts and order a \$150 bottle of Constant Cabernet.

The food is much better than we normally expect around the lake, with quality ingredients like Niman Ranch meats, scallops from Georges Bank, and mussels from Prince Edward Island. Those mussels (\$10) come in a delicious fennel broth with smoky prosciutto cracklings. The big hit of the appetizer menu are the crispy pickles (\$7, \$3.50 at happy hour) served with an intense Creole mustard sauce. On the Chef Selections menu, the delicate panko breading and crispy chicken made the chicken marsala pasta (\$16) a standout, but the winner was the smoked double bone pork chop (\$24) with slightly sweetened and mild blackening spices.

One bit of warning: Choose the hours from 4 to 6pm at your own peril. As at any retirement community, the residents here like to eat early, and there's both a happy hour and an early-hours discount menu. The place is hopping during those hours; folks happily wait in line for good food at rock-bottom prices. After about 7pm, the waits are far less egregious, and the combination of good food, a lake location, a well-equipped bar, and righteous prices make this one of the best choices in the Lakeway area.

— Wes Marshall

JOSEY'S GRILL & BAR

101 Lakeway Dr., Lakeway, 512/261-7323
Sunday-Thursday, 2-9pm;
Friday-Saturday, 11am-10pm
www.dolce-lakeway-hotel.com

Josey's recently announced a new chef and enticing menu, which encouraged us to pay a visit as it had been a long time since we were last there.

The setting at this Lakeway Resort restaurant and bar couldn't be more spectacular. Surrounded by panoramic windows and a superb view of Lake Travis, the bar and dining room are bright and airy, and the balcony terrace overlooking the pool adds the outdoor touch that screams "summer vacation." Despite the elegant setting, the atmosphere is very laid-back. The staff is young and friendly; the bar features TV screens tuned to sports, trivia stations and a pool table, and happy hour from 3 to 6pm with half-off all appetizers and \$3 house wine, beer, and well drinks. Yet the ample dining room could use a good makeover: The dated furniture and old carpet detract from the resort experience. A bit more attention to detail would definitely improve the overall appearance.

We were seated promptly upon arrival, and the manager came out to greet us and offer us a glass of wine while we looked over the menu. It wasn't the one I had seen on the website, but I was assured we were ordering from the new menu. Perhaps the website could use an update as well.

Josey's fare is gussied-up comfort food with a Southern accent, appealing to the tourists and

families that frequent the resort. Lunches include soups and salads, sandwiches, and burgers with interesting toppings for customization (fried green tomatoes, pimento cheese, black pepper bacon, Veldhuizen jalapeño jack). For dinner, there's country-fried steak, fried chicken and waffles, barbecue ribs, grilled meats and fish, plus a variety of down-home sides. We started with an appetizer special of crisp flatbread pizza topped with local tomatoes and basil, which was very fresh and satisfying. For our entrées, we chose the 18-ounce T-bone steak (\$22), served perfectly medium rare with red pepper compound butter and a roasted poblano stuffed with cheese and spinach polenta. This proved a delicious combination of complementary flavors that we absolutely loved. The juicy, double-cut Neiman Ranch pork chop (\$17) came with a pair of grilled Texas peaches flavored with fresh rosemary, but we wanted to try some sides (\$3) as well. The mashed potatoes came in a tiny cast-iron skillet with a dollop of butter in the center; the creamy and golden mac and cheese also came in a skillet hot out of the oven; the jicama-chayote slaw was crunchy and fresh, and the corn on the cob with *maque choux* butter was incredibly sweet with a hint of spice. The manager suggested a delicious Côtes du Rhône that was the perfect complement to our dinner, and service was courteous and efficient. We were way too full to try dessert, but next time we'll save some room for the lavender pound cake with fresh Texas berries and cream.

Our overall experience was very positive, though the decor and ambience should be updated to match the fine food and lovely view. We look forward to returning, and since dogs are welcome, we can make it a family "staycation" weekend by the fabulous pool.

— Claudia Alarcón

MIZU: PRIME STEAK & SUSHI

3001 RR 620 S., Lakeway, 512/263-2801
Lunch daily, 11am-2pm; dinner: Sunday-Thursday, 5-10pm, and Friday-Saturday, 5-11pm
www.mizuaustrin.com

Lakeway and far West Austin — it is inexplicable that an area with as much disposable income has been largely ignored by high-end restaurateurs for so long. Mizu sparked big-time hopes when it announced gifted chef Chris Bauer would run the food operation. The owners also secured one of the most gorgeous building sites in Travis County and designed the ideal place for a romantic tête-à-tête (the main dining room and patio) and for a thirsty sports fanatic (the bar, with good drinks and plenty of hi-def TVs). Bauer left shortly after the opening, leaving questions about the execution of the menu he designed, but the location remains one of Mizu's strengths. The main room has a panoramic view over the Hill Country, toward Mansfield Dam. But you should go early or sit on the patio to see it. After dark, the glass in the main dining room reflects back so much light that the view is all but obscured.

Mizu describes itself as serving "Prime Steak & Sushi," so we tried both. We started with sushi. *Uni* (\$5, all prices per piece) is a desert island dish for me. Mizu's was tired, not quite chemical-smelling, but definitely on the way from firm to runny. On the other hand, the *tobiko* (\$3) was perfectly crunchy and sweet, and the added quail egg yolk (\$1) stood tall in perfect freshness. We also tried the Fenix roll (\$15), with crispy fried escolar, tobiko, a bit of raw tuna, cream cheese, and reduced balsamic vinegar. I usually don't order rolls, preferring to stay with sashimi- or nigiri-style servings, but I have to admit

Two Hot Mamas Grill



JOHN ANDERSON

to being totally won over by this combo of crispy texture, rich mouthfeel, and tart finish.

Mizu's main menu is broken into small and large plates. From the small side, we chose the bouillabaisse (\$15) and Niman Ranch short rib (\$13). Bouillabaisse is a deceptive name for a dish which is actually a Thai-styled soup of coconut broth, pickled carrots, cucumber slivers, mussels, and scallops. It was just slightly *picante* and richly aromatic. The rib was a generous portion of intensely flavored beef with the correct ratio of fat to lean, accompanied by a delicious wedge of sweet cornbread.

From the large plates, we ordered a double-cut Berkshire pork chop (\$35) and a 14-ounce prime rib eye (\$38). We were expecting a Flintstone-sized pork chop after the description from our server. Instead, after a sizeable portion of fat was removed, it was just enough for a small woman who had already eaten sushi and short rib. The rib eye was cooked perfectly, but its marbling resembled USDA Select more than Prime. The yummy side of cauliflower-golden raisin gratin arrived in a tiny hot cast-iron pan but was icebox cold in the middle. Our server quickly rectified the problem and returned with a delicious dish.

We also had a bottle of Château Gravelle-Lacoste Graves (\$56/bottle), a mineral-rich, tart wine perfect for the opening foods. We switched to a Domaine de la Janasse Côtes du Rhône Rouge (\$10/glass), which was served too warm to drink. Our server was cordial, interesting, attentive, and new. He hadn't had a

chance to taste the entire menu but was able to make several proper recommendations.

It's impossible to give an overall recommendation to Mizu right now. It's in need of someone to take the reins and pay greater attention to details. The recipes and concepts are excellent, but issues with freshness, food temperature, and quality of raw ingredients need to be corrected. It has good servers and a gorgeous location. The prices are high, but if everything else were fixed, people would be willing to pay.

- W.M.

TWO HOT MAMAS GRILL

2418 RR 620 S., Lakeway, 512/992-2136
Monday-Thursday, 7am-9pm; Friday, 7am-11pm;
Saturday, 8am-11pm; Sunday, 8am-9pm
www.twohotmamasgrill.com

Two Hot Mamas has been one of Austin's premier condiment companies since 2002. Salsa partners Genevieve Thompson and Paula Bryant's delicious line of Latin-inspired sauces and dips are for sale at stores all over the area. Fans of *The Austin Chronicle* Hot Sauce Festival will recall their multiple awards at the annual end-of-summer salsa celebration. Though the two women are still partners in the condiment business, Thompson embarked on a solo restaurant venture in November 2009 and Two Hot Mamas Grill was born. It offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a full bar.

The menu reflects some of the same Latin influences as the popular line of sauces and dips, and all

the tasty condiments are available as enhancements to the menu items. The concept at lunch and dinner is "build-your-own" - choose a base item (burrito, tacos, tostadas, torta, etc.) plus a filling such as steak, chicken, or shrimp, add four toppings (rice, beans, grated cheese, sour cream, etc.), and finish with a salsa or dip. I chose a grilled torta (\$6.50) with grilled skirt steak, rice, black bean and corn relish, chile con queso, and guacamole garnished with a dollop of creamy chipotle dip. The component parts of the sandwich that were made in-house were all very tasty and satisfying. The bun, on the other hand, had all the taste and texture of cotton balls, and the sandwich was not grilled as described on the menu. I had the same problem with side orders of chile con queso and guacamole with chips (\$3 each). The house-made dishes were fine, but the chips were tough, stale, and tasteless. Food this good deserves better support vehicles.

- V.B.W.

SPICY PARROTT DINER & TAVERN

2422 RR 620 S. Ste. A-100, Lakeway, 512/373-8515
Tuesday-Friday, 11am-9pm; Saturday,
7:30am-9pm; Sunday, 8am-9pm
www.spicyparrott.com

Brenda Parrott's friends like the spicy flavors of her cooking, so they christened her newest business the Spicy Parrott in her honor. Many aspects of this comfortable little diner and tavern reflect the involvement of friends - artist friend Susan Parks decorated the walls with colorful parrot murals, and all the friends who invested in the venture are recognized with brass nameplates on the backs of the tall stools lining the bar. The friendly spot offers a little something for everyone - breakfast on weekends, live music four nights a week, a flat-screen TV for sports fans, karaoke on Thursdays, and bar-tab bingo coming soon - and it attracts a diverse crowd as a result.

A friend joined me for breakfast here on a recent Saturday morning, and we overheard a table of regulars discussing their favorite dishes, usually a good sign. I opted for the Hangover Helper (\$7.99, and cheaper with proof of last night's bar tab), which is a steaming bowl of green chile pork stew and cottage fries, topped with melted cheese and a fried egg, with the house salsa verde on the side. I substituted a big, flaky biscuit for the tortillas and had a hearty, satisfying breakfast, even without a hangover. The three-egg omelets come with a choice of three ingredients from a list of meats, cheeses, and vegetables, plus one of four optional toppings for an extra buck. My friend's bacon, Swiss, and spinach omelet (\$8.99) was perfectly respectable, complemented by another of the big, flaky biscuits. The weak link in our meal was the bowl of jalapeño cheddar grits (\$2.99) we shared. The bland gruel bore no flavor of chile, cheese, or even salt - which is a crucial spice element. Still, I wouldn't hesitate to drop in again, maybe check out the karaoke.

- V.B.W.

THE MARKET AT STEINER RANCH

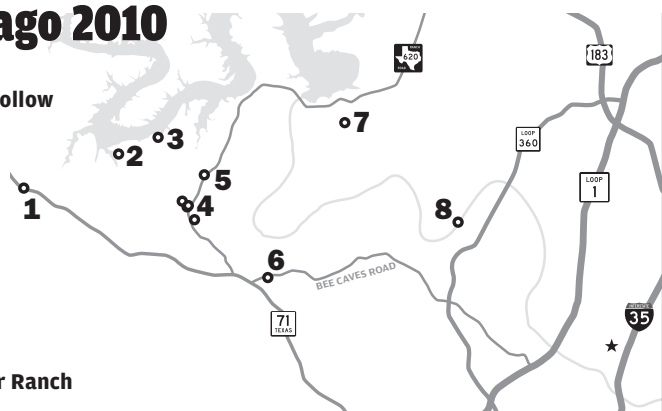
4300 N. Quinlan Park Rd. #120, 266-8808
Sunday-Thursday, 7am-9pm;
Friday-Saturday, 7am-10pm
www.themarket-steiners.com

The Market at Steiner Ranch is tucked away on Quinlan Park Road, and from the outside it looks like nothing more than a neighborhood convenience grocery. But inside, there's a chef-run delicatessen specializing in premium quality hot and cold deli sandwiches, soups, deli salads, catering, and gourmet meals-to-go. The two chefs, Warren McDonald and

CONTINUED ON P.40

Dining del Lago 2010

- 1) Ilsa's Kitchen
- 2) The Grille at Rough Hollow
- 3) Josey's Grill & Bar
- 4) Mizu: Prime Steak & Sushi
- Spicy Parrott Diner & Tavern
- Two Hot Mamas Grill
- Buster's BBQ
- 5) Artisan Bistro
- 6) Baguette et Chocolat
- 7) The Market at Steiner Ranch
- 8) Ski Shores Cafe



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2613 S. Lamar 512.462.9333

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BOB FM from 6-8pm

Morgan Fulbright, oversee all the delicatessen operations and create the daily specials and gourmet take-home meals. Everything served is top-notch in freshness and quality, and word of mouth is bringing in new customers at an exponential rate.

Cold sandwiches include the Reale Italiano (Italian dried salami, prosciutto, *capocollo*, Provolone, pepperoncini, onion, sun-dried tomato, lettuce, oil, vinegar, and oregano, \$6.99), the Longhorn (roast beef, sharp cheddar, horseradish sauce, onions, and lettuce, \$6.49), and the Steiner Smoker (ham, smoked Gruyere cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, and spicy mustard, \$5.99), as well as a signature chicken salad and tuna salad. Hot sandwiches include the Capitol Reuben (\$6.49), the Southside Philly - Way South cheesesteak (\$6.99), and Momma's Meatball (\$6.49). They're all made to order, served on fresh gourmet bread (marble rye, hoagie rolls, sourdough, and paninis are available in addition to wheat, white, and multigrain), and come with a bag of chips. Deli salads include pasta salad, roasted corn salad, potato salad, and two kinds of chicken salad.

"The gourmet meals-to-go have really taken off in the last year," says Fulbright. They include entrées such as grilled mahimahi with mango-jalapeño pico, grilled squash, and Hatch corn pudding; chicken enchiladas with black beans and cilantro chile green rice; and grilled chicken with basil pesto over angel-hair pasta. Entrées are all \$8.99, or \$12.99 for a family pack. "We try to keep at least five different meals and four or five different sides available at all times," says Fulbright, "The daily specials are posted on our website, and we don't change them often so that our customers know that they can rely on being able to pick up their favorites."

In addition to the delicatessen, the market itself specializes in local and organic products and produce, and the meat counter cuts its own meats. "It's grilling season, and the meat counter is hopping!" laughs Fulbright. The Market at Steiner Ranch is an absolute gem and well worth taking the short side trip up Quinlan Park Road. - Kate Thornberry

SKI SHORES CAFE

2905 Pearce Rd., 394-7511
Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm; Friday, 11am-11pm;
Saturday-Sunday, 8am-10pm
www.skishoresaustin.com

Ski Shores was closed for a few months earlier this year and underwent quite a bit of renovation: The entire place has been cleaned, straightened, painted, and expanded. There's now a full bar, and the boat slips are improved. The seating has been doubled, the bathrooms have been upgraded, and there's a new playscape for the kids. There's plenty of shade, and everything is well maintained. It is obvious that a lot of money went into the upgrade, and the place really looks great.

The menu appears to have changed only a little, however. All the old favorites are here - the Border Burger (\$9.25) and the Scooter Burger (\$11.50), the pizzas (\$13-20), and the "famous" fried okra and onion rings (each \$6.50), the chicken and catfish baskets (\$9.95), and children's items (\$4-6). But although the menu is familiar, the food itself has changed: Everything is now quite solidly ... mediocre. The burgers look right, and the toppings are fine, but the beef patties themselves are shockingly flavorless (despite appearing to be charcoal-broiled). The fried items (onion rings, fries, okra, chicken tenders) suffer from the same problem: perfect-looking but so lacking in flavor that no one at my table cared to finish them.

The new operators of the cafe, Rick Engel and Mark Turner, who run Austin Java, Little Woodrow's,

Uncle Billy's Brew & Que, and area Texadelphia shops, set out to both preserve and improve Ski Shores Cafe. Unfortunately, it appears that along the way, they're compromising food quality. Another change: Ski Shores now has table service, complete with a host to seat you and a server to take your order. In theory, this would eliminate the long line at the ordering window and long wait times to get your food. In practice, it isn't working out all that well yet: The wait times are significantly longer, and the formality in this setting seems ludicrously forced. But this new version of Ski Shores has only been open a few months, and the new management has faced a lot of challenges; with more time and effort, they could very well get these problems solved. It remains a wonderfully relaxing spot for lakeside refreshment.

- K.T.

BUSTER'S BBQ

2125 Lohmans Crossing Rd., Lakeway, 512/263-2340
Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30am-8pm; Friday-Saturday,
11:30am-9pm; Sunday, 11:30am-8pm
www.busterslakeway.com

In midlife, native Texan Tim Cook found himself living in New England, far from any decent barbecue. Taking matters into his own hands, he opened a Texas-style barbecue joint in chilly Stamford, Conn., which quickly became a success. But it didn't satisfy him; it only made him want to come back to Texas and see how his barbecue stood up against the ambrosia of famous Texas pit masters. So he and his wife, Marilyn, and young son, Grant, returned to the Lone Star State.

In 1995 they opened Buster's BBQ on Ranch Road 620, and within a year it was named one of the three best in Central Texas by *Statesman* writer John Kelso. In the 15 years since, Buster's has changed locations twice, first moving to the area VFW Hall and now operating out of its own brand-new, roomy location at Lohmans Crossing, which seats 70 people inside and can seat 80 outside under the trees on the breezy deck, where it offers live music Thursdays through Sundays.



Buster's BBQ

Buster's meats are smoked over green pecan wood in a custom-made smoker. Tim Cook grew up in Beaumont, and he brings some East Texas barbecue traditions with him, serving fork-shredded pulled pork, as well as brisket, Elgin sausage, chicken, ribs, and turkey breast, plus two items of his own creation: the Garlic Bomb and the Garlic "H" Bomb. The Garlic Bomb is pork shoulder, studded throughout with garlic cloves prior to smoking. The Garlic "H" Bomb is studded with garlic and jalapeños.

"I didn't know how it was going to turn out the first time I tried it," recalls Cook. "Pork is one of my favorite meats to barbecue; it's so flavorful and tender. But it turned out that the garlic cooks evenly with the pork and slices beautifully. And the flavor! There's nothing like it."

The barbecue here goes for \$6.65 a half-pound, wrapped in butcher paper. Platters run \$8 to \$10, and sandwiches are \$6. Buster's offers eight different sides (available by the serving, pint, or quart), Frito pie (\$7.99), and stuffed baked potatoes as well. Many customers call ahead to order family-style meals for pickup, to take home on weeknights or out on the boat on the weekend.

- K.T.

BAGUETTE ET CHOCOLAT

12101 Bee Caves Rd., 263-8388
Monday-Thursday, 6:30am-6pm;
Saturday, 7am-4pm; Sunday 8am-2pm
www.baguetteeetchocolat.com

Baguette et Chocolat has only been open a little more than a month, and already this authentic French bakery and cafe is an assured hit. Its proprietors, French couple Chi-Minh and Anne Lise Pham-Dinh, fell in love with the Texas Hill Country while visiting Austin a few years ago and decided they wanted to open their dream business here. Originally from Versailles, Chi-Minh is a classically trained French baker. He graduated from the French National Institute of Bakery and Pastry, then put the polish on his craft working at a celebrated patisserie in Versailles.

There's no doubting the authenticity of the French baked goods for sale here; every baguette, croissant, éclair, cream puff, raisin roll, meringue, *chouquette*, tart, and *pain au chocolat* is made according to established French standards. It is pure delight, and in spite of ever-increasing production, the bakery case often sells out by early afternoon.

Fortunately, in addition to a full espresso bar and bakery, Baguette et Chocolat has an extensive menu as well. It offers 13 sweet crepes, from plain sugar to the relatively fancy almond cream and pear (\$3.50-5.40), and 10 "salty" crepes, such as pancetta, goat cheese, and tomato (\$6-7). Five different omelets (\$5.50-6.50) and three breakfast croissant sandwiches (\$4.29-5.50) are listed, as well as the breakfast sandwich (essentially an omelet in a baguette) for \$6.50. Quiche lorraine and quiche Florentine and croque-monsieur and -madame are all available for around \$6 each, along with four salads (Mediterranean, Niçoise, Parisienne, and Texane) for about \$7 each.

And then there are the sandwiches! Available as paninis or on a fresh half-baguette, 14 different sandwiches are made with combinations of fresh ingredients such as mozzarella, basil, tomato, bacon, cucumber, lettuce, goat cheese, salami, French ham, Brie, tuna, and smoked turkey (\$5.50-7). Always busy and often packed, this little bakery and cafe is already a neighborhood favorite and a perfect place to stop on your way out to the lake.

- K.T.

ILSA'S KITCHEN BAVARIAN RESTAURANT

20700 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/494-4270
Monday-Thursday, 9am-9pm; Friday, 9am-10pm;
Saturday, 8am-10pm; Sunday, 8am-2pm
www.ilsaskitchen.net

Who needs Fredericksburg with Ilsa's Kitchen located on Highway 71 near Spicewood? Or, at least, that's the response owner Joel Rodriguez is aiming for. Enchanted by the flavors of southern Germany, Rodriguez, his daughter Marisela, and son-in-law Chad initially teamed up with longtime Austin fixture Achim Thiemeermann (aka Chef Keem) to craft a menu of Bavarian classics, such as goulash, schnitzels, bratwursts, German potato pancakes, spaetzles, and *kartoffelknödel* (potato dumplings). Chef Keem has since moved on to new projects, but the owners still offer many of the same dishes.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Baguette et Chocolat

The characterless prefab building has all the ambience of a bingo parlor and belies the undeniably family-oriented restaurant within, decorated a bit like Grandma's kitchen nook; its friendly staff makes diners feel like part of the brood. An accordionist plays on weekends to remind everyone that in heaven there is no beer. Luckily, Ilsa's has plenty of it: The selection of both German and domestic artisanal brews is excellent. You can't go wrong if you order a Paulaner or Spaten on tap here.

Soft pretzels definitely star on the menu. These can be ordered in a variety of permutations - on their own (\$3.50) or accompanying soups, dips, and even salads (\$6.95 for a combo plate). The pretzels come to the table soft and hot, with a flutter of sea salt dusted atop them, like you'd get at a beer hall in Munich, though I suspect these may have come frozen from a wholesale distributor; they lack the yeastiness of a real homemade pretzel. Nonetheless, they make a satisfying snack to nibble on before the main course arrives.

We ordered a beef goulash (\$4.95), and to be frank, it was nothing like I imagined. Rather than the thick hearty stew described on the menu, the soup we sampled tasted more like someone simply added chewy chunks of meat to watered-down soup from a can. The *rouladen* (thin sliced beef rolled with pickles, bacon, and mustard, \$13.95) seemed like flavorless boiled beef sweetened with pickles, and the accompanying *kartoffelknödel*, which should be light and delicate when done right, were as dense as baseballs. By contrast, the *schweinebraten* served with spaetzle (\$13.95) was definitely a success. The roasted pork was briny and tender, accented by a muscular brown sauce redolent of meat juices and perhaps a little red wine. The homemade spaetzle was light, yielding tamely to the tooth, though I prefer mine with a trace of nutmeg. Both the cooked red cabbage and the Bohemian sauerkraut had the sweet and salty bite of genuine German kraut.

Ilsa's prepares beef sauerbraten every other Saturday, and this usually draws a crowd. Specials such as a 22-ounce sirloin steak (Wednesday) and all-you-can-eat schnitzel (Tuesday) are featured on other nights. Don't miss the desserts, which include Black Forest cake, hazelnut torte, cheese-filled German crepes, and strudels. Ilsa's is now open for breakfast weekdays and weekends.

- Rachel Feit

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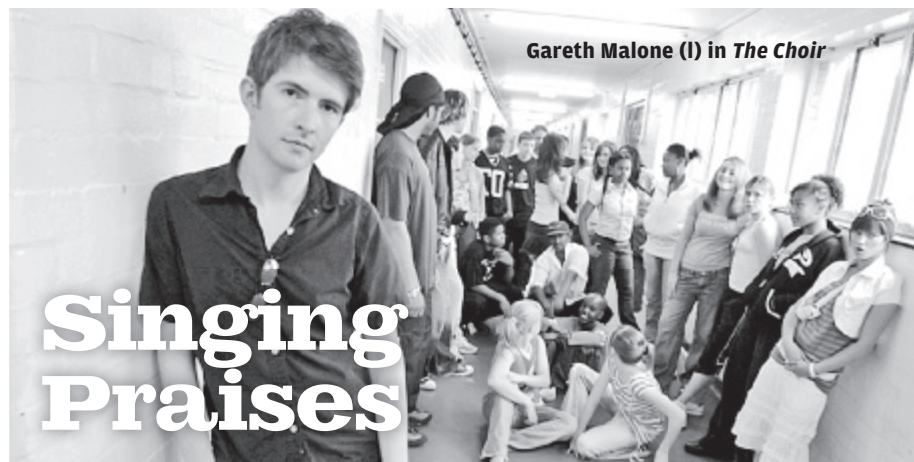
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SCREENS



Gareth Malone (l) in *The Choir*

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

A kind reader wrote in to tell me my overview of summer TV fare a couple of weeks back was incomplete. Not to fret, dear reader. I've seen a few more new shows of the summer. None of them deserved a full review, so they get the what-rocks-and-the-knocks treatment.

The Choir: I really wanted to love this British import. Instead, I fell in like with it. First off, it's a reality show, which I typically hate. What drew my interest were its similarities to Fox's breakout show *Glee*. *The Choir* features an equally enthusiastic choir master in **Gareth Malone**, a classically trained musician who has decided to bring music into working-class schools with nonexistent music programs. What rocks: Malone himself. He's boyish and energetic with a "why not?" attitude; it's not surprising to hear that he got a room of ruffled journalists to sing "Barbara Ann" at the Television Critics Association press tour earlier in the year. Unlike the buffed and brawny kids in the fictional *Glee*, *The Choir* features real students who look, well, *real*. That's refreshing. The knocks: the voiceover. According to press materials, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts award-winning series has UK audiences spellbound. I might be, too, if I weren't knocked out of the episode by the somewhat infantilizing tone of the narrator. The final verdict: I'm just not that into it. *The Choir* premieres July 7 at 9pm on BBC America.

Hot in Cleveland: **Betty White** is red-hot these days, now that a younger generation has discovered the once-and-forever Golden Girl. In this traditional sitcom, she plays Elka Ostrovsky, the feisty, sharp-tongued senior joining a trio of friends played by sitcom vets **Valerie Bertinelli** (*One Day at a Time*), **Jane Leeves** (*Frasier*), and **Wendie Malick** (*Just Shoot Me*). What rocks: Who doesn't love Betty White? She's funny, her timing is great, and she usually has the best punch lines. When she doesn't, Malick's Victoria Chase, a fading soap star, picks up the slack. Bertinelli is always likable, while Leeves is not bad. In fact, I like her better here as a Hollywood aesthetician with a past than in her role as

sweet Daphne Moon on *Frasier*. The knocks: The premise is so contrived, it's difficult to ignore. As Melanie Moretti (Bertinelli) and her gal pals travel to Paris to help Melanie forget her recent divorce, the plane makes an unexpected stop in Cleveland. Because they all get some play in a local pub by honest-to-goodness men, Melanie decides to forget Paris and stay in Cleveland. It just so happens a house is for lease, full of great furniture and — oh! — a caretaker (White's Elka). The gal pals stay, too, pontificating about aging, Hollywood standards of beauty, and men, allowing Elka to break in occasionally with snarky asides. As wonderful as she is, White seems tacked on to this series. And I'm sorry, but come on: Throwing away a trip to Paris because a guy pulled out a chair for you? Really? Final verdict: It has potential.

Hot in Cleveland airs Wednesdays at 9pm on TV Land.

Rookie Blue: Even cops have to have a first-day-of-the-rest-of-your-life moment, right? What rocks: **Missy Peregrym** (*Heroes*, *Reaper*) is appealing as the alpha newbie, Andy McNally. The knocks: Following the *Grey's Anatomy* template, the show is trying to create a cohort of rookies who apparently will work and play together, although it looks like Andy may find romance higher up the food chain with a seasoned detective. Final verdict: It's a dramedy, which freshens the staleness of yet another police procedural. *Rookie Blue* airs Thursdays at 8pm on ABC.

Boston Med: A reality show that leans toward documentary rather than exploitation. What rocks: great pacing, interesting personal stories of both doctors and the patients they are treating. The knocks: unnerving if you're still traumatized by past life-and-death situations with loved ones. The final verdict: Watch with a box of tissues nearby. *Boston Med* screens Thursdays at 9pm on ABC. Past episodes of both *Boston Med* and *Rookie Blue* can be watched online at www.abc.com.

As always, stay tuned.

Follow TV Eye on Twitter: @ChronicleTVEye.

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

screens

WHEN THAT BUMP IN THE NIGHT BECOMES FLESH AND BLOOD

Pondering pure evil in 'Cropsey'

BY MARC SAVLOV

"It was one of the longest criminal cases in New York City history," said filmmaker Josh Zeman, prior to the debut of his documentary *Cropsey* at Fantastic Fest last September. "And it took us eight years to complete it."

By "us," Zeman means he and his wife, Barbara Brancaccio, who co-directed this unsettling examination of Staten Island child murderer and all-around cultural bugbear Andre Rand, a flesh-and-blood counterpart to the longstanding Staten Island urban legend known simply as "Cropsey." For Staten Islanders the arrest of Rand, a sanitarium janitor whose deranged appearance was straight out of Ed Gein's bad-grooming handbook, failed to put an end to the rumors, myths, and burgeoning psychoses, and, as Zeman and Brancaccio discovered, actually stoked the fires of mobbish resentment and fear. *Cropsey* lives on in the imaginations and under the beds of the people of Staten Island. Zeman and Brancaccio's film is as much about the nature of fear in a societal setting and the unseen scars left on the psyches of those who remain as it is about a notoriously difficult criminal investigation.

"If we can put it in a human form, we can kill it," said Zeman. "What we found is that you couldn't just say, 'Oh, look, here's

a pedophile who's also a human being.' We also had to personify that human being as evil because we can never contextualize crimes against children. We have to be able to say it's *the other*, because, you know, the ultimate fear is that if a human being – a normal, nonsupernatural person – can somehow hurt a child, then the implication is that you and I could wake up one day and be able to hurt children, too."

That innate fear of mankind's abyssal trenches – where's the blurry borderline between us and them? – permeates *Cropsey* like a black fog, and more intriguing than even the facts of the case are the myriad ways in which the people of Staten Island have kept the myth of Cropsey, the fiend that wouldn't die, alive, if only in their minds.

"In an effort to separate ourselves from the possibility that we, too, might be capable of such horrific acts," added Zeman, "we have to say, 'No, this isn't a human being; this is a monster; this is the ultimate evil.' And that's why so many of these urban legends take on an almost cinematic quality. Because then it can be made into dark versus light, good versus evil."



Directors Barbara Brancaccio (l) and Josh Zeman

Which brings us to the disturbing fact that the events in *Cropsey* at first feel and then actually play out like a real-life version of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, minus the supernatural but featuring a dark wealth of bad dreams, missing children, and one very scary man with the evidence and the outrage stacked against him.

Zeman: "When you're dealing with a lost child, there's such a heightened sense of urgency that people tend to be very fervent about it. It takes on a life or death meaning, and in that way it's actually reminiscent of a war or 9/11 or Pearl Harbor. It permanently scars the lives of everyone involved, everyone in the community. It's such a powerful event that the people in Staten Island were never able to overcome it. But, then again, they also never felt so *alive* as they did when dealing with that same event."

Cropsey screens Monday through Wednesday, July 5-7, at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. See Special Screenings, p.74, for showtimes.

KILLER KAIJU MONSTERS: STRANGE BEASTS OF JAPANESE FILM
by Ivan Vartanian
Collins Design,
144 pp., \$27.99

How to explain the enduring, apocalyptic allure of Japanese monster, or *kaiju*, movies? Seriously: grown men in rubber suits stomping on miniature Tokyos; Devo-helmeted aliens from Planet X utilizing triple-headed, golden dragon cat's-paws for global domination; and token Anglo Nick Adams (or Russ Tamblyn or Raymond Burr)? What was once viewed in the West as a kiddie matinee anomaly has become, in the 56 years since the release of Ishiro Honda's *Godzilla*, a globally recognized cultural signifier, or, more to the point, an icon/brand/culture unto itself.

At first glance, *Killer Kaiju Monsters* feels like something of an anomaly, too. It's not big enough to be a geeky coffeetable book, nor does it pack the informational/contextual wallop of William Tsutsui's award-winning 2004 tome, *Godzilla on My Mind*. What it does manage to be, however, is both ridiculously fun and the perfect primer for kids or adults curious about (or already smitten by) kaiju *eiga*, or "giant monsters." Vartanian knows his kaiju, big-time, and after a quick

but thorough essay that touches on everything from the Chinese characters that make up the word "kaiju" to the story of Eiji Tsuburaya, the man behind *Godzilla*'s effects and the creator of the *Ultraman* television series, he turns over the rest of the book to a gosh-wow series of interactive chapters on various aspects of kaiju, each one by a different writer/artist. How interactive? Keisuke Saka's cut 'n' fold kaiju paper model (thoughtfully printed as a heavy-stock, blank-backed foldout) is the coolest bit of book design I've seen in ages, and it includes a brief essay on the 17th century Chinese origin of the art form of mechanized puppetry, or *karakuri*. That's awesome enough for me to recommend *Killer Kaiju Monsters* to anyone under the age of 80, but Vartanian trumps even that by also including a multipage, transparent dissection of an original kaiju creation by artist Mark Nagata. It's like one of those old health-class overlays of the body visible but with more eyeballs and a multichambered stomach. Gosh-wow, indeed!

Killer Kaiju Monsters positively overflows with full-page artwork (original and otherwise), pithy essays on all things *eiga*, and generous amounts of J-pop-inflected ultracool. Not everyone gets *Godzilla* and his seemingly endless and often ill-designed progeny (see Nick Adams: WTF?!), but that's hardly a prerequisite to appreciating Vartanian's book. It also bears noting that a quick look at the recent work of, for example, Spike Jonze, reveals an indie-film culture that has taken these selfsame strange beasts of Japanese film to heart: Both the lovesick robots of "I'm Here" and the digitally enhanced Ameri-kaiju of *Where the Wild Things Are* owe subtle osmotic debts to Tsuburaya and the film studios Toho, Toei, Daiei, home of the original, kid-friendly wild things.

— M.S.

in
print

REANIMATING A MONSTER FRANCHISE

Producer Robert Rodriguez on 'Predators'

BY MARC SAVLOV

"You could say I've been working on this project for almost 15 years," says Robert Rodriguez of *Predators*, the Austin-shot, hard-R rebooting of the sci-fi/action franchise that began in 1987 with John McTiernan's surprise smash, *Predator*. In 1996, Rodriguez was hired to write the script for a third *Predator* film (following up 1990's *Predator 2*) and immediately relocated the interstellar, mandibular hunter to a planetary game preserve where a group of human prisoners would be unfair game for alien sport.

"Basically, the idea came from [Richard Connell's] 'The Most Dangerous Game,'" admits Rodriguez. "At the time, Arnold [Schwarzenegger] was going to return as the character Dutch, but obviously that ended up not happening, [and] I moved on to other projects. But I've always wanted to return to the *Predator* in some way, just because it's such a classic character. And then last year Fox called and said they'd found the script and they wanted to do it. Finally."

Rodriguez (who co-produced, with Elizabeth Avellán and John Davis) debuted a handful of clips from the Troublemaker Studios/20th Century Fox film to a packed house of the long-suffering *Predator*-faithful during South by Southwest 2010 and promised, along with director Nimród Antal and Greg Nicotero of KNB EFX Group, that the finished film would be CGI-minimal, instead focusing on KNB's animatronic and suited-stunt actors.



Robert Rodriguez

JANA BIRCHUM

"There will be various kinds of *Predators*, too," Rodriguez adds, "so it's not just the one lone hunter. This time there'll be a real mix of individual *Predator* characters. And the original *Predator* [from McTiernan's movie] will be in there as well. Nobody's seen that character since the original movie, but we're bringing him back."

Predators opens in theatres July 9. See Film Listings, p.66, for review.

When Bad Movies Attack

James Nguyen's underground oddity 'Birdemic' cries fowl

BY MARC SAVLOV

"Director James Nguyen is a Moviehead! Also known as Master of Romantic Thrillers. He has extensive experience in the film industry. In 1998, he founded Moviehead.com [sic]. In 2001, he produced and directed *Julie & Jack* – a romantic thriller about love and spirituality. ... *Julie & Jack* stars Ms. Tippi Hedren (Hitchcock's *The Birds*). In 2004, he completed a second film: *Replica* – a romantic thriller. Recently, James completed directing *Birdemic: Shock and Terror*, a romantic thriller about a platoon of eagles & vultures attacking the residents of a small town. Currently, James is working on the sequel, *Birdemic: The Resurrection*."

– James Nguyen bio, MovieheadPictures.com

I had a friend named Wren who was terrified of birds. Whenever we'd be hanging around outside, say, at the lake, or even just sitting outside on her South Austin apartment's stoop, she'd always eye the sky warily, peering upward through her thick blue-black mop of hair and worrying about feathers and talons and the beating of wings against her face.

It was cute, in a weird, mid-1990s, South Austin sort of way, until the day a couple of crows – I think they were crows; their iridescently dark wings nicely complemented Wren's ivory-goth pallor, anyway – dropped out of a pale blue October sky one day and flew into her head while we were drinking wine out of chipped cof-

over and over again on television or at revival houses in upstate New York.

So does James Nguyen, the Da Nang-born director of *Birdemic: Shock and Terror*, a strangely affecting "romantic thriller" that's superseded Tommy Wiseau's strangely icky *The Room* as the most reverently bad/good/awesome midnight draw around. Multiple showings of *Birdemic* at the Alamo Drafthouse have sold out the house, partly because, as Patton Oswalt said of *Birdemic*'s laffy-taffy, freakout vibe to *The Village Voice*, "It's like everyone in the world escaped from that lodge in *Twin Peaks*. The cars behind them and the clouds in the sky move at a regular pace, but they're not moving at a regular pace. It's at odds with reality." Accurate.

The plot, as Nguyen readily and frequently admits, is lifted in equal parts from three primary sources, only one of which is Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

"Another inspiration for *Birdemic: Shock and Terror* was *An Inconvenient Truth*," said Nguyen from his home in San Jose, Calif. "You know, in his presentation from the stage, Al Gore did mention about global warming harmfully affecting the migration cycle of birds, in a bad way. And then the other inspiration was Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*."

And how, exactly, did Coppola's epic sojourn into the heart of Kurtz-ness influence *Birdemic*?

"When you see the soldiers going down the Mekong River, they go from one scene to the next, okay? And in *Birdemic*, you have Rod



James Nguyen at the *Birdemic* premiere

COURTESY OF NATHALIE SHANNON

***Birdemic* is chock-full of bad acting, bad editing, and just plain bad filmmaking, but somehow the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, which results in a "so bad it's actually pretty sublime" counterreality.**

[Alan Bagh] and Nathalie [Whitney Moore] going down Highway 1 and moving from one scene to the next. I was personally influenced by

Mr. Coppola's film." Indeed.

The dark heart and idealistic soul of *Birdemic*, though, is most assuredly Hitchcock's avian "romantic thriller." Nguyen's passion for the film (and Hitch in general) is plenty evident in everything from his film's languid, *Vertigo*-esque score, credited to Andrew Seger, to *Birdemic*'s entire first half – all romance, no thriller – which positively reels from cringe-worthy moments that accidentally (or perhaps not) strip-mine life's little foibles, not least



among them a corporate sales meeting that goes on ... and on ... and on. Oswalt is right. At its most absurd, *Birdemic* operates with an illogic all its own – David Lynch meets, um, James Nguyen while dangling upside-down from the jungle gym at Bodega Bay PS 1. Eerie. At its best, *Birdemic* plays like a modern Situationist *détournement* riff on all things Hitchcock. Surreal.

It's not until 47 minutes in that the actual *Birdemic* takes flight, as Rod and Nathalie, having recently consummated their semilove, awake to a squawky chorus of what sounds like seagulls on acid just outside the windows of their no-tell motel. A quick peek out the window on Nathalie's part reveals the awful truth: Eagles can hover, but only if they're digitally rendered with a (delicious, meaty) eye socket toward Sega Genesis-era graphics. "What's going on? Can they get in?" quavers Nathalie. "Not for the moment," deadpans a clueless Rod. Awkward, right? Oh, and sometimes they just plummet right out of the sky and *splap* on the pavement with a wet thud. Try that, Hitchcock – or Mr. Hitchcock, as Nguyen would say.

for making *Birdemic: Shock and Terror*, but, you know, it's a romantic thriller, just like the original *The Birds*. The genre of the romantic thriller was invented by Mr. Alfred Hitchcock: *The Birds*, *Vertigo*, *Rear Window*, and even *Rebecca*, his first movie in America and his first film to win an Oscar, was a romantic thriller. Even though he never called it a romantic thriller or categorized it as a romantic thriller, I did. I call them romantic thrillers."

So do we. With vultures that have acid for blood. How cool is that? Granted, Nguyen, who actually *did* shoot a film with Hitchcock's leading lady Tippi Hedren (2003's *Julie & Jack*), is no Hitchcock. *Birdemic* is chock-full of bad acting, bad editing, and just plain bad filmmaking, but somehow the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, which results in a "so bad it's actually pretty sublime" counterreality that takes place in a world that accommodates young lovers, winged catastrophe, sex advice from squirrely co-workers, and roving Centers for Disease Control and Prevention crisis guy Dr. Jones (Rick Camp), who, like Clarissa or grave-robbor-from-outer-space Dudley Manlove in Ed Wood's *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, shows up at the start of Act III to, literally, explain it all:

"What I do know is that global warming is causing viral diseases

such as bird flu, West Nile virus, and SARS. ... I'm a scientist, and I can't state any scientific fact without evidence, but there is scientific evidence to show that, because of our burning of fossil fuels and the creating of greenhouse gases – which is causing global warming – it's raising the temperatures of the seas, and, and species like the krill are dying. So many bird species can't find food, so they eventually starve and die and wash up on the shore. ... In fact, in the last few years more than 40 species have become extinct because of global warming. However, there is an interesting research: In prehistoric times, birds *did* attack cavemen. They used to claw at their eyes and skull and then either leave them for dead or then come back because

their injuries were so bad and finally finish off the kill." Science: You can't argue with it, but you can turn it into a mesmerizing, rambling monologue.

Nguyen is (somewhat) aware that the majority of audiences flocking to *Birdemic* aren't queuing up for anything remotely resembling *The Birds* or, for that matter, *An Inconvenient(er) Truth*. Like *The Room* or *Troll 2*, *Birdemic* is a slipshod yet painfully sincere celebration of one filmmaker's ceaseless drive to make the film he wanted to make, and then, with luck, to get it out there into the mainstream any way he can. It may take a decade (or nearly two, in the case of Claudio Fragasso's *Troll* reimagining), or it might happen virtually overnight, after a woefully sparse ad hoc screening on the final night of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival catches the eye of someone with connections.

Such was the case with *Birdemic*, which was "discovered" by then-Troma Films associate Evan Husney, who caught the film at a decidedly non-sold-out bar screening and ended up falling in love with both film and filmmaker. Husney, who would later take the film to indie film distributor Severin Films, recalls that "James was buying drinks for everybody during the screening, and when he went to cash out his tab, he didn't have enough money. He ended up arguing with the bartender, who was holding this poor man's stuffed bird as

collateral until James could pay the bar tab that he ran up buying drinks for the five to seven people that were at the screening. And that's basically how my relationship with James Nguyen started. We paid his bar tab, which was, like, \$15."

Love it or hate it, ultimately the key question is whether audience members are laughing with or at *Birdemic*.

"We've sold out every screening this year," enthuses Nguyen, "from the Hollywood premiere in February, to New York, Austin, and we just got back from the UK – the United Kingdom, England – and so I think the majority of the audience really likes the movie, and they are laughing with the movie, despite all of its imperfections in the animation and other aspects. They really appreciate its sincerity and the very serious, compelling story about man and his machines and what that's doing to other species and the planet Earth. And then with a little bit of humor and good casting you can have a hit!

"Sure, there are some people who are laughing at the movie, but I think that's because they are not willing to ignore or forgive the imperfections of *Birdemic: Shock and Terror*. They think you have to have James Cameron/*Avatar* perfection or it's no good. You can't make everybody happy." ■

Birdemic: Shock and Terror screens Wednesday, July 7, 7pm at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz and again on Wednesday, Aug. 11. For more about *Birdemic*, visit www.movieheadpictures.com.

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music

OFF THE RECORD MUSIC NEWS by Austin Powell

All Shook Down

Following the announcement here last week of the **Direct Events** lawsuit, rival promotion enterprise **C3 Presents** finds itself the target of an antitrust investigation by Illinois' Office of the Attorney General in regard to booking policies for **Lollapalooza**. C3 Presents and its Lolla partner, the Beverly Hills-based **William Morris Endeavor Entertainment**, have received subpoenas, according to reports by *Billboard* and Chicago music critic **Jim DeRogatis**, who broke the story on Thursday. C3 spokesperson **Shelby Meade** declined to comment.

At issue is the "performance exclusivity" clause that artists are forced to sign, which, according to an **Austin City Limits Music Festival** contract obtained by the *Chronicle*, states: "Artist will decline any performance engagement from 180 days before Festival to 90 days following Festival within a 300-mile radius of Festival," unless granted express written consent from a C3 representative.

Little has been made of the issue locally in part due to C3's ability to nullify the clause as needed for its shows at **Stubb's**, **Emo's**, and **Antone's**, etc. Moreover, a source close to the matter tells OTR that that particular clause has been waived for all local acts. That's not the case

in Chicago, however. The exclusivity prevents local venues from booking approximately 130 bands for nine months out of the year. The 300-mile radius clause is said to have a spillover effect into surrounding cities such as Detroit, Indianapolis, and Milwaukee.

Regardless of the outcome, the investigation should shed some light not only on the behind-the-scenes turf war between C3 Presents and Chicago's independent **Jam Productions**, a battle intensified by the recent **Ticketmaster** and **Live Nation** merger, but also the increasingly difficult choices it creates for bands.

"You have to be thoughtful about what promoters you choose to do business with," agrees **Ben Dickey** of **Constant Artists Incorporated**, the management company that handles **Spoon**, **Okkervil River**, and **Explosions in the Sky**. "A lot of great promoters don't have festivals to dangle in front of artists to convince them to play for them, and they lose shows accordingly. For the most part though, the promoters that control the major U.S. festivals are promoters you've been dealing with as an agent for many years, and now there's simply extra incentive to continue working with them."



Jim Ramsey (1952-2010)

Austin's premier tour and concert promoter **Jim Ramsey** died Tuesday evening at South Austin Hospital. Ramsey, 58, suffered from liver cancer and was being treated for it until his kidneys began to fail over the weekend. He was placed on a respirator, which his family and wife, **Tracey**, made the decision to remove on Tuesday, following a steady stream of friends and loved ones saying farewell.

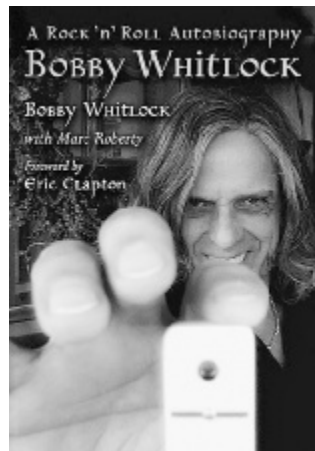
During the post-**Armadillo** 1980s, before the opening of **Stubb's** and **Emo's**, Ramsey dominated the concert scene in town. His companies, **Spotlight Productions**, the **Touring Company**, and **Touring Attractions**, made Austin a favored city for such emerging punk and New Wave bands as **Talking Heads**, the **Clash**, **Devo**, the **B-52s**, the **Pretenders**, **Iggy Pop**, **Patti Smith**, and **John Cale**. By the early 1990s, he was booking the **Back Room** (scope "The Player," July 28, 2006), specializing in the metal and hard rock markets and

woodshedding bands like **Pariah** and **Dangerous Toys**. By the end of the decade, Ramsey switched gears and opened a successful advertising agency. For more remembrances, see "Page Two," p.4. A memorial service will be held on Saturday at the **Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home** in Lakeway. — Margaret Moser

Only You Know and I Know

"On our worst night, we were still the best band on the planet," boasts local pianist **Bobby Whitlock** about his 1969 run with **Delaney & Bonnie**, featuring a legendary backing line that included **Eric Clapton**, **Traffic's Dave Mason**, **Rita Coolidge**, Lubbock saxophonist **Bobby Keys**, and, for the final show at Fairfield Halls in Croydon, **George Harrison**. The weeklong tour of the UK produced the seminal *On Tour With Eric Clapton* live album, and next month **Rhino Handmade** is set to release an expanded 4-CD deluxe edition that tacks on three hours of previously unheard material. Further insight can be

found in Whitlock's new autobiography with scholar **Marc Roberty**, due this winter with a foreword from Clapton. "It's an incredible roller-coaster ride through my life, from when I was a boy chopping cotton and my abusive dad to being the first artist signed to **Stax's** Hip label and playing with **Derek & the Dominos** through George's *All Things Must Pass*," furthers Whitlock (see "Keep on Growing," Dec. 1, 2006), who recently resumed his **Saxon Pub** residency Sundays with wife **CoCo Carmel** on the strength of her new Delaney Bramlett-produced solo debut, *First Fruit*. "The truth is told, but no one's trashed."



Romance bloody romance: Mike Wiebe of the Riverboat Gamblers at the Warped Tour

COURTESY OF FRANK CORVIA

Victory Lap

The **Riverboat Gamblers** are Austin's lone punk ambassador on this year's **Warped Tour**, which pulls into San Antonio's **AT&T Center** today (Thursday, July 1), followed by stops in Houston and Dallas. "A lot of it is not our crowd," relays elastic frontman **Mike Wiebe** from the road to Carson, Calif., "but I like the challenge of playing for a completely different audience." The Gamblers, who debuted at the summer festival in 2005, upgraded to an actual tour bus for the occasion, with a goal of recording an album's worth of new demos. The band recently launched a remix competition for *Underneath the Owl's* "Robots May Break Your Heart" (details at austinchronicle.com/earache). Here's Wiebe's account of the tour thus far.

JUNE 25: HOME DEPOT CENTER, CARSON, CALIF.

"I manage to bonk my head onstage and bleed. No stitches though."

JUNE 26: SHORELINE AMPHITHEATRE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

"A huge percentage of the bands (all very young) play a strange hybrid of death metal that goes into Euro dance beats. It's like the two whitest forms of music had a thalidomide baby together. I would hope that this is the pet rock of music. On the other end of the spectrum, I got to see the **Dickies** for the first time. Amazing. It reminded me how I can love music just as much as I can hate it."

JUNE 27: VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, VENTURA, CALIF.

"Enjoying the beach weather while I have the chance. Some friends' bands park the buses nearby so we can have a circle-the-wagons-style party. These are the good parts. The next day in Phoenix we take part in an off day bowling tournament. After losing a bet it appears that the entire band will be wearing **Face to Face** shirts onstage for a week. The Riverboat Gamblers need to drink less when bowling against Face to Face."

JUNE 29: CRICKET WIRELESS PAVILION, PHOENIX, ARIZ.

"People always compare TX humidity and AZ dry heat. It's like comparing rotten chicken to rotten beef. I'm guessing after this I should start wearing a red and green striped sweater à la Freddy Krueger since my face is going to be melted by the end of the day. Add some dance tracks and we'll have career!"

Crossroads 3

Planes, trains, and automobiles from Cleveland to Chicago

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

*"I went down to the crossroads,
fell down on my knees."*

— Robert Johnson, San Antonio, 1936

Cleveland and Harvey Pekar are one and the same: head down but unbowed.

Or so grumbled its native son and *American Splendor* incarnate, last Tuesday evening in Cleveland Heights. A hillbilly wedding in the birdsong mountains of West Virginia had flown us into Pittsburgh, and first a 200-mile-plus round-trip in a Dollar Rent a Car to and from said hog roast, then a daylong Greyhound bus odyssey through Ohio had deposited us via taxi at the brownstone doorstep of actor Paul Giamatti's greatest inspiration. Pekar views Cleveland as a 20th century echo, but the pencil-point gleam in his eyes mirrors the city's municipal renaissance. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum had called to us on the way to Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival, just outside of Chicago.

*I went down to the crossroads,
fell down on my knees.
I went down to the crossroads,
fell down on my knees.
Asked the Lord above for mercy,
"Save me if you please."*

Thumbing through old vinyl with Pekar at Record Revolution, two doors down from Tommy's mountain of hummus — which the jazz scholar ("What about this Sun Ra DVD?") had suggested and then washed down with a black-cherry milkshake — Agnes and I were running on empty. Goodbye, Melvins shake-down tonight at the Grog Shop just around the corner. Thirty-eight hours in the musical spawning ground of Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Pere Ubu, Tiny Bradshaw, Nine Inch Nails, Henry Mancini, and Bone Thugs-n-Harmony didn't yield baseball favors from the away-game Cleveland Indians either.

*I went down to the crossroads,
tried to flag a ride.
I went down to the crossroads,
tried to flag a ride.
Nobody seemed to know me,
everybody passed me by.*

According to the historical marker outside the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which hangs out over Lake Erie, Pennsylvania-born deejay Alan Freed coined the term that now brands the giant glass pyramid late in Harry Truman's second term. Directly thereafter. "The Freed-sponsored 1952 Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland is believed to be the nation's first rock and roll concert." Inside, a prominent

wall notes that Akron, Ohio, sprouted Devo and spit Chrissie Hynde, while Youngstown birthed Dave Grohl and Robert "Kool" Bell. Halved by the Cuyahoga River, Cleveland hums — faintly — Georgia's R.E.M., which soundtracked *Lifes Rich Pageant* with Michael Stipe howling "Cuyahoga."

*I'm going down to Rosedale,
take my rider by my side.
I'm going down to Rosedale,
take my rider by my side.
You can still barrelhouse,
baby, on the riverside.*

Should rock & roll be enshrined? They did it to *Austin City Limits*.

*You can run, you can run,
tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.
You can run, you can run,
tell my friend-boy Willie Brown.
And I'm standing at the crossroads,
believe I'm sinking down.*

Meet Me in the Field Behind the Dynamo

1100 Rock and Roll Blvd.: Downstairs, past Motown motor James Jamerson's upright bass and Elvis Presley's Smith & Wesson, a familiar green road sign catches the eye. *Austin City Limits*. "Great Music. No Limits," reads the PBS postcard's slogan. Slide into the comma-shaped exhibit, guarded by pages from the show's 1974 proposal ("The musicians will play well ..."), and there's Alejandro Escovedo flashing on the flat-screen TV. Somali son K'Naan reels next: "*She shot me, she shot me, bang bang, she shot me.*" Break out the King's '38!

Scott Newton, *Austin City Limits* staff photographer, dukes it out with the 20-minute highlight montage, iconic images of Bill Monroe, Manu Chao, and Etta James vs. clips of Roy Orbison, the Flaming Lips with Beck, and the Dixie Chicks — all hanging above ephemera that includes set lists from Leonard Cohen and Robert Plant (Zeppelin B-side "Hey Hey What Can I Do"). Tourists stream steadily into the room, transfixed by the video, pronouncing names for their children pawing at the pictures on the wall ("Elvis Cos-tel-lo"). Neil Young, in a 1984 taping, barks "Down by the River."

Nearby, the Hall's bottom floor begins peeling back layer after layer of a glass onion, display cases just outside the ACL installation a tableau of handwritten song lyrics. Cream's "I Feel Free" flies a doodled squadron of B-52s



"Sweet Home Chicago," aka Bridgeport, Ill.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AGNES VARNUM



Jumbotron Clapton



David "Honeyboy" Edwards

next to Tom Petty's "Into the Great Wide Open." Mouthing the first line of the Clash's "Clampdown" meets the slack-jawed encountering of AC/DC cackle Bon Scott's neat scrawl on "Highway to Hell." Outfits hung on the walls — Randy Rhoads' hummingbird-sized *Tribute* duds, Iggy Pop's duct-tape pants, Sly Stone's beaded vest — stand guard silently. An elevated turnaround cordons off rock & roll still-lives, instruments, stage costumes, lyrics from the Allman Brothers, ZZ Top, the Who, Queen. Michael Jackson's silver sequined glove rotates, Stevie Nicks' gypsy threads swirl imaginary dervishes, and Bootsy Collins' space bass matches his galaxy pants.

U2 label rejections preserve RSO Records executive Alexander Sinclair's A&R acumen, while a *hate, hate, hate* letter from Fiji and Keith Richards' red half-shirt from Altamont pit the Stones against the Beatles, represented by John Lennon's first passport, Wings' 1975 Grammy for *Band on the Run*, and George Harrison's sports-car 1962 Rickenbacker. *Father? Yes son. I want to kill you. Mother, I want to ...* plays in your head while taking in Jim Morrison's valentines to his mother. A letter dated 1970 from the Florida Probation & Parole Commission addresses Morrison's father, a Navy rear admiral, about the Doors frontman's indecent exposure, but the two-page response from George Morrison doesn't take the bait ("I view his success with pride"). A wall of Jimi Hendrix's childhood watercolors redefines psychedelia.

Joy Division constricting into New Order, Johnny Ramone's downstroke-sanded Mosrite Ventures II guitar, Joan Jett's Jaguar XJ-S —

there isn't even time for the Hall's next two floors, housing fuselage wreckage from Otis Redding's last flight and a telegram from comedian Redd Foxx to Jackie Wilson on the occasion of the soul pioneer's ultimately fatal, decadelong coma: "Get up niggah, we need you and love you and screw you." The acid blotter in Janis Joplin's glass case has been removed, the Hall's 25,000 items yielding only 4,000 on display. Upstairs, bricks in *The Wall* offset the spire-

bound special exhibit "From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen." The Long Center's local screening two weeks ago of Springsteen's new DVD set, *London Calling — Live in Hyde Park*, suddenly seems 2-D.

Notebook after notebook after spiral-bound notebook of original, handwritten lyrics, including "Prove It All Night #2" with completely different verses and Patti Smith's co-write of "Because the Night"; Springsteen's Oscar for "Streets of Philadelphia"; *Born in the U.S.A.*'s blue-collar LP garb; and personal mementos from every last stage of the Boss' life and career dwarfed three-and-a-half decades of personal museum stalking. My parents took me to see the original Treasures of Tutankhamun tour in the 1970s. "From Asbury Park to the Promised Land" provides glimpses of riches to rival Howard Carter's 1922 archaeological supernova:

"Can you see anything?"
"Yes, wonderful things."

Hillbillies From Outer Space

Jimmy Reed's "Bright Lights, Big City" bristles its eternal love light as we walk into Buddy Guy's Legends the next night in Chicago. Austin underachiever Gary Clark Jr. sweats its blues like the Chess Records setters

pictured on every wall. Mashed acoustics, a pushy waitstaff, amateur-hour drunks – where’s Antone’s when you’re in the devil’s live music venue? Clark’s set primes the pump (Double Trouble/Arc Angels drummer Chris Layton) without even really trying. Jimmie Vaughan’s red carpet lays perfectly.

The Texan in Black – shirt, pants, steel-toed cowboy boots, Ray-Bans – hasn’t been onstage 10 minutes and already the ring-side celebrities are two deep, Los Lobos’ Cesar Rosas, Jeff Beck, and Legends’ name-sake. Everyone pays their respect, not the least of which means the jam-packed house. Shout! Factory’s *Plays Blues, Ballads & Favorites*, Vaughan’s new CD and his best solo showing since 1994’s Epic debut *Strange Pleasure*, plays backbone to a foot-crippling two-hour, six-string seminar on blues, ballads, and Ms. Lou Ann Barton.

“Just a Little Bit,” directed by its Strat-handed guitarist at Messrs. Beck and Guy, hiccups a 1950s jukebox breakout ready for modern-day speakeasies, and as braced by saxes Greg Piccolo (tenor) and Doug James (baritone) – and beat to heaven by band mainstay George Rains – it held its own until Barton stepped to the stage-right microphone to duet *PBBF* playing “I Miss You So.” After her takedown of new LP mate “Come Love,” the club’s Legend was on center mic in a black Hawaiian shirt and white cowboy hat, fired up. Only Guy’s Cheshire cat act atop the Crossroads main stage two days later amped more Mount Rushmore.

No mistaking this Western’s hero, however, Vaughan giving Barton bite-down and *Ballads/Favorites*’ “Wheel of Fortune” a spin before set closer and forever *Strange Pleasure* open sesame “Boom-Bapa-Boom.” Eric Clapton’s left-hand man – producer of God’s forthcoming release – Doyle Bramhall II appeared back behind the VIP cord-off, talking to Cesar Rosas’ other half, Lobo David Hidalgo. Austin trumpet mercenary Ephraim Owens stood behind us. To the nightlong audience chorus of “Who is that woman!?” Barton, in the encore, belted another one for her long-ago Antone’s lap dance, Muddy Waters. Previous Jimmie Vaughan disc high *Do You Get the Blues?* (2001) provided a main course on “In the Middle of the Night,” braised by Barton to a crimson crisp. Last run “D/FW,” from the Vaughan Brothers’ *Family Style*, freed us as though to the tune of a 1980s B.B. King film commission, “Into the Night.”

Top that.

I Shot the Sheriff

June 4, 2004 – Cotton Bowl, Dallas: Clapton’s guest turn during Carlos Santana’s firestarter set on Sunday nearly eclipsed the previous afternoon’s game day warm-up, when Slowhand sat in for half a set with Tulsa “Cocaine” trafficker J.J. Cale (“After

CONTINUED ON P.50



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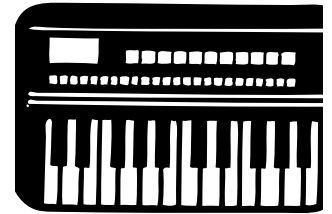
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ZZ Top like their blazing 1933 Ford Eliminator coupe at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Doyle Bramhall II opens his set as Faded Boogie, standing next to a mountain before ceding the coliseum PA to Gary Clark Jr., whose monstrous roar through Josh White's "Jesus Gonna Make Up My Dyin' Bed" blows a Toyota Park gasket. It's fixed by the time Sheryl Crow joins the band, in turn dressed up by the guitar set's Ike & Tina Turner, Susan Tedeschi and Derek Trucks. The host's only guest spot until his headlining set five hours later puts everyone but the departed Billy F. Gibbons in their places.

Crossroads 2 twangbuster Vince Gill repeats the trick with "One More Last Chance" then prompts Elvis engine James Burton to stoke "Mystery Train." Meanwhile, on a secondary stage downstairs from the maddening concourse, Pinetop Perkins' junior bluesman peer David "Honeyboy" Edwards — 95 years to the local piano man's 97 on July 7 — raises ancient Delta blues like James Cameron trawling *The Abyss* for the *Titanic*. "Apron Strings," "Sweet Home Chicago," and a slide-scarred "Crossroads," all accompanied by Michael Frank on harp, turn up the afternoon's scalding thermometer readings. If the devil's chasing Edwards, he takes it sitting down.

Crossroads 1 novice John Mayer (see "TCB," June 11, 2004) faces off with kit killer Steve Jordan and the Who bassist Pino Palladino in Three Horsemen of the Apocalypse mode, slowing only briefly on Bill Withers' "Ain't No Sunshine," before a scathing Jonny Lang, Buddy Guy, and Ronnie Wood musketeer themselves to one-up him on an instrumental cover of "Miss You," its Rolling Stone sizzling slide on his home turf. The Tedeschi/Trucks Delaney & Bonnie-like juggernaut comes anchored by Warren Haynes, because Gregg Allman's hep C liver transplant forced the Allman Brothers to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AGNES VARNUM

cancel their Crossroads debut. Haynes' slide-mongering reminds the assemblage that it was he who replaced Duane Allman in the Georgia peaches' band of the 1990s before Derek Trucks slid into the spot next to Haynes a decade later. Era staple "Soulshine" fills the Allman Jones, but

Los Lobos' Rosas & Hidalgo work their Dead-inspired dark magic before bringing on Johnny Winter to paint Hendrix's "Red House."

That left Jeff Beck's quartet "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Rollin' and Tumblin'," and taking Sly Stone "Higher," Clapton's Yardbirds replacement summoning an alternate universe on his guitar: hot rod, car alarm, machine gun, typewriter, Japanese sci-fi mutant lizard.

"Are you sick of the sound of the electric guitar yet?" asked Crossroads commander Eric Clapton at the outset of his 90-minute proof of sovereignty, which segued into him and early afternoon showcasers Robert Cray and Jimmie Vaughan backing B.B. King for a finale.

Now that you mention it . . .

Thunderous openers "Crossroads" and Derek & the Dominoes appropriation "Key to the Highway," a Caribbean mix on "I Shot the Sheriff" to make Bob Marley roll over and tell Peter Tosh the news, Jeff Beck's slide solo on "Shake Your Money Maker," and Steve Winwood's co-Strat navigation through Traffic's "Glad," Buddy Holly's "Well, All Right," and his original *Electric Ladyland* stopover on "Voodoo Chile" prompt their own slight return from Clapton, whose every solo chiseled sonic marble.

"This was going to be the last [Crossroads]," he announced after "Dear Mr. Fantasy" rebottled its genie. "But now, somehow I don't think it will be. I hope that's all right."

Buddy Holly's got your answer, Willie Brown. ■

Midnight"). Crossroads' sophomore relocation three years later at Toyota Park in Bridgeport, Ill., just beyond the Midway International Airport, still melts my DVD player. This year's retrenchment at Chicago's soccer park hardly tweaks its predecessors' talent template, emcee Bill Murray twice as emboldened as in 2007.

"From Lubbock, Texas — Buddy Holly!"

Murray's curly head-rug and suit prove suitable attire in introducing, "Three guys who never bought into that goatee crap," *Tres Hombres* dressing "like Hasidic Jews." "Have mercy," exclaim the beards. After "Waitin' for the Bus" comes LP follow-up and holy roller "Jesus Left Chicago," Hendrix magma "Foxy Lady," and a slow-cooked, venison-chili version of "La Grange." Four decades of stadium grandstanding detail

SOUNDWARS

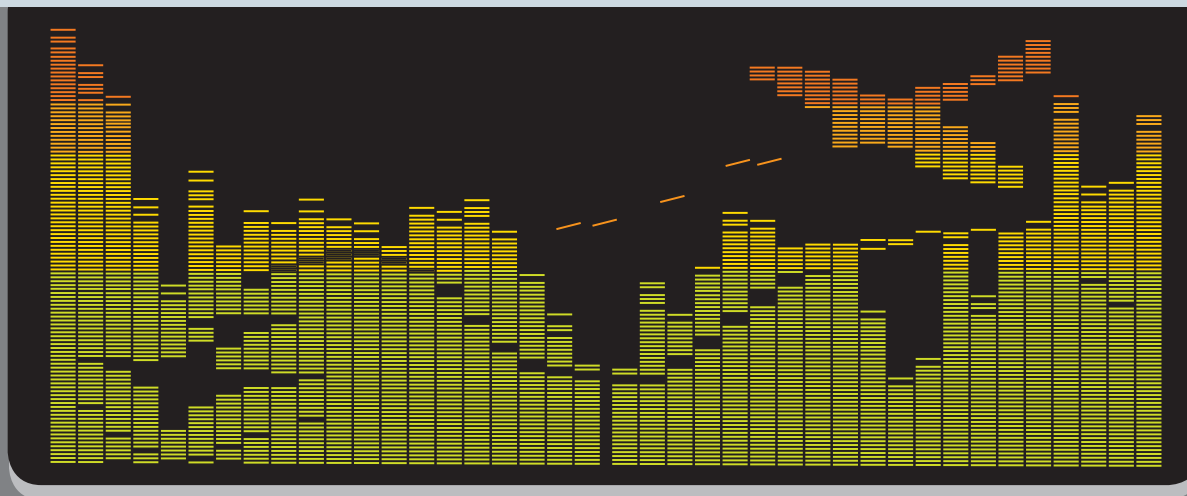
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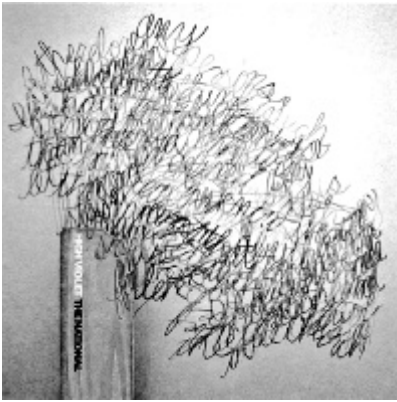
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THE NATIONAL

High Violet (4AD)

Marking its third stellar offering, following 2005 breakout *Alligator* and 2007's *Boxer*, the National's fifth album continues to perfect misery as an aesthetic achievement. Now a decade in, the Brooklyn brooders have come to serve as antithesis to the hipster clichés of their borough counterparts, the quintet's Midwest roots grounding songs in stoic, stark reality. *High Violet's* melancholy is familiar territory for the National, but they've impressively aged and settled into their gloom without becoming caricatures of angst. The major shift is that the burnt baritone of singer Matt Berninger leads the tunes less than the compositional flair of guitarists Aaron and Bryce Dessner or steady rhythms of Scott and Bryan Devendorf. "Sorrow" and "Anyone's Ghost" rise as lyrical high points, but standout tracks such as opener "Terrible Love," "Bloodbuzz Ohio," and "Conversation 16" are propelled by orchestrated nuances and subtleties that mesmerize more than Berninger's bewilderingly chanted lines ("It's a terrible love and I'm walking with spiders/I was carried to Ohio in a swarm of bees"). Though no less anthemic in its last-call loneliness, the National's sound expands with measured confidence while still nurturing bruised ethos.

★★★★ – Doug Freeman

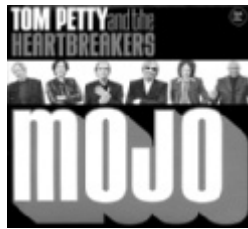
TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS

Mojo (Reprise)

He may be approaching 60, but Tom Petty appears to be at his most adventurous.

Mojo is a natural follow-up to his work with Mudcrutch, Petty's original band that reformed to record its debut in 2008. It's a Southern rock delight that eschews obvious hooks and crowd-pleasing anthems for chunky blues riffs and swampy jams, and all sorts of nonmodern rock touchstones emerge, from the Grateful Dead to the Allman Brothers to Led Zeppelin (or is it the Yardbirds?), even a touch of reggae. Sometimes the subject matter gets confused, as on opener "Jefferson Jericho Blues," which invokes the third president before switching into thoughts of a lost love, or downright silly, like the J.J. Cale-grooved "Candy." *Mojo*, a reference to the Muddy Waters/Chess Records vibe that informs the album's undercurrents, is likely to separate those that prefer his pop jangle from those that appreciate the Heartbreakers' innate ability to pursue their muse no matter where it takes them. It's slightly indulgent at more than an hour long, but more likely that's just Petty's way of offering love for what his ageless band can do.

★★★ – Jim Caligiuri



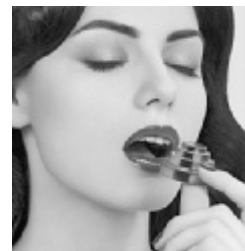
kids but were charmingly subversive. His music, like the songs he wrote for Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show, was decidedly not for children. And so as tribute albums go, *Twistable Turnable Man* captures one of the more interesting subjects, in that Silverstein straddled both the salty and the sweet. This being Sugar Hill, the acts gathered to tip their hats are typical, and a handful do it well: Local bluegrass phenom Sarah Jarosz polishes "Queen of the Silver Dollar" until she sees her reflection, as does John Prine on "This Guitar Is for Sale," and Andrew Bird's verbal acrobatics on "The Twistable, Turnable Man Returns" give it some fresh air. Not all of it works. Bobby Bare Jr.'s duet with daughter Isabella on "Daddy What If" is more grating than endearing, and Todd Snider's take on "A Boy Named Sue" – yes, Silverstein wrote that – merely traces Johnny Cash's version. It would have been interesting to see a few folks from outside the country and bluegrass circle tackle these songs, especially the less "safe" end of the sidewalk, but a tip of the hat to Sugar Hill for getting his songs out at all.

★★★ – Audra Schroeder

DEVO

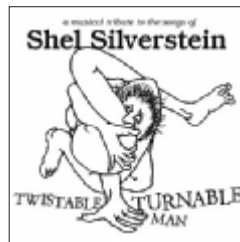
Something for Everybody (Warner Bros.)

"What we do is what we do/it's all the same, there's nothing new," sings Devo on "What We Do," the second track off the quintet's first LP in two decades. Albums such as 1978's *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!* and 1980's *Freedom of Choice* made spudboys and spudgirls of us all, championing the rock & roll nerd. Devo's music was irony set to a 4/4 beat, acerbic commentaries on modern culture with eye-popping visuals, groundbreaking videos, self-referential songs, and relentlessly catchy beats. Nothing has changed for the onetime Akron, Ohio-based group. With most of the original brain trust



TWISTABLE TURNABLE MAN: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF SHELL SILVERSTEIN (Sugar Hill)

Shel Silverstein is perhaps best known for illustrated books like *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, full of pen and ink oddballs stumbling and bumbling through preposterous situations. His stories were often aimed toward



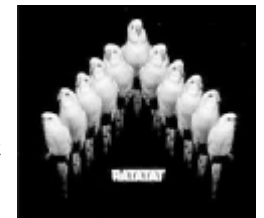
intact – brothers Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh and Gerald and Bob Casale, plus ex-Nine Inch Nails/Guns n' Roses drummer Josh Freese – *Something for Everybody* sounds effortlessly fresh. That's their neat trick, making "Later Is Now," "No Place Like Home," and "Knock Boots" feel seamless in the Devo canon. If all they wanted to do was eliminate the ninnies and twits by reminding everyone they were better mutants, they've endured admirably.

★★★ – Margaret Moser

SLEIGH BELLS

Treats (N.E.E.T. Recordings) RATATAT LP4 (XL)

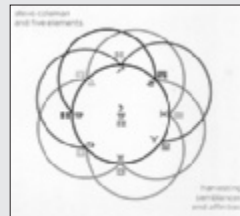
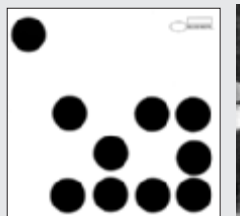
Never mind the hype. Sleigh Bells offers little more than a Barbie version of M.I.A., fitting given that the Brooklyn duo signed to the controversial rapper's vanity label. Producer Derek Miller crafts aggressive instrumentals with street-sweeper riffs and dirty house beats, as if trying to single-handedly end the loudness wars, while Alexis Krauss cheers from the sidelines with bubblegum vocals. It's the Ting Tings amplified past 11, and the two never stray far from the formula. There are a few cheap thrills on their debut, most notably the drum line siren alarm "Riot Rhythm," stadium-guitar march of "Tell 'Em," and more subdued "Rill Rill," which samples Funkadelic's "Can You Get to That" to the same effect as M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes," but such moments fade faster than a sugar rush. Strip away the distortion and vocals, and you land in the same neighborhood as fellow Brooklyn twopiece Ratatat. *LP4* is every bit as unimaginative as its title suggests, picking up quite literally where 2008's lackluster *LP3* left off. "Mahalo" was even issued as the B-side to "Shiller," while "Grape Juice City," with its 8-bit arpeggios and bongo percussion, could pass for a remix of "Mirando," not unlike the slow-motion jam "We Can't Be Stopped." Mike Stroud and Evan Mast have become too complacent within their signature sound, an increasingly fractured mosaic of slippery glam harmonies, harpsichord, and electro-pop beats ("Drugs" et al.). Ratatat excels in the context of Kid Cudi's *Man on the Moon*, but *LP4* ultimately is an unnecessary sequel and box office cash-in. (Both) ★★



– Austin Powell

jazz sides

In the mid-1970s, **Azar Lawrence** was the preeminent post-Coltrane saxophonist, pairing with McCoy Tyner, Elvin Jones, and Miles Davis while still in his teens. Just as quickly, he disappeared from the scene and didn't resurface for three decades. Following a 2008 comeback album, Lawrence appears to have hit his stride with *Mystic Journey* (Furthermore Recordings), a powerful statement that channels the fiery spirit of Coltrane's legacy. Tyner's explosive "Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit," which Lawrence recorded with the pianist on 1973's *Enlightenment*, is the centerpiece here, countered with a nod to Coltrane's gentle side on ballad "Say It Over Again." It's been a decade since **Jason Moran's** second album, *Facing Left*, introduced us to his formidable trio the Bandwagon, with bassist **Tarus Mateen** and drummer **Nasheet Waits**. *Ten* (Blue Note) finds the trio in its usual adventurous mood, whether using Jimi Hendrix's Monterey Pop Festival performance as inspiration for "Feedback Pt. 2," splicing 'n' dicing Thelonious Monk's beautiful "Crepuscule With Nellie" into hip-hop, or continuing variations on a theme with the jaunty



"Gangsterism Over 10 Years." Moran can also be found alongside exquisite drummer **Paul Motian** and brilliant saxophonist **Chris Potter** on *Lost in a Dream* (ECM), a live trio recording from the Village Vanguard. This lovely session of mostly Motian originals gets contemplative through the delicate yet compelling interplay we've come to associate with the spacious ECM sound. Alto saxophonist/composer **Steve Coleman** spearheaded the M-Base movement of the 1980s that pushed jazz in a more rhythmically complex direction. *Harvesting Semblances and Affinities* (Pi Recordings) is certainly rhythmically and compositionally intense, almost to the point of being mathematical. With a three-horn front line, Coleman and his group, Five Elements, create music that's challenging but rewarding for those with open ears. – Jay Trachtenberg

LEAD STORY

New York state school officials had promised to crack down on soft test-grading to end the near-automatic grade-advancement by students unprepared for promotion. However, a June *New York Post* report found that the problem lingers under the current grading guideline called "holistic rubrics." Among examples cited by the *Post* (from a fourth-grade math test): How many inches long is a "2-foot-long skateboard"? (Answer: 24; "half-credit" answer: 48). Also, if you have 35 book boxes, and each contains 10 books, how many books are there? (Answer: 350; "half-credit" answer: 150).

CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

Though he reportedly hacks more frequently lately, 2-year-old Ardi Rizal of Musi Banyuasin, Indonesia, continues to smoke two packs of cigarettes a day, according to a May dispatch in London's *Daily Mail* and other news reports. Local officials offered Ardi's parents a new car if they convinced him to quit, but the mother warned that her son throws massive, head-banging tantrums if deprived of his smokes, and his fisherman father, noting Ardi's generous girth, says the kid looks fine to him. (Unfortunately for the parents, Ardi prefers only a certain high-end brand, which costs the equivalent of about \$2.75 a pack.)

Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* reported in May that Qantas Airways has acknowledged reusing plastic knives and forks from its in-flight meals as many as 30 times before discarding them. One supplier who visited Qantas' Q Catering center in the Sydney suburb of Mascot was told that the Qantas cutlery's plastic is "more robust" than ordinary plastic utensils and is completely safe (after special cleaning).

It took until spring 2010 (eight years after the invasion of Afghanistan) for the U.S. Army to realize that enemy fighters in that vast, mountainous country were difficult to shoot at because they are often so far away. The Associated Press reported in May that the Army is only now reconsidering its reliance on standard M-4 rifles (whose effective range is less than 1,000 feet), in favor of M-110 sniper rifles (effective at more than 2,500 feet). (Shorter-range rifles work well in Iraq, since the fighting is closer in.)

ARMED AND CLUMSY (ALL NEW!)

In this latest collection of men who accidentally shot themselves recently, private parts were the center of attention. University of Illinois campus Police Officer Bryan Mallin accidentally shot himself in the butt while shopping in Chicago (March), and Timothy Davis, 22, digging through a drawer in Fort Myers, Fla., last October, also accidentally shot himself in the butt. And four other men (a shopper at a Lowe's Home Improvement store in Lynnwood, Wash.; a 17-year-old in Vallejo, Calif.; 20-year-old Jeffrey Disney in Hamilton, Ohio; and 50-year-old David Blurton, in Dillon, Colo.) accidentally shot themselves in what for men is their most cherished spot.

NEW WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



ROY TOMPKINS

To ease the crowds entering the Texas Capitol building in Austin, officials recently opened an "express" line, bypassing most security precautions, for selected visitors and personnel. Obviously, members of the Legislature use the express line, along with Capitol employees presenting ID. A third category of favored visitors: anyone with a Texas concealed-weapons carry permit. *The Houston Chronicle* reported in June that the lobbyists frustrated with the long security lines have been applying for concealed-weapons permits even if they expect never to touch a firearm.

THE YEAR OF THE BLIND!

1) In Urfa, Turkey, in April, pop singer Metin Senturk set the world speed record for an unassisted blind driver (in a Ferrari F430, at about 175 mph), an experience he called "like a dance with death." 2) In March in Watertown, Mass., two blind teenage fencers from local schools for the blind squared off in what was believed to be the first such match ever. 3) Scotland's Edinburgh Arts Festival announced in June that it would display, beginning in August, an exhibit of images taken by the blind photographer Rosita McKenzie, 56.

SUCKER NATION

The New Living Expo in San Francisco in May showcased such healthy-living breakthroughs as a \$1,200 machine promising to suck toxins out of your body, a \$249 silver amulet to protect you from "deadly" cell phone radiation, and a \$15,000 Turbo Sonic if your red blood cells need to be "de-clumped." A Canadian study at the same time found that 97% of people who admitted buying anti-aging products did not think they would work but nevertheless confessed their need to hope, like those who hope the viper-venom-derived \$525 Euoko Y-30 Intense Lift Concentrate will prolong their lives.

Recurring Theme: Once again, the larger question in a "swindling psychic" case is

not how Portland, Ore., "psychic" Cathy Stevens managed to separate Drakar Druella, 42, from his \$150,000 (which she needed to cure Druella's "negative energy"). The larger question is how a man so totally lacking in street smarts managed to amass \$150,000 to begin with. Explained Druella, "[Stevens] could cry [at] will. ... She becomes what you want and need her to be."

UNCLEAR ON THE CONCEPT

Psychologists generally discount that children at age 6 can form a specific intention to "sexually" molest anyone (as opposed to roughing someone up or being obnoxious), but the principal of Downey Elementary School in Brockton, Mass., nonetheless suspended a first-grade boy in 2006 for "sexual harassment." The boy admitted putting two fingers inside a girl's waistband, but his parents sued, livid that a "sexual" motive had been assumed. In February 2010, Brockton's daily *Enterprise* reported that the school would pay the boy a \$160,000 settlement for the principal's overzealousness.

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.
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TAX CLASSES FOR SELF-EMPLOYED Are you working as an independent contractor or thinking about starting your own business? Get all the tax tips you need from the folks who know. (This is a Spanish-language session.) Noon. Community Financial Center, 2600 W. Stassney, 610-7378. Free. www.foundcom.org.

SUMMER PUPPETS: A TARADILLO TALE Kids older than the age of 4 are invited to take a trip with Bubba, Louann, and the 'Dillos as they explore the territory that will become Austin. 2pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst, 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

HIV SUPPORT GROUP Weekly support and psychotherapy group. Call for details. 2:30-4pm. Waterloo Counseling Center, 314 E. Highland Mall Blvd. #301, 444-9922 x100. Fees based on sliding scale. www.waterloocounseling.org.

HOOPIN' HAPPY HOUR & CLOTHING SWAP Bring your hula hoop and some clothes to exchange. Why both at the same time? Because it's Austin. Thursdays and Fridays, 5-7:30pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. www.vortexrep.org.

NOT JUST ANOTHER CANCER EVENT Capital of Texas Team Survivor offers fitness support for cancer survivors. Shouldn't you support them in that endeavor? Live music, auctions, raffles, and barbecue make helping seem like celebrating. 6:30-11pm. Stubb's, 801 Red River, 426-1408. \$40 (\$35, advance). www.teamsurvivoraustin.org.

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. From the river, south on South Congress. Free.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) Continental Club, Corona Cafe, Pump Project

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *The Devil-Doll* @ Paramount, 7pm
Words of Advice From William Burroughs @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Gun Outfit Beerland
Shannon McNally & Hot Sauce Continental Club

CHARITY WEDDING GOWN SALE Still don't have a dress for the big day? Keep your bridezilla tendencies at bay by browsing hundreds of brand-name and designer dresses starting at \$200. All proceeds go to Brides Against Breast Cancer. Fri., July 2, 10am-8pm; Sat., July 3, 10am-6pm. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 791-7605. Free. www.bridesagainstabreastcancer.org.

WORLD FOOD CHALLENGE Kids older than 12 years old who have parental permission can try all 10 world foods, including quail eggs and saffras candy. 2pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster, 974-9840. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

MISS ROSEMARY'S RETIREMENT PARTY After 39 years of teaching at St. George's Episcopal School, Miss Rosemary is retiring. Former students and co-workers are invited to join in the celebration. 5pm. St. George's Episcopal School, 4301 N. I-35, 452-6063.

LABYRINTH WALK Facilitators will be on hand to guide you through this ancient form of meditation.

THURSDAY, JULY 1 TO THURSDAY, JULY 8

calendar

AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/COMMUNITY

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

this week's
community
listings

6pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 891-0392. Free.

AUSTIN TENNIS CLUB meets Fridays, 7-9pm. Call for info on their exclusive Sunday meet-ups! South Austin Tennis Center, 1000 Cumberland, 442-1466. austintennisclub@yahoo.com, www.austintennisclub.com.

WAR RESISTER SPEAKS OUT Upon returning to Fort Hood after his deployment in Iraq, Victor Agosto refused to follow any orders supporting the occupation of Afghanistan and faces a court-martial for it. Come and meet Agosto and watch Robert Greenwald's doc, *Rethink Afghanistan*. 7pm. 5604 Manor, 965-3726. \$10 donation requested. jamesmturpin@yahoo.com.

FIRST FRIDAY EAST The Eastside food trailer center and art studio are teaming up for a smorgasbord of arty events. An improv performance kicks things off at 8pm, followed by a silent movie screening. A member of Insect Records will spin records and play live music throughout the

evening. Starving Art Studios and East Austin Trailer Park, 2324 E. Cesar Chavez. Free. www.austinstarvingart.com.

BIG BANG WITH BEARS The Lone Star Bears assert their independence a few nights early. We bet there'll still be fireworks. Red, white, and burly fireworks. 9pm. Charlie's Austin, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481. www.lonestarbears.com, www.charliesaustin.com.

DEFENDING THE AMERICAN DREAM SUMMIT Conservatives sure know how to party. Celebrate the Fourth with the appropriately named Americans for Prosperity Foundation. Various right-wing entertainers (including Rick Perry) will help you get motivated to "Take Back America." There will also be programs for middle and high school students to get indoctrinated ... er ... educated. Fri.-Sat., July 2-3. Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 476-5905. \$59 (\$29, students). www.txdream.org.

HOOPIN' HAPPY HOUR & CLOTHING SWAP (See Thursday, 7/1.)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings.) *Dusk: Improvised Tween Erotica* Salvage Vanguard Theater

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) Bolm Studios, Rio Rita

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) *Alien: The Director's Cut* @ Paramount, 7pm
Independence Day @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:15pm
Man With the Movie Camera @ E.A.T.S., 9pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) Pong, Woodgrain ND at 501 Studios
Pure Grease Launch Party Beauty Bar
Jeff Lofton's Electric Thang Lamberts
Tortilla Factory Flamingo Cantina
Storyville Antone's

RECOMMENDED
YOUNG ONES
GAY PLACES

BY KATE X MESSER

gayplace

GAYLY FOURTHWARD Or, as that line from *The Boys in the Band* goes, "Give me Librium or give me meth!" We are conundrums, we gay Americans. Nothing like a national holiday to remind us of what we have and have not, when it comes to full citizenship and rights in this country we love so much. How will you celebrate this **Fourth of July**?

"I have no plans, but if I had a choice, I'd be making out on my balcony with an adorable girl and creating our own fireworks." **Tamicka Phillips**, editrix, Emos Anonymous Zine

"I'll probably be working! hehehehee ... BORING!" **Ceci Gratias**, Site Street

"Reading Frederick Douglass' Fourth of July speech before physically celebrating the Supreme Court's Lawrence v. Texas decision." **Matt Korn**, Equality Across America

"Visiting the oil disaster on the Gulf Coast to deliver relief and

cleanup supplies on behalf of Austin citizens." **Abbe Louise Young**, poet/activist/journalist

"I will be celebrating Fourth of July at Oilcan Harry's. Chris Cox will be DJ'ing and he's absolutely amazing!" **Larry Davis**, Oilcan Harry's

"I will be rocking my Pride Socks!" **Rachel Smith**, CEO, Pride Socks

"I'll be celebrating old-school: with a small BBQ in the backyard Saturday, and then shakin' it at the Glitterbeast Hiroshima MASHUP over at the ND!" **Nakia**, Nakia LLC

"Watching fireworks, eating veggie dogs, and being thankful my state representative, Valinda Bolton, is a champion for equality in Texas." **Lindsay Marsh**, Field Organizer, Equality Texas

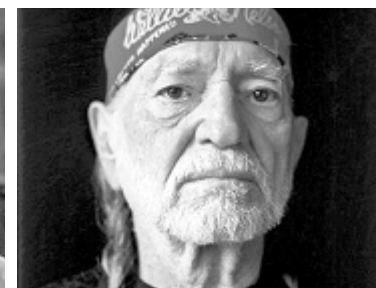
"I plan on waking up late with my GF. Heading to the fireworks stand to load up on fireworks. Then off to blow shit up literally and figuratively. Hopefully water is involved, as my ass will be covered in sweat from the 100 degree bullshit.

That and then maybe late-night dancing at the Glitterbeast gay apocalypse freak-out party at the ND? Is that too much detail?" **Beth Schindler**, general manager, Birds Barbershop

"I am going to be wearing my patriotism as if it were a pelt from a beast that seemed intangible on the hunt, earned on the backs of many, the dull spectrum of identities represented in the best opportunity of a country we got going on the planet." **Jason Rosen**, no affiliation

"I'm sitting on the [Galveston] Seawall with my family and kids watching fireworks over the ocean ... that happily does not yet have oil in it! A perfect July 4th!!!" **Cliff Redd**, executive director, the Long Center

Personally, as Ms. Beth says above, your friendly neighborhood **Gay Place** will be doing everything we can to "blow shit up literally and figuratively" as well and wish you and yours the best and most queerly satisfying **happy Fourth of July!** (For the full text of these and other contributing revelers, please check *The Gay Place Blog*: austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.)



L - R: NATURE NIGHT (SEE THURSDAY, 7/8) | VEGGIE-DOG-EATING CONTEST (SPORTS, P.59) | RE:PSYCHE (ARTS, P.62) | THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE (FILM, P.66) | WILLIE NELSON'S 4TH OF JULY PICNIC (MUSIC, P.76)

SATURDAY 03

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

BARTON CREEK FARMERS MARKET The Sunset Valley Farmers Market has moved and changed its

name, but we assume it will have the same local farm-fresh produce you've come to expect, even if it is in a mall parking lot. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Barton Creek Square, 2901 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 280-1976. Free. www.bartoncreekfarmersmarket.org.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER FARMERS' MARKET Organic and local meats, cheeses, and produce await you. Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Toney Burger Activity Center, 3200 Jones, 414-2096. Free. www.sfcfarmersmarketsunsetvalley.org.

FAMILY NATURE QUEST The whole family can enjoy these one-hour hikes followed by crafts,

activities, and a scavenger hunt. Environmental stewardship was never so fun. Call or e-mail to register. First Saturdays, 10am-1pm. McKinney Roughs Nature Park, 1884 Hwy. 71 W., Cedar Creek, 512/303-5073. Free. outdoorprograms@lcra.org, www.austinnatureday.org.

SOUTH FIRST STROLL Indie shops on South First make it easy to support local businesses with sales, entertainment, food, and other special offers. Go online for a list of participating stores and events. 10am-10pm. South First between Barton Springs Road & Oltorf. www.ibuyAustin.com.

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@ Toney Burger Center

events

ENERGY HEALING 101 Learn about the healing energies such as Reiki and the ever mysterious Matrix Energetics. Tue., July 13, 7pm. Gayatri Healing Center, 9603 Dessau, 699-1234. \$10. www.gayatrihealingcenter.com.

ENHANCING FERTILITY WITH HATHA YOGA Get the oven warmed up with eight weekly sessions of yoga tailored to women trying to conceive. No experience necessary, so sign up now. Sundays, July 11-Oct. 17, 4:30pm. Sacred Streams Yoga, 2013-A W. Anderson, 970-3601. \$175. www.sacredstreams yoga.com.

FAMILY YOGA AT RUTA MAYA Bring the little yogis. It's never too early to start. Saturdays, 10-11am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.

FULL MOON YOGA Charles MacInerney teaches classes all over town but also offers private instruction and hosts retreats. Once a month for 18 years, he has also hosted Full Moon Yoga - a free, outdoor yoga class. Go online for location and time details. 459-2267. charles@yogateacher.com, www.yogateacher.com.

MONDAY EVENING HATHA YOGA

All levels are welcome. Mondays, 7pm. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 472-4809. \$10. annelizemachado@gmail.com.

PEACE MEDITATION Can't you spare 45 minutes to send out peaceful vibrations to the universe? Sundays, 9:30am. Eastside Yoga, 1050 E. 11th, 779-8543. Donations accepted. www.eastsideyoga-austin.com.

YOGA & PILATES AT THE VORTEX E-mail to register for a stretching and strengthening routine. Mondays & Wednesdays, noon; Sundays, 10am. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$7 per class. missdoss@yahoo.com.

YOGA BY CHARITABLE DONATION Once a month, one Yoga Yoga location hosts a yoga class with donations going to a local charity. Check the online schedule for times and charities. Third Fridays. www.yogayoga.com.

YOGA FOR BIRTH & DELIVERY Alice Duffy, yoga instructor and doula, teaches yoga stretches along with breathing and relaxation techniques to make the birthing process a little less traumatic for parents and the new arrival. Sat., July 24, 1pm. Yoga Yoga, 2501 Capital of TX Hwy S., 381-6464. \$99 per couple. www.yogayoga.com/seyogaforbirth.

YOGA FOR HEALTH Gentle classes led by certified exercise physiologist and yoga instructor Paul Smith every Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Austin Yoga for Health at Remedy Center, 4910 Burnet Rd., 452-6623. www.austinyogaforhealth.com.

studios

BREATH & BODY YOGA offers a slew of classes, boot camps, and special events. 4800 Burnet Rd. #440, 374-1021. www.breathandbodyyoga.com.

AUSTIN CENTRE FOR WELLNESS YOGA CLASSES Learn the basics of Hatha yoga over the course of six classes. Wednesdays, July 21-Aug. 25, 6pm. Austin Centre for Wellness, 3809 S. Second, Bldg. A-100, 507-0233. \$60 for all six classes. www.purebalanceaustin.com.

YOGA SHALA Enjoy intimate yoga sessions in a hand-built palapa surrounded by a garden setting. 1205 Hillside, 443-5377. www.oneyoga.com.

AUSTIN YOGA INSTITUTE specializes in Iyengar yoga with daily classes for varying skill levels. If your skill level is high enough, the institute has teacher training to prepare you for certification. 1122-C S. Lamar, 923-4643. www.austinyoga.org.

SOMA VIDA This is your one-stop spot for yoga, Pilates, acupuncture, massage, birthing services, life coaching, and more. Expect to leave a more balanced person. Soma Vida, 1210 Rosewood, 628-1580. www.somavidaaustin.com.

DHARMA YOGA has classes seven days a week from basics courses to vinyasa yoga for the experienced posers.

Dharma Yoga, 41st & Guadalupe, 420-0009. www.dharma-yoga.net.

LOVE YOGA CO-OP Get the full yoga treatment with classes and workshops that help center the body and mind. Go online for a complete list of courses and to meet the instructors. Love Yoga Co-op, 2525 S. Lamar (behind Maria's Taco Xpress), 310/866-0874. www.loveyogacoop.com.

NIASPACE Specializing in yoga, Pilates, and a blending of several fitness disciplines, NiaSpace has lots of, well, space (both parking and studio space) right on South Congress. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013. www.niaspace.com.

SACRED STREAMS YOGA recently moved to its new Crestview location, but it still offers the usual classes, specialized series, and personal meditation and yoga practice. 2013-A W. Anderson. jen@sacredstreamshealing.com, www.sacredstreams yoga.com.

GAYATRI HEALING CENTER If you've got the money, they've got the healing love in the form of massage, hypnotherapy, numerology, life coaching, and more. Gayatri Healing Center, 9603 Dessau, 699-1234. www.gayatrihealingcenter.com.

BEA LOVE YOGA Brandy hosts regular classes all over town as well as special events and private instruction. Call or go online to sign up. 609-9230. brandy@bealoveyoga.com, www.bealoveyoga.com.

PEACE STUDIOS Take one of the many studio courses or get yourself to Shipe Park (off 45th Street between Avenues F & G) for by-donation yoga. 1607 Sage Hollow, 294-5524. www.yogainthepark.net.

BLUE MOON DOGA The next logical step for yoga lovers or sign of the apocalypse? You decide. Sign up to add the canine in your life to your yoga routine. (Insert downward-facing dog joke here.) Southpaws Playschool, 2324-B South Lamar, 440-7592. \$20 per half-hour session. www.bluemoondogo.com.

YOGA RX Caroline McCarter offers specialized classes and personalized attention to ensure that your stretching and posing suits your needs. Yoga Rx, 2200 S. Lamar, 554-3988. www.yoga-rx.com.

RUTA MAYA YOGA CLASSES Free yoga classes every day but Sunday. Come out for happy-hour yoga or one of the morning sessions. Check the website for a schedule. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.

EASTSIDE YOGA Your Eastside yoga options are pretty limited, but the aptly named Eastside Yoga has hatha yoga, meditation, and health workshops for the east of I-35 crowd. Eastside Yoga, 1050 E. 11th. www.eastsideyoga-austin.com.

CLEAR SPRING STUDIO Down in the increasingly hip South First strip lies this house of yoga, tai chi, meditation, and massage. Clear Spring Studio, 605 Copeland, 231-9644. www.clearspringstudio.com.

SANIEH YOGA Sanieh teaches classes all over town or even in your own home if you're so inclined. Go online for a schedule, or e-mail to schedule a house call. 470-2362. sanieh@saniehyoga.com, www.saniehyoga.com.

YOGA YOGA With five locations and 350 weekly classes, Yoga Yoga has something for all levels of ability. It also offers yoga-teacher training and special events all year round. info@yogayoga.com, www.yogayoga.com.

DAWN LIGHT YOGA Melissa Savoie offers regeneration yoga and Rise and Shine Flow in addition to private lessons by appointment. 3400 Kerbey. \$12, drop-in; \$60, six-class card. www.dawnlightyoga.com.

CASTLE HILL YOGA Take individual courses or one of its class series to take your yoga journey even further. Castle Hill Specialized Fitness, 1112 N. Lamar Ste. B, 478-4567. www.castlehill yoga.com.

BLACK SWAN YOGA This donation-based studio has sweaty yoga, power yoga, and everything in between. 1114 W. Fifth. hello@blackswanyoga.com, www.blackswanyoga.com.

KULA YOGA CENTER Calling itself "Austin's Family Yoga Center" isn't a misnomer, what with its infant/parent classes and other kid-friendly courses. Also look out for its special classes for dancers, athletes, and even students (for PE credit no less). Kula Yoga, 2415 Exposition, 542-3334. www.austinkulayoga.com.

ONEYOGA.US This donation-based community studio offers 60 classes a week. Go online for instructor bios and a schedule. Oneyoga.us, 1122-C S. Lamar, 707-2565. www.oneyoga.us.

YOGA VIDA Heated power vinyasa flow yoga seven days a week for all ability levels. Yoga Vida, 3620 Bee Caves Rd., 482-0800. www.yogavida.net.

BODHI YOGA Varying classes ranging from vinyasa to hot yoga (in a heated room) all at the convenient campus-area location. Bodhi Yoga, 2905 San Gabriel, 478-2909. www.bodhiyoga.com.

DAVILA YOGA Davila's unique system of yoga and physical therapy is designed to improve health and vitality. Group classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Go online for rates. Davila Center for Yoga & Holistic Wellness, 3202 W. Anderson, 762-9548. www.davilayoga.com.



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BY GERALD E. MCLEOD *daytrips*

Lost Maples Cafe anchors downtown Utopia, Texas, as a community center, visitor center, and diner; not that there's a lot of commercial activity in the tiny community on the banks of the Sabinal River to compete with the eatery in attracting a crowd.

This is the kind of roadside diner that becomes a traditional stopover any time you're in the area. This is where ranchers in sweat-stained Stetsons mix with bikers in black leather, and the waitresses call everybody "hon."

Built before 1904, the two-story wood building looks like an old stagecoach stop. The decor can best be described as funky chic with corrugated-tin walls and a wood floor scuffed smooth by decades of boots and flip-flops. The walls are covered with a collection of artifacts, vintage signs, farming implements, and the requisite deer head.

The menu is basic roadhouse fare, but that doesn't mean it isn't good eating. Every meal is big and hearty. The breakfast omelets and hot cakes give new meaning to the most important meal of the day.

For lunch and dinner, the cooks make mouthwatering enchiladas and a tasty hamburger. Every appetite is covered with the diner's offerings of salads, sandwiches, and steaks. Really big eaters should go for the chicken-fried steak smothered in gravy.

Whether you've stopped for a meal or just a cup of coffee and a snack, don't miss a chance for a slice of the cafe's pies. The fruit pies are as thick as a telephone book and the fudge-pecan pie is a sinful pleasure. If you like meringue pies, the firm topping is stacked a mile high and melts in your mouth.

Tucked away in the northeast corner of Uvalde County, Utopia is more of a journey than a destination. The ranch-to-market roads west of San Antonio are some of the most scenic drives in the state. Especially gorgeous are FM 187 following the Sabinal River and FM 337 between Leakey and Medina.

To get a feel for the history of the area, stop by the Sabinal Canyon Museum in Utopia. Open on weekends, the museum has a nice collection of American Indian, pioneer, and geological artifacts. The story of Utopia goes back to 1884, when the town was called Montana. When the post office rejected the name, the citizens chose Utopia because of the pleasant weather and scenic hills. Once you've visited the area, you won't think the name an exaggeration.

The Lost Maples Cafe is on RR 187 at the southern end of town. The kitchen is open Sunday through Thursday from 7am to 8pm, and Friday and Saturday from 7am to 9pm. For more information, call 830/966-2221 or go to www.lostmaplescafe.com.

After you've filled up on the great food, head over to the wonderful swimming hole downstream from where RR 1050 crosses the river on the edge of town.

990th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

outoftown

HALF-MOON HOLIDAY starts on Friday with a pie contest, chili cook-off, polka music, and youth fishing; then ramps up on Saturday with a washer-pitching contest, barbecue, music, lots of locally brewed beer, and fireworks at the end of the day. *Fri.-Sat., July 2-3. Green Dickson Park, Shiner, 361/594-4180. www.shinertx.com.*

FOURTH OF JULY RODEO features bull riding, calf roping, bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, women's breakaway roping, women's barrel racing, Leon Coffee (the most revered clown in the history of American rodeo), and fireworks every night. *Fri.-Sun., July 2-4. VFW Rodeo Arena, Wimberley, 512/847-2147. \$20 (\$10, kids). www.visitwimberley.com/rodeo.*

AQUA BOOM includes barbecue and chili cook-offs, a fish fry, tournaments, games, water activities, and fireworks. *Sat.-Sun., July 3-4. Kingsland, 325/388-6211. www.kingslandchamber.org.*

PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL offers an evening of food, music, and fun for the whole family with the Austin Symphonic Band playing during the fireworks display. *Sat., July 3, 6-10pm. Fisherman's Park, Bastrop, 512/321-2419. Free. www.bastropchamber.com.*

PARI-MUTUEL HORSE RACING showcases a full slate of quarter horse and Thoroughbred races along with entertainment, food, and refreshments. *Sat. & Sun., July 3 & 4, July 17 & 18, Aug. 14 & 15, Aug. 28 & 29. Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2359. \$5. www.gillespiefair.com.*

FOURTH OF JULY SPANGE-DANGLE invites contestants in the washer-pitching tournament to compete for more than \$500 in prize money, plus enjoy other games, food, and fireworks. *Sun., July 4, 3pm-12mid. Blanco County Fairgrounds, Johnson City, 830/868-7684. www.johnsoncity-texas.com.*

YMCA FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL Barbecue, drinks, games, contests, and the all-important pool to ensure that your kids don't start dropping like flies. *10am-2pm. YMCA East Communities Branch, 5315 Ed Bluestein, 933-9622. Free. www.austinyymca.org.*

ICAN MONTHLY MEETING The International Cesarean Awareness Network hosts this meeting where you can share birth stories, ask questions, and find resources. *First Saturdays, 10:30am. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 203-6097. Free. icanofaustin@gmail.com.*

FIRE PREVENTION DAY Get a quick refresher before things start exploding tomorrow. There will be a controlled burn across the street and other activities for less pyrotechnically oriented kids. *11am-4pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free.*

FIRECRACKER STORYTIME Celebrate our country's Independence during today's July 4th Storytime! Read a favorite story and create a special craft. *11am. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

LITTLE LOUNGE LIZARDS Bring the 10-and-younger 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, 291-0714. \$9-10.50. www.littleloungeizards.com.*

SCULPTOR-TO-BE WORKSHOP Kids learn to paint flowers like Georgia O'Keeffe. Reservations are recommended. *1:30pm. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582 x101. \$12. sheila.fox@umlaufsculpture.org. www.umlaufsculpture.org.*

'SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL' TOURNAMENT If video games are what it takes to get kids to the library, then so be it. Enter a qualifying round today. Pick up a book while you're there. See www.cityofaustin.org/library for a schedule of events. *2pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill Rd., 974-9820. Free.*

'L STYLE G STYLE' RELEASE Blue Lapis Light, Ephraim Owens, and DJ Aaron Montez throw down the high art for the not-so-high art of publishing: It's a magazine release par-tay! *7pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd Street & Robert Dedman Drive, UT campus, 471-1444. \$20.*

CENTRAL TEXAS BOYS OF LEATHER MEETING Shiny, shiny ... shiny boots of leather. Every first Saturday and, on the patio for cookouts, every second Sunday of the month. *First Saturdays, 8-10pm; second Sundays, 5-8pm. Chain Drive, 504 Willow, 480-9017. \$5 to benefit CTBOL charities. www.ctbol.org.*

CHARITY WEDDING GOWN SALE (See Friday.)

DEFENDING THE AMERICAN DREAM SUMMIT (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Alien: The Director's Cut @ Paramount, 4:40, 9:15pm
Exit Through the Gift Shop @ Alamo Ritz, 4:20pm
Independence Day @ Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:15pm
Killer of Sheep @ Alamo Ritz, noon

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Make Austin Weirder Fest Lovejoys
The Low Lows The Scoot Inn
Storyville Antone's
Simple Circuit, the Zoltars Carousel Lounge
Bastard Sons of Willie Picnic Mohawk



SUNDAY 04

CHAIN OFF 2010 Retired Austin Police Commander Bobbie Oliver will be chaining herself in a park. Is it a protest against freedom? Actually the opposite. She's spending her Fourth in chains to bring attention to the overlooked animal abuse of chaining pets that need social interaction. *5am-10pm. Garrison Park, 6001 Manchaca. www.dogsdeservebetter.org.*

NORTHWEST AUSTIN PARADE The Northwest Austin Civic Association hosts the 38th annual parade that starts on the corner of Waterline and Far West Boulevard and concludes at Doss Elementary School. *9am.*

BREWBQUE FESTIVAL celebrates independence with 5,000 pounds of barbecue, live music from the likes of Cory Morrow, a lumberjack sports show, chihuahuas races, kids' activities, and fireworks to help end things with a bang. *11am-11pm. Buda City Park, Downtown Buda. \$15 (free after 8:30pm). www.brewbque.com.*

FREDERICKSBURG CHILI COOK-OFF The entry fee gets you 10 chili samples, and the money goes to Habitat for Humanity. Live music on the veranda helps keep you in a charitable mood. *Noon. Becker Vineyards, 464 Becker Farms Rd., Stonewall, 830/644-2681. \$5. www.beckervineyards.com.*

RED'S PORCH BACKYARD PIG ROAST Admission gets you all the pork and sides you can eat. Don't fill up too early though and blow your chances in the washers tournament. Drink specials all night. *Noon-12mid. Red's Porch, 3508 S. Lamar, 440-7337. \$15. www.redsorch.com.*

WILLIE NELSON'S 4TH OF JULY PICNIC See Recommended, Music, p.76, for more info. *noon. The Backyard, 13472 Bee Cave Pkwy., 263-4146. \$55. www.thebackyard.net.*

BOOK ARTS FAIR The Austin Bookworkers bring their love of handbound bookbinding, paper decorating, calligraphy, and wood block and screenprinting to the public with demos. The kids can bring a book to be repaired at the book hospital. *1-5pm. Austin Museum of Art - Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free. austinbookworkers@gmail.com.*

VEGGIE DOG EATING CONTEST Entry gets you one free nonmeat dog, ice cream, live music, and a front row seat to the veggie spectacle. Awards for best costume and sign will be awarded to those unwilling to gorge themselves in the contest. *1-4pm. Tiniest Bar in Texas, 817 W. Fifth, 902-6177. \$5. www.veggiedogcontest.com.*

PRIME TIMERS LIKE FINE WINE Mature gay men meet monthly. *jHOLA, Papi! 2pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free. www.austintptww.org.*

AMERICANARAMA Nothing says America quite like kegs and a slip & slide, and nothing says Monofonus Press like video art and live music. Put them together and you have a multimedia clusterfuck of Americanisms. *4-10pm. The Monofonus Compound, 610 Vermont. www.monofonuspress.com.*

CEDAR PARK'S FOURTH FESTIVAL has everything you'd expect: live music, dancing, watermelon, sack races, bouncy castles, fireworks, etc. If things get too hot, take a dip in Milburn Pool (1-8pm). *4-10:30pm. Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase Blvd., Cedar Park, 512/401-5500. Free. www.cedarparkfun.com.*

FORUM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SEE TUESDAY)

SLICE OF TEXAS The Texas Pork Association and the Texas Watermelon Association will be offering free watermelon, but the pulled pork sandwiches will cost you. Stick around and watch the fireworks from the patio. 5-8pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234.

ELGIN'S FOURTH CELEBRATION It seems like everyone is celebrating freedom today. Elgin celebrates with Buffalo Soldiers, kids' activities, live music, and fireworks. 6:30-10pm. Southside Market & BBQ, 1212 Hwy. 290 W., Elgin, 281-4650. Free.

DRINK PINK FIREWORKS Enjoy a view of the fireworks from Opal Divine's Sixth Street patio and help Breast Cancer Resource Centers of Texas in the process. Michael Fracasso and Nathan Hamilton supply the live music while the bartenders offer special drinks with a pink theme. 7-11pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. \$5 suggested donation. www.opaldivines.com.

*** SYMPHONY & FIREWORKS ON LADY BIRD LAKE** Not only will Peter Bay of the Austin Symphony Orchestra be swinging his baton like a patriot backdropped by the best fireworks in Central Texas, but he has Howitzer cannons at his strictly musical disposal. Get there early, bring a blanket, and brace for the audio/visual onslaught. 8:30pm. Auditorium Shores at the Long Center, South First at Lady Bird Lake, 482-0800.

*** HIROSHIMAMASHUP** Interdependent mash-a-roo at the ND commemorating one of America's greatest achievements (if you consider horrific decimation an achievement). It's all in good fun, and the more you dress for your dystopian back-to-the-future, the less you pay. (GP will shell out the full "squares" fee.) DJ Butcher Bear, Austin Video Bee, and the LibertyDeath Dancers want to Mash! You! Up! 9pm. ND at 501 Studios, 501 N. I-35, 845/430-2736. Costume scale: Free for bumblebee-vampire-hot pants; \$5, glitterbeasts; \$7, glitter zombies; \$15, squares. queerbeast@gmail.com, www.glitterbeast.biz.

*** RED, WHITE, AND COX** Happy Fourth on Fourth! DJ Chris Cox spins the bombs bursting in air. 9pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

*** TAKE A RIDE ON YO DISCOSTICK** Gaga, goo goo. Sisters, have you lost your edge? Here's a new place to meet the baby ladies, not to mention, the gold stars (as this is ho-moted by the dolls at Goldstar). Hot DJs. Hot "views." Whew. Sundays, 9pm. Lanai, 422 Congress, 479-6600. Free.

FRONTIER DAYS CELEBRATION Round Rock celebrates the Fourth with a full day of celebrations, starting with a parade at noon traveling down Main Street followed by a daylong festival with vendors, food, a rubber duck race, the annual Sam Bass Shootout reenactment, and pepper-eating contest. After that, it's time to ramp things up with skydivers at 8pm, the music of the Austin Symphonic Band, and, finally, fireworks. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/341-3361. Free. www.roundrockfrontierdays.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Exit Through the Gift Shop @ Alamo Ritz, 4:20pm
Independence Day @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Willie Nelson's 4th of July Celebration
@ Alamo Ritz, 2pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic The Backyard The Electric Company's 4th of July Celebration Seaholm Power Plant

MONDAY 05

*** NEIGHBORHOOD FARM MARKETS**
The Sustainable Food Center will be offering local, farm-fresh produce through the end of July. Mondays: Northeast WIC Clinic, 7112 Ed Bluestein (8-11am); St. Johns Community Center, 7500 Blessing (noon-2pm). Wednesdays: Rosewood-Zaragoza WIC Clinic, 2800 Webberville Rd. (9-11am); Montopolis WIC Clinic, 1416 Montopolis (11am-1pm), 236-0074 x101. www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

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

*** CIRCUS CHICKEN DOG** Part circus performance, part dog trick workshop, part interactive improv theatre, part storytime, all fun. Mondays through July 12, 9am. Southpaws Playschool, 2324-B S. Lamar, 440-7529. \$20. www.chickendog.net.

*** NAKED YOGA FOR MEN** Ongoing and open to all men, but endorsed by Gay Place because gay men teach it, and gay men are encouraged to attend. Let it all hang out, baby. (Ask about the clothing-optional co-ed alternative.) Sundays, 10:30am; Mondays, 7:45pm; Wednesdays, 8:30pm; Saturdays, 10am. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 750-8211. \$12. nudeyoga@texas.net, www.austinnakedyoga.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Cropsey @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Willie Nelson's 4th of July Celebration
@ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Burger City Rock & Roll Record Party The Grand

TUESDAY 06

BIZ OPEN ORIENTATION Looking to expand your small business? Call or go online to register, and make sure you know about all the hoops you need to jump through. 9am. One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 974-7800. Free. www.austinsmallbiz.org.

*** 'SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL' TOURNAMENT** See Saturday for more info. 2pm. North Village Library, 2505 Steck, 974-9820. Free.

GLUTEN- & CASEIN-FREE DIETS WORKSHOP Learn how to accommodate these dietary restrictions even on a budget. Call or e-mail to RSVP. 6pm. Thoughtful House Center for Children, 3001 Bee Caves Rd. #120, 732-8400. Free. nisey.w@thoughtfulhouse.org, www.thoughtfulhouse.org/events.php.

*** LISTEN TO OUTCAST!** KOOP = queer! Tweak your knobs (or theirs) to 91.7FM. It's OutCast, for and about the Central Texas LGBT population and beyond. Join Heath, Stephen, Miss Kitty, and the Gay Place's Kate X. Tuesdays, 6-7pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org, www.outcastaustin.com.

*** FORUM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** If you're not too busy networking, find out about digital holography (aka 3-D without the glasses). RSVP requested. 6:30pm. AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., 404-1900, 877/744-8822. Free. www.austinforum.org.

*** SIERRA CLUB PICNIC** Join in on this tradition, chat with the Sierra Club folks, and bring a dish for the potluck. No alcohol allowed. Reusable dishes will be provided. 6:30-10pm. Zilker Park Rock Garden picnic area. www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin.

*** NOT JUST FOR LUSHES** Time for another installment of your favorite first Tuesday ladies night, LuSHE, hooked up with cheap drinks and hot lady 'tenders by the eye-ful. Race you to the ceiling on that stripper pole. 9pm. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150.

*** RAINBOW NIGHT** For Bobcats (and friends) who swish and sway to a different beat. Rrrrraw! 9:30pm. J's Bistro, 202 N. LBJ, San Marcos, 512/392-3031. www.facebook.com/rainbownight.

*** TUEZGAYZ** The Gitoris presents ... Need we say 'mo? Tuesdays, 10pm. Barbarella, 615 Red River, 476-7766. www.barbarellaustin.com, www.thegitoris.tumblr.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
All That Heaven Allows @ Paramount, 7pm
Blood Simple @ Milwood Branch Library, 6:30pm
Cropsey @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Imitation of Life @ Paramount, 8:55pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Cage Mohawk

WEDNESDAY 07

BUSINESS START-UP ORIENTATION RSVP to this city-sponsored event, and learn all you need to know to start and grow your own small business. 6pm. Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/sbdp.

CLASSIC GAME FEST PRACTICE NIGHT Sign up now for Game Over Videogames' retro tournament, and you can also brush up on your Super Bomberman skills for the original Nintendo before attending the virtual battle on Fri., July 9. 6pm. Game Over Videogames at 183 & Lamar (Austin), 290 & Brodie (Sunset Valley), I-35 & 620 (Round Rock), 454-GAME. Free. www.gameovervideogames.com.

DEFENSIVE CYCLING CLASSES Did you get a ticket while riding on your bicycle? It happens. Just like for tickets in your car, you can take a defensive cycling course and get the ticket dismissed. 6pm. BikeTexas, 1902 E. Sixth. \$25. www.austincycling.org.

*** GAYMERS ALERT!** If your joystick leans a little more one way than the other, then you know the joy of finding like-minded thumb jockeys. Here they are: Your people! Finally in Austin, Texas gay gamers with a plan to meet and play and rack up some serious high scores. And not just on the scoreboard. 7pm. Kerbey Lane Cafe, 13435 Hwy. 183 N. #415, 258-7757. g2a2t@gmail.com.

*** ZERO WASTE ALLIANCE** How much waste is too much? Come and learn what you can do to bring your waste output down to nothing at all. The Earth will thank you. First Wednesdays, 8:30pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. Free. www.ctzwa.org.

*** 'BOUT TIME FOR VOLLEYBALL!** Team play on Wednesday and Sunday nights, and pickup games every day. 'Bout Time, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339. www.bouttimeaustin.com.

BARE WALLS? WE GOT YOU COVERED!

Openings

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* SHIRTS!
* STARTER JACKET!

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"The Two Lovers" Saturday July 31, 7:30 PM
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www.sevayoga.com or \$15 at the door
SUMMER KIRTAN
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JULY FOURTH (SEE SUNDAY)

ASO: CHILDREN'S DAY ART PARK Learn about the symphony and its various instruments (and performers), take part in arts & crafts, listen to storytellers, and enjoy mimes, magicians, and more. Why not play a tune yourself at the instrument petting zoo? Each week features a performance by one of Austin's favorite kid-friendly acts. *Wednesdays through July 28, 9:30am. Symphony Square, 1101 Red River, 476-6064. 50 cents per child (free, adults accompanying a child).* www.austinsymphony.org.

DRAG BINGO Saffire T. Stone presents all the plumage and pageantry of chicken shit bingo but without the, you know. *Every other Wednesday, 8-10pm. Jo's Coffee, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800.*

NEIGHBORHOOD FARM MARKETS (See Monday.)

LEGAL CLINIC (See Monday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
All That Heaven Allows @ Paramount, 9:30pm
Birdemic: Shock and Terror @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
Cropey @ Alamo Ritz, 9:40pm
Imitation of Life @ Paramount, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Next Up Night *Antone's*

THURSDAY 08

'SUPER SMASH BROS. BRAWL' TOURNAMENT See Saturday for more info. 2pm. *Pleasant Hill Branch Library, 211 E. William Cannon, 974-9820. Free.*

SUMMER PUPPETS: A TARADILLO TALE See Thursday, 7/1, for more info. 2pm. *University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 974-9820. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

NATURE NIGHT Tired of spending a mint on your child's edutainment? Then has the Wildflower Center

got a series of outdoor exploration, habitat hikes, and crafts for you. This week, meet live snakes and explore where they live. 6-9pm. *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. \$1 (free for members).* www.wildflower.org.

TOY JOY ARTSHOW Austin's favorite toy store curates this playful exhibition of local artists accompanied by live music, vegan soft serve, and interactive artist stations. 7pm-12mid. *United States Art Authority, 2906 Fruth, 320-0090. Free. www.toyjoy.com.*

TRANSITION AUSTIN MEETING Join this group attempting to make the transition from an oil-based society to a more sustainable future as smooth as possible. 7pm. *Lars Stanley Studio, 1901 E.M. Franklin. Free. www.transitionaustin.org.*

GENEALOGY AFTER HOURS is a meeting of the Williamson County Genealogical Society. 7:30pm. *Round Rock Public Library, 216 E. Main St., Round Rock, 512/218-7000. Free.*

SOUL SISTERS ON WEBBERVILLE ROAD Hey Austin, Lisa Marshall's voice will implode your pace-maker. Hey Austin, T.C.'s hostess Baby Girl will take care of the rest of what's left of your heart. *Every second Thursday, 9pm. T.C.'s Lounge, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200. www.lisamarshallmusic.com.*

HIV SUPPORT GROUP (See Thursday, 7/1.)

HOOPIN' HAPPY HOUR & CLOTHING SWAP (See Thursday, 7/1.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
D Berman Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
David Holzman's Diary @ Nueva Onda, 8pm
Detour @ Harry Ransom Center's Prothro Theater, 7pm

Norma Rae @ Paramount, 7pm
Silkwood @ Paramount, 9:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Marcia Griffiths, Tanya Stephens *Aces Lounge*
Texas Tornados *Antone's*
Ola Podrida *Mohawk*

Kate X Messer (Gay Place): gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

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

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

For FAQs and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/commform.

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

now . . .

BISEXUAL WEIGH-IN Get online and take a survey, you many-sex-lovin' beauties, and let your life shine. Results will be presented at the 28th annual BiCon this year in London in late August, and at the Out & Equal Summit in L.A. in October. www.outandequal.org/bisexualsurvey.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR You too can know the extent to which you are killing the planet, courtesy of the Austin Climate Protection Program. Go online, and let ACPP do the math for you. After that, it's up to you to change your ways or live with the guilt. www.coolaustin.org.

CASTING FOR HGTV SHOW Individuals or couples looking to buy your first home and want all your successes and failures broadcast to homes across the nation, now's your chance. Call or e-mail for an application. Casting takes place through August. 303/712-3283. *Free. mgolliday@highnoontv.com, www.hgtv.com.*

CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION CALL FOR DONATIONS You can help by contributing to the center's emergency funds, which help families in need following a traumatic event. Toiletries, bedsheets, towels, baby formula, and other items can also be donated. *Center for Child Protection, 8509 FM 969, Bldg. 2, 472-1164. www.centerforchildprotection.org.*

HOST A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT International Student Exchange is seeking big-hearted families to provide room and board for international students in the upcoming school year. 913-8375. jbretherick@austin.rr.com. www.culturalexchange.us.

INSIDE OUR GOVERNOR'S MANSION Explore this historic house and the people who have resided there through music, videos, original artifacts, and documents. *Through Aug. 1. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-4649. \$7 (\$4, kids). www.thestoryoftexas.com/the_museum/temporary_exhibit.html.*

KIDS COOKING SCHOOL Central Market gets the kids (ages 5 to 12) in the kitchen learning about chocolate or even an intro to knife skills (for the older kids). Call to sign up. *Through Aug. 12. Central Market North Cooking School, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. \$40 per class. www.centralmarket.com.*

MEALS ON WHEELS AND MORE VOLUNTEERS are desperately needed as summer approaches and volunteers go on vacation, not to mention an increased demand for the nonprofit's services. Go online for details, or call to volunteer. 476-6325 x105. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org/volunteer.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS Now is your chance to get funding for that median landscaping, community garden, or mural you've always thought your neighborhood needed – apply by *Fri., July 9. 391-0622. www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/nbg.*

NEIGHBORHOOD HABITAT CHALLENGE Get the neighborhood organized, and start making your yard more hospitable to wildlife. If your neighborhood ends up with the largest number of certified wildlife habitats ... well, isn't that enough? *Through Nov. 15. 327-8181 x29. www.keepaustinwild.com.*

PET FOSTER PROGRAM The Town Lake Animal Center needs individuals who can care for and house a cat or a dog for two to four weeks at a time. Underage and nursing animals are most in need of help. Interested individuals should fill out the application that can be found online. *Town Lake Animal Center, 1156 W. Cesar Chavez. www.getapetnow.com.*

POWERSPEAK LANGUAGES Want to learn a new language? Your public library now has interactive software that you can use at the library or at home. Spanish, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and English for Spanish-speakers are available for those with a library card. 974-7400. *Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

PROP. 8: NO HATE! THINK GLOBAL! ACT LOCO! Our buds at Equality Across America Texas stand at the ready – the very second that decision comes down in California's Prop. 8 trial – to send out a call for an Austin rally. Activism on a dime, baby! Sign up on the website to get the very latest and to learn how to get involved. www.eaatexas.org.

PUBLIC INPUT ON BUDGET PRIORITIES Go online to choose among unmet service demands and potential service reductions. See if you can make the hard fiscal choices we ask of our elected officials. The

voting period ends July 9.
www.cityofaustin.org/citymgr/budget_input.htm.

SHARE! FOREIGN EXCHANGE Act globally right from your home by opening your door to a high school exchange student placed by the nice folks at Share! Browse the applications to find the kid who's a good fit with your family. What have you got to lose ... but your myopia? 800/941-3738. ycoffman@sharesouthwest.org. www.sharesouthwest.org.

STORM DRAIN MARKING PROGRAM Help the city mark our storm drains and ensure that people know that dumping pollutants in them is wildly uncool. Call or e-mail to sign up a small team to cover an area of our city putting markers on drains. All materials and tools will be provided. 974-2454. katie.sternberg@ci.austin.tx.us. www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/wq_stormdrain.htm.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM You want to win prizes just for reading? Not that you need incentives, but for every three library books you read before Aug. 15, you get an entry form to win gift certificates and prizes. Kids under the age of 17 can log the books they've read and choose one to keep when summer ends. Good books and fabulous prizes. Any more demands, Mr. Greedy-Reader? *All Austin public libraries, 974-7400. www.cityofaustin.org/library.*

WORLD CUP IN 3-D File this under "best deal ever." A private media research lab will be showing the World Cup games in 3-D, and you're invited to watch. More than that, the lab will pay you \$40 to do it. We imagine there will be no shortage of marketing questionnaires to fill out, but who cares? Sign up on the website with the registration code "WORLDUCUP" *MediaScience Research Lab, 11904 N. I-35, 512/837-5646. info@themediapanel.com, www.themediapanel.com.*

& later

ACLU TEXAS YOUTH RIGHT CONFERENCE is a day of workshops and talks concerning discipline in the Texas education system. Co-creator and writer of the critically acclaimed HBO show *The Wire*, Ed Burns, will keynote the conference. *Sat., July 31. Omni Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 448-2222. \$25. www.aclutx.org.*

BLOOMIN' BLOOM! Another year, another crop o' hothouse artists, all to benefit AGLIFF, our LGBTQ film fest. Watch this space for more details. *Fri., July 23, 8pm. Action Figure, 3000 E. Cesar Chavez, 302-9889. \$40 (\$35, advance). www.agliff.org.*

CITYWORKS ACADEMY pulls back the curtain on the inner workings of Austin's municipal government. Deadline to apply: *July 31. Tuesdays, Sept. 7-Nov. 23. www.cityofaustin.org/cityworks.*

CLEAN CREEK CAMP Register early for one of two weeklong camps for parents and their children. Explore Austin's creeks and aquifer together, and come away with a new respect for our local waterways. Good for kids between the ages of 9 and 12. *July 19-22, 9am-noon. 974-6571. \$20 per family. www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/cleancreek_camp.htm.*

FOODIES PUB CRAWL Remember last year's awesome Foodies Pub Crawl with Blindsided Softball on East Sixth? It's back! The gimmick this year is the T-shirt you get with admission: It has an upside-down guide to all the stops – which we predict will stop being helpful after your third drink. *Sat., July 17, 7pm. \$15 (\$10, advance). blindsidedsoftball@gmail.com, www.foodiesaustin.com.*

STATEWIDE SUMMIT ALLGO's annual Queer People of Color Activists Statewide Summit is coming. Call or e-mail for info. *Fri.-Sun., July 9-11. ALLGO, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. priscilla@allgo.org, www.allgo.org.*

SUMMER SESSION STEELPAN CLASSES Beginners and experienced players get 12 hours of instruction including sessions with a member of Trinidad's Desperadoes Steel Orchestra. *July 26-Aug. 6. Austin Community Steelband, 1005 E. 10th, 473-8434. \$100. www.austincommunitysteelband.org.*

SWING DANCE SUMMER CAMP No previous dancing experience is necessary to learn the basics of swing. This two-day camp for teens will have you jumping and jiving in no time. *Sat.-Sun., July 17-18. Khabele Studio, 701 W. Seventh, 480-8142. \$65. www.thelindyproject.com/workshop_summercamp.html.*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

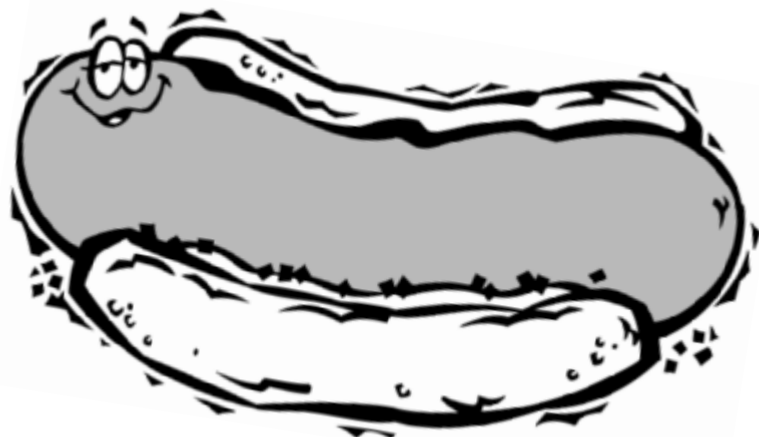
The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the July 16 issue is Monday, July 5.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

sports

BY MARK FAGAN

listings



The Final Buntier: Veggie Hot Dog Eating Contest

What better way to celebrate our nation's independence than by attending a locally sponsored **vegetarian hot dog eating competition**? And don't fret, it's not too late to sign up for this fourth-annual affair, although it'll be just as much fun, if not more, to participate as a spectator/cheerleader. This event is the brainchild of the enterprising folks at **iLoveMikeLitt**, who dabble in all sorts of off-the-wall productions celebrating the absurdity and beauty of our time spent sharing space on this huge third stone from the sun. There's also a **veggie hot dog video contest** being held in conjunction with the face-stuffing extravaganza. The winning filmmakers will receive a \$100 gift card from the Alamo Drafthouse and 2010 Austin Film Festival passes. See the website to view the video entries and to learn more about how you can get involved in this and future events. *Sun., July 4, 1-4pm, competition at 2pm. Tiniest Bar in Texas, 817 W. Fifth, 391-6222. www.ilovemikelitt.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

★ ROUND ROCK EXPRESS As Bill Veeck said, "There are only two seasons – winter and baseball." Time to head to the Dell for some hot dogs, cool drinks, and America's pastime. For more on the Express, see *Chronicle Sports* blog *The Score*. Vs. *Memphis*: *Sun.-Wed., July 4-7, 7:05pm*. Vs. *Oklahoma City*: *Thu.-Sun., July 8-11, 7:05pm*. *Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. \$6-30. www.roundrockexpress.com.*

AUSTIN AZTEX For more, see "Soccer Watch." Vs. *Puerto Rico*: *Sat., July 3, 7:30pm. House Park, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd. \$12-15; \$10, group rate; free, kids 5 and under. www.austinaztex.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE hosts a "try before you buy" equipment sale, plus putting and closest-to-the-pin contests and free 30-minute lessons. *Sat., July 3, 8am. Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.*

SOUTH AUSTIN SUMMER ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE Sign up now; this league gets started Aug. 4. Players 21 and up and 6 feet, 6 inches and under only. Their motto is "it's just a game," and overly competitive jocks will be ousted. Eight-week season, full court five-on-five, with scoreboards, officials, playoffs, prizes, and all that kind of good stuff. *Wednesdays, Aug. 4-Sept. 22, 7-9pm. \$350 per team. www.austinsportscenter.com.*

SLIDE CLASS Free rowing-machine workouts with a lovely view of Lady Bird Lake. *Wed., July 7, 6-7pm. Free. Rowing Dock, 2418 Stratford, 459-0999. www.rowingdock.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

FIRECRACKER 5K EVENING RUN All ages and genders are welcome with awards presented to the top overall male and female runners. *Thu., July 1, 7:30pm. River Ridge Business Park (one mile north of San Marcos), 512/393-8284. \$20.*

SUNSTROKE SUMMER STAMPEDE RACE NO. 9 The SSS is a series of 12 chip-timed 5K races on alternating courses each Wednesday night this summer. *Wed., July 7, 7pm. Brushy Creek Trail, Cedar Park, 512/444-2800 x8900. www.summerstampe.com.*

FREEDOM 5000 Patriots only (just kidding) at this race, with strollers and pets on leashes welcome to join in after the more serious runners have gotten a good head start. *Sun., July 4, 8am. Austin State School, 2203 W. 35th, 472-3254. www.racetechs.com/EventRegister?eventNumber=61c7b.*

HEART WALK FUNDRAISER benefits the American Heart Assoc. \$50 includes open bar & appetizers. *Thu., July 1, 4:30-11pm. ZTejas, 9400 Arboretum Blvd., 541-7695. \$50 suggested donation. www.ninedotsales.com/HeartWalk/AustinHeart.html.*

NELSON SCHOLARSHIP 5K All proceeds from this scenic chip-timed run will benefit the Nelson Tennis Foundation, which provides scholarships for

Georgetown High School students. *Sat., July 3, 7:30am. Berry Creek Racquet Club, 449 Champions Dr., Georgetown. www.nelsontennisfoundation.net.*

NONE OF THE ABOVE

TEXAS PREMIER FOOTBALL CAMP Kids 7-18 can enroll in this noncontact football camp hosted by B.J. Johnson, Sloan Thomas, and Michael Huff. Proceeds benefit Boys and Girls Clubs of the Austin Area. *Thu.-Fri., July 8-9, 9am-3pm. St. Michael's Academy, 3000 Barton Creek Blvd. www.texaspremiercamp.com.*

LONGHORN BASEBALL CAMP Longhorn Baseball runs camps year-round. Kids 6-14 can sign up for half-day (\$275), full-day (\$450), or overnight (\$550) camps. See www.longhornbaseballcamp.com for further details. *Mon.-Wed., July 5-7.*

AUSTIN MASTERS SWIMMING CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS Events will be divided by age group and gender. *Sun., July 4, 9am. The Jewish Community Assoc. of Austin pool, 7300 Hart, 327-2260. www.americanswimmingassociation.com.*

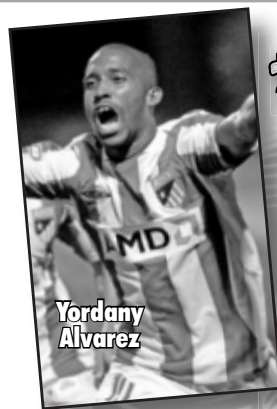
USA JUNIOR OLYMPIC BOYS VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS USA Volleyball will be showcasing 400 of the best junior teams in the country right here in the ATX. Five open division titles will be awarded in age groups 14-18, with seven club division titles up for grabs for 12- to 18-year-old. See www.usavolleyball.org for more. *Through Wed., July 7. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez.*

BY NICK BARBARO **soccer watch**

When the **Austin Aztex** host the **Puerto Rico Islanders** this Saturday (*July 3, 7:30pm; House Park, 13th & Lamar*), it'll be their ninth game in 29 days – the most physically challenging segment of their schedule, and they've come through it with flying colors. They've gone 5-2-1 since June 5 in all competitions and extended their league lead to a season-high eight points. And as of Saturday, they'll be halfway through the season, and you won't have so many more chances to see them – just six more regular-season home games after this one... The Aztex got their **fifth road win** of the season Saturday, 2-1 over Miami, with **Eddie Johnson** scoring both Aztex goals, the second on a penalty kick in the 88th minute... Then on Tuesday, the Aztex bowed out of the **U.S. Open Cup** in Los Angeles, falling 1-0 to **Chivas USA** in the Round of 16. For the first time in this year's Cup play, the Aztex used almost all starters, but they couldn't break through against the Major League Soccer side. Overall, MLS teams went 4-0 against the USSF D-2 Tuesday but 0-2 against the third-division USL-2 (with two games being played as we go to press)... The Aztex will be missing two key players Saturday: **Sullivan Silva** and **Leonard Griffin**, both serving suspensions for red cards earned in consecutive wins over Miami... **Yordany Alvarez**, **Miguel Gallardo**, and **Jay Needham** have played every minute of the Aztex's 14 games; no one else in the league can match that. Leonard Griffin had played every minute as well, before being red-carded with five minutes to go in

Miami... In a league where half the teams are scoring less than a goal a game, the Aztex have scored 27 in 14 games. Eddie Johnson, **Maxwell Griffin**, and **Jamie Watson** rank second, fourth, and fifth among top scorers in the league.

The **World Cup** Round of 16 was a joy to watch – all the big teams that are left played up to their potential after some less-than-great play in the group stage. I felt like we saw the **Brazil** we'd been wanting to see – playing with style and picking apart a very good Chilean defense – and likewise **Germany** over England, **Argentina** over Mexico, and **Spain** over Portugal all showed off teams very near the top of their game. **Netherlands** maybe less so. But we'll see. The **quarterfinals** are this *Friday-Saturday, July 2-3*, with marquee matchups for the two 9am games: **Brazil-Netherlands** first, then **Germany-Argentina**. Full schedule, plus viewing info, on the following page... Silver lining to the **U.S. loss**: At least one African team made it into the quarterfinals. **Go Ghana!**... South Americans continue to roll; with four of their five entrants still alive, it's entirely possible we could see an **all-South American final four**. By contrast, Europe has three quarterfinalists out of 13 entries, Africa is one-for-six, and the rest of the world is zero-for-eight... I love the Nike ads, but where are all their big stars? **Rooney**, **Ribéry**, **Cannavaro**, **Cristiano Ronaldo**, **Ronaldinho**, **Eto'o**, not one of them will play these next two weekends. But we still get to see them in action, bigger than life...



Yordany Alvarez

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World Cup Watch

austinchronicle.com/sports

QUARTERFINALS

Fri., 7/2	9:00am	Holland-Brazil	ESPN	# * ▲
	1:30pm	Uruguay-Ghana	ESPN	# * ▲
Sat., 7/3	9:00am	Germany-Argentina	ABC	* ▲
	1:30pm	Paraguay-Spain	ABC	* ▲

SEMIFINALS & FINAL

Tue., 7/6	1:30pm	QF2 vs. QF1	ESPN	# * ▲
Wed., 7/7	1:30pm	QF3 vs. QF4	ESPN	# * ▲
Sat., 7/10	1:30pm	Third Place	ABC	* ▲
Sun., 7/11	1:30pm	Championship Final	ABC	* ▲

All games on ESPN and ESPN2 are streamed live at ESPN3.com
* Most games are also streaming live on MobileTV

▲ Alamo Lake Creek and Alamo South Lamar will show all the later-round games on the big screen; screenings are free, first come, first serve, but you can reserve a seat by buying a \$5 food & drink voucher to go toward your tab during the match.

Austin Sports Tavern (northwest corner of I-35 & Oltorf) has 12 big-screen TVs and a smoking patio...

Black Sheep Lodge (2108 S. Lamar) is opening early for all matches, with breakfast specials daily and drink specials...

Cover 3 (2700 W. Anderson) will offer \$2 Dos Equis drafts and \$3 frozen margaritas during live games...

Crown & Anchor (2911 San Jacinto) will be opening for the early games and serving breakfast tacos. Happy hour starts when the doors open...

Cuatros (1004 W. 24th) will show the games and hosted the Austin Aztex watch parties for the three U.S. games...

Doc's is open for all 64 games at both locations (1123 S. Congress; 5207 Brodie) with the full menu, plus drink specials...


DoubleDave's Pizzaworks (seven locations) will show all cup games; the Duval location has \$8 pitchers for all games; all other locations offer 2-for-1 pizza rolls for all games; \$1.50 pints for 1:30pm games...

Dog and Duck Pub (406 W. 17th) will show all the WC games...

El Arroyo (1624 W. Fifth) will be showing all the World Cup games...

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

restaurant guide



THOUSANDS OF AREA RESTAURANTS SEARCHABLE BY CUISINE TYPE AND AREA OF TOWN

austinchronicle.com/guides/restaurant

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE



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For more World Cup coverage, see
soccer watch, p. 59.
 BY NICK BARBARO

El Mercado has new flat-screen TVs at all three locations (1302 S. First; 1702 Lavaca; 7414 Burnet Rd.) and drink specials each day...

Fadó (214 W. Fourth) will be open early for every match, with a special WC menu, an online fantasy game, and much more...

Jo's Downtown (242 W. Second) will be screening matches through the day...

Justine's Brasserie (4710 E. Fifth) has hosted the French delegation every day with croissants and a full bar, with the *Chronicle's* Claudia Alarcón assisting on weekdays...

The Lion & Rose (701 Capital of TX Hwy. S.) is open for every game - with 24 screens (including in the restrooms), a special breakfast menu, and half-price appetizers for afternoon games...

Longbranch Inn (1311 E. 11th) has World Cup Madness - all games starting at 9:30am: "drink specials, prizes and more!"...

Mister Tramps (8565 Research) hosted the watch parties for the new Austin chapter of the American Outlaws.

Mohawk (912 Red River) will host WC Happy Hours for all 1:30pm games on both Saturdays and Sunday...

Nomad (1213 Corona) is showing all World Cup matches on a large projection screen and two TVs, with breakfast options...

Opal Coffee and Wine Bar (2050 S. Lamar) is showing all games live, with drink and food specials during matches...

Opal Divine's (3601 S. Congress; 700 W. Sixth; 12709 N. MoPac) will play all the 1:30pm games at all three restaurants on the big-screen TVs...

Pluckers (2222 Rio Grande; 9070 Research; 3909 S. Lamar) will be open for 9am games, with breakfast available and \$2 beer specials during all featured games! And of course, all the 1:30pm games on their many plasma TVs...

Red's Porch (3508 S. Lamar) hosts viewing parties with food and drink specials, and a World Cup kids' menu...

The Screaming Goat (900 W. 10th) is offering \$1 beer during all WC games...

Third Base (1717 W. Sixth; Southpark Meadows; 3107 S. I-35, Round Rock) opens at 8am for 9am games, with a breakfast menu, daily food and drink specials, plus rebroadcasts of the day's games during happy hour...

Waterloo Ice House (1106 W. 38th) will show all games on big-screen TVs...

Weirdos (12408 N. MoPac) has 15 big flat-screens, \$2 domestic pints, and half-price appetizers...

The **04 Lounge** (3808 S. Congress) will show all matches...

With four South American teams among the eight semifinalists, and several local and traditional favorites out, two partisan venues are notably going strong:

Rio's Brazilian Cafe (408 N. Pleasant Valley) will be showing all the games on TVs inside and outside, with specials during the Brazilian games. BYOB until Rio's gets its liquor license at the end of June...

Buenos Aires Cafe (2414 S. First; 1201 E. Sixth) will show all games (except Sunday)...

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arts listings



Blue Theatre, 916 Springdale, www.bluetheatre.org
Through July 17
Running time: 1 hr., 35 min.

re:Psyche

One of my favorite novels, *The Satanic Verses*, begins with the line “To be born again, first you have to die.” There is both a cyclical nature to Salman Rushdie’s words and a mark of finality

as well – death is the threshold between lives, the continuity of endless lives marked by departing one life and entering another. These concepts of time, renewal, death, and loss play deeply in *re:Psyche*. So too does Eros, god of desire, flicker endlessly into one soul’s life and then the next. He and his wife must grapple with the hard, uncompromising line between mortality and immortality. So too must the Greek gods deal with an ever-widening chasm between present day and the time of their influence. Time – and life, too, it appears – is fleeting.

re:Psyche is actually the third iteration of *The Psyche Project*, which first saw the stage in the David Mark Cohen New Works Festival at the University of Texas’ Department of Theatre & Dance last spring before garnering a fall production in the department for being voted “Best in Fest.” This summer remount, however, does not constitute the same old story. The *Psyche* team has continued to enhance, change, and splice up its work in an effort to fully explore the myth of Eros and Psyche, as well as the play.

The myth of Eros and Psyche, boiled down, roughly comes to this: Eros has been instructed by his jealous mother, Aphrodite, to make the gorgeous mortal Psyche fall in love with a monster. Eros accidentally incites himself to fall in love with Psyche. Eros marries her but keeps it a secret even to Psyche, who must wear a blindfold when she’s with him, lest all be revealed and his mother’s rage come down on him. Psyche eventually succumbs to temptation (never a good idea), removes the blindfold, and sees Eros. He runs away, betrayed. Psyche, in love, follows, and seeks help from Aphrodite, who torments

Psyche to labor for her love. Psyche dies. Zeus gives her immortality, and she and Eros live forever.

The creative team for *re:Psyche* is not afraid to play mash-up with the mythos of the Greeks, and I can assure you the plot does not go as expected. The text itself is a modernization of the myth, à la Charles Mee, shifting between the weight and conceits of the ancient story and 21st century touches such as Wii tennis, Dos Equis, and time-shares in Tampa. Although the script makes too many metatextual winks to the audience, it’s an enjoyable combination of story conventions past and present.

Without having been privy to the prior versions, I can’t speak to all of the changes in this production of *The Psyche Project*. Even so, one significant addition here is music from one of Austin’s hottest new bands, Mother Falcon. The musical interludes they provided for scenes without dialogue were the most captivating moments of the production, with the actors needing only their bodies to tell the story.

Truly, with a story of such grandeur and epic scope, it was a bit puzzling to see the play placed in the sparse black box of the Blue Theatre, with minimal attention or funds seeming to be paid toward costumes or set pieces. But the further into the production we wandered – as sheets fluttered about the stage or a wonderful shadow-puppet scene was concocted – the more I came around to the black box being the perfect setting for *re:Psyche*. It is a project, after all – one that challenges itself, its creators, and the fine cast of UT Master of Fine Arts graduates to constantly reimagine the play, the myth, and love itself. – Avimaan Syam

theatre

OPENING

GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS Weird City Theatre presents a superhero-studded narrative adapted for the stage by Sean McGrath. In addition to a full, daring cast, the show – directed by Patti Neff-Tiven – includes film, puppetry, and panels from the original comic book. More fun, we reckon, than a boxing match between Dave Sim and Jeff Smith ... or Todd McFarlane and whatshisname who’s marrying Amanda Palmer ... or Stan Lee and a box of Depends! July 8-25. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 745-2636. \$15 (\$12, students, seniors). www.weirdcitytheatre.com.

NO SHAME THEATRE On the first Friday of each month, Gnap! Theater Projects presents Austin’s preeminent 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, and it’s a hella entertaining thing. Fri., July 2, 10pm. *Salvage Vanguard Theater*, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$3. www.gnaptheater.org.

SPIDER’S WEB Different Stages presents this classic Agatha Christie mystery with a cast of upper-class British culprits under the direction of Jeanette Bellemeur and T.J. Moreno. July 2-24. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. (No show: July 4. Extra show: Wed., July 21, 8pm.) *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.vortexrep.org.

THE DIONYSIUM: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE This month’s gathering of intellectual bons vivants and probates, all liberally drenched in wine and cracking wise onstage, features an impromptu debate topic chosen by you, the audience; a cartoon presented by Lance “Fever” Myers; live music by Graham Reynolds; fancy rhetoric by the Perfesser; Henri Mazza’s Ten-Minute Short Story Contest; and, WTF, a tarot reading. Huzzah! Wed., July 7, 7pm. *Alamo Drafthouse South*, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. \$8. www.originalalamo.com.

SUMMER ACTS FESTIVAL The industrious crew at City Theatre hosts this “slew of troupes ready to burn up the stage with laughter, emotion, and excitement.” New works, edgy theatre, award-winning dramas, and original comedy and musical projects. Eleven days, six companies, 36 shows; see website for more. July 8-18. *City Theatre*, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. www.citytheatreAustin.org.

CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION This is what won the Obie for Best American Play this year. This is the new script from Annie Baker, who wrote HPT’s last, widely acclaimed production: *Body Awareness*. This is directed by Ken Webster and features himself, Katherine Catmull, Kenneth Wayne Bradley, Rebecca Robinson, and Xochitl Romero. This is all the comedy that a stage can stand, and then some. Toiling in academia? This is your huckleberry, your anodyne, your just deserts. Recommended. Thu.-Sat., July 8-Aug. 7, 8pm. *Hyde Park Theatre*, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$19 (\$17, students, seniors, ACoT; pay what you can, Thursdays). www.hydeparktheatre.com.

TWO ROOMS See website for more. July 8-17. 718-710-6444. \$12. www.rapsallionsoftheperiphery.com.

CLOSING

THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD

Paul Rudnick’s comic retelling of the biblical story follows a quartet – Adam and Steve, Jane and Mabel – from the Garden of Eden through slave days in Egypt and into contemporary gay life in the Big Apple. Directed by Daniel LeFave and presented in full Camp-o-Vision. Through July 4. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5:30pm. *City Theatre*, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-25 (\$12, students; \$10, Thursdays). www.citytheatreAustin.org.

YOUNG SHAKESPEARE: MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR

Austin Shakespeare’s youth group does the Bard’s comedy in the style of *I Love Lucy*. Gwen Kelso directs this show at Garriott’s Curtain Theatre. Through July 3, 8pm. *The Curtain Theatre*, on the estate of Richard Garriott, on the shores of Lake Austin off City Park Road, 474-8497. \$13.50-18.50. www.austinshakespeare.org.

ONGOING

RE:PSYCHE Second Hand Theater presents this “mythic love story for the Google age” in which Cupid packs a gun, dei ex machina are less than divine, and love is hard work. Conceived and written by Marie Brown, Jenny Connell, Tom Truss, and the Second Hand ensemble. Directed by Marie Brown, with an original score by Mother Falcon. Years in the

making, this show, not even counting the centuries of myth. See review, left. Through July 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Extra show: July 7, 8pm. *Blue Theatre*, 916 Springdale, 888/666-1257. \$10-20 (pay what you can, Wednesdays). www.secondhandtheater.com.

THE QUEEN OF BINGO Two fiftysomething sisters discover new truths about themselves as they play among the other regulars at St. Joseph’s Bingo Night in this heartwarming comedy by Jeanne Michels and Phyllis Murphy. Through July 11. Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. *Palace Theater*, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$20 (\$18, seniors; \$12, students). www.georgetownpalace.com.

BECKY’S NEW CAR Zach presents a romantic farce by Austin playwright Steven Dietz (who also directs), starring Lauren Lane as a woman whose encounter with an eccentric millionaire changes her life in unexpected ways. Through July 11. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 7pm. *Zach Theatre*, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-44. www.zachscott.com.

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE Zach Theatre presents this wildly acclaimed musical about ... well, about a musical, really. Directed by Nick Demos and starring Martin Burke as the man whose living room is invaded by a Broadway spectacle of romance, song, and much spirited hoofing. Through Aug. 1. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. *Zach Theatre*, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$20-45. www.zachscott.com.

comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAFE CAFFEINE 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.cafecaffeine.com.

ComedySportz Competitive improv? Yes, a vigorous battle between skilled improvisers – sort of like *Highlander* but unscripted – and maestro Les McGehee and his talented friends bring it in full force each weekend to one of the sweetest little coffeehouses in the 78704. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30pm. \$7.

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

Joe List This former pride of Boston (former, because List is currently tearing up the Big Apple and drawing raves at festivals across the country and on Comedy Central) is so good at his job that Cap City’s providing the major funnyman firepower of Bryson Turner as opener. June 30-July 3. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

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

Brad Williams The little man with the big talent comes from the mind of Mencia ... no, make that the *Mind of Mencia*, on Comedy Central ... to crack wise in a winning observational manner after opening act Jonathan sets the Pace. July 7-10. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.

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

The Week in Coldness: ColdTowne presents 3, 2, 1 ... Kill!, the troupe’s special brand of video-infused improv. Thu., 8pm. **MothUp** is the local version of that national real-life storytelling phenomenon. Thu., 9:30pm. **Shanty Town Lake** is a full-length revue of social and political satire, music, and absurd comedy, helmed by the redoubtable Dave Buckman. We suggest: You will love this shit. Fri., 8pm. **Punchline** Stand-up comedy, ColdTowne style: some of Austin’s best. Fri., 10pm. **Bonk!** is like vaudeville never died: A variety of diversions on one late-night stage. Fri., 11pm. Free. **Boy Toy** presents a free show, featuring **Total Panic**. Sat., 7pm. **Stool Pigeon** features some Austintious celebrity type jump-starting the night with a thrice-told tale. Sat., 8pm. **Cage Match** Two improv teams go all *lucha libre* on each other for your grins and giggles. Sat., 9pm. **Stone Cold Improv** heats up with a set by **Parallelogramophonograph**. Sat., 10pm. **The Late Night Show** sizzles with **Midnight Society** and, yes, the everlovin’ **Frank Mills**. Sat., 11pm. Also, the **Monday Night Mash** happens each week, with free admission, and can you guess the night on which it occurs at 8:30pm?

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

Esther's Follies Esther's popular jesters bring you this red, white, and blue summer of musical satire and lively vaudeville, Texas-style! The magic of **Ray Anderson**, topical satires on the news of the day – Tea party antics! Rick Perry parodies! Oil spill filibusters! – and musical production numbers unleash a spectacle of hilarity right there on Sixth Street. Reservations highly recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm.* \$20-22 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats. \$12-20.

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688.
www.hideouttheatre.com.

Thursday: Oh, how **Threefer Madness** brings you a trio of improv troupes! Oh, how they work without a script! *8pm.* \$3.

Saturday: Who Is T. Henry Baudecliffe? is comedy improv based among the rediscovered creations of a Henry Darger-like reclusive genius. Epic! Freaky! Wild! And only possibly featuring seven clones of Kaci Beeler as the Vivian Girls! *8pm.* \$10. **Maestro** is a fierce, elimination-style battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience, sure to bring out the wackiest. *10pm.* \$10.

Sunday: The Weekender Just a five-spot gets you into the perfect capper to your steady two-day vacation: sketch comedy somewhere between pure silly and near brilliant, from one of Austin's up-and-coming troupes. (Except that, in the case of Your Terrific Neighbors on the first Sunday of each month? That's a troupe that's already arrived – and will rock your comedy world.) \$5.

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.
www.thevelveetaroom.com.

Open Mic Night They're coming out of the alcohol-sodden woodwork to try to make you laugh, with your host, **Gy Odum.** *Thursdays, 10pm.*

Tom Rhodes The man kicked comedy ass on Comedy Central, then at Montreal's Just for Laughs festival, then on his own show, *Mr. Rhodes*, on NBC? And then ruled the late-night TV scene in the Netherlands for two years? Pretty damned good for a native of Oviedo: You'd think a feller would have to come from *Bithlo* to achieve such glory. Now he's back stateside and at the Cheese Palace this weekend, with **Ruby Collins** and **Gy Odum** opening. *Fri.-Sat., July 2-3, 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.

TUESDAYS WITH BRENTLY Brently Heilbron, ladies and gentlemen. Oh, sweet Jesus. This is a comic who is possibly 1) a genius, 2) a madman, 3) interestingly fucked in the head, or – most likely – 4) all of the above, simultaneously. You don't simply watch a Heilbron show; you brace for the hilarious impact. This creator of *Hooray for Gregory Peck's Ass!* and the *Ask a Ninja* theme will be rocking Lamberts throughout July. *Tuesdays, 10pm.* *Lamberts, 401 W. Second.* July 6 through July 27. 494-1500. \$5.
www.lambertsaustin.com.

KICK BUTT COMEDY Open Mic Comedy Bring it or have it brought to you, clever citizen. *Wednesdays, 8pm.* *Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425.*

TIKI TUESDAYS @ CHERRYWOOD Local funnyman **Seth Cockfield** hosts an open mic where anybody can do a short set, but – much better – some of the city's top comedy talents break in their new material. Catch 'em here before they bolt for L.A.! *Tuesdays, 10pm.* *Cherrywood Coffeehouse, 1400 E. 38th.*

THE NEW MOVEMENT Acclaimed comedy instructors **Chris Trew** and **Tami Nelson** execute their brand of hijinks with talented friends and disciples. Yes, a regular ongoing series of shows of all kinds, right there in the theatre next to Nubian Queen Lola's, in inimitable Chris 'n' Tami style. You want comedy? This week's big show is Friday's **Is This Thing On?**, featuring established stand-up comics doing jokes from their first-ever sets from back in the day. *Fri., June 25, 8pm.* \$5. Also: **The Megaphone Show** *Wednesdays, 9:30pm.* Free. **Block Party** *Thursdays, 9:30pm.* \$2. **Megaphone Public Access** *Saturdays, 9:30pm.* *New Movement Theater, 1819 Rosewood.* www.newmovementtheater.com.

DUSK: IMPROVISED TWEEN EROTICA Gnap! Theater Projects introduces its send-up of the ridiculously popular *Twilight* vampire series. Watch as the (eternally) youthful fangs 'n' angst soap opera plays out in full unscripted hilarity. This is a **special fundraising performance before the glittery bloodsuckers take their show on the road to NYC**, and it's, like, OMG, totally recommended. *Fri., July 2, 8pm.* *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886.* \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.

dance

SUMMER DANCE INFORMANCE This is an informal showing of work by ACC faculty and students, presented in a lecture/demonstration style to help educate the audience in the process of dance-making. *Thu., July 1, 7pm.* *Dance Studio Rm. 130, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3384.* Free.

RAKASA REVUE: MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE *Sat., July 3, 7pm.* *Arthur Murray Studios, 13343 Hwy 183 N. #285, Sat., July 3.* 850-6122. \$8-10.

BIG RANGE AUSTIN DANCE FESTIVAL This annual festival of contemporary dance explores diverse concepts within the movement arts, with four programs to challenge choreographers to come up with innovative movement, while collaborating with some of the best and brightest in town (and beyond). **Program B: Composer Challenge** Choreographers create works of dance to the same pieces of music; witness different interpretations of new tunes through storytelling in movement, sound, and imagery. Composers include Adam Sultan, Graham Reynolds, Amalia Liisa, and Aaron Dugan. Choreographers include Shawn Nasralla, Cristina Jesurun (NYC), and Katherine Hodges. (Cost for entry includes Program C.) *Thu.-Fri., July 1-2, 8pm.* **Program C: Music and Movement Improvisation** Two genres complement each other in new and unexpected ways. Owen Weaver directs the music, Pat Stone the movement. (Cost for entry includes Program B.) *Thu.-Fri., July 1-2, 9:15pm.* **Program D: Mixed Showcase** This closing program features the works of choreographers Lily Sloan, Bethany Nelson, Elizabeth Rose (Seattle), and more, as well as Ellen Bartel (Austin) and NobleMotion Dance (Huntsville). *July 3-4, Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm.* *Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-SVT6.* \$15-45 (\$10, seniors, students, ages 11 and younger). www.bigrangeaustin.org.

classical music

OPENING

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: PATRIOTIC CONCERT Celebrate the Fourth of July (in air conditioning!) with a band concert, sing-along favorites, and great marches performed by the New Horizons Band of Austin under the director of Glenn Richter, Longhorn Band director from 1980 to 1995. *Thu., July 1, 7pm.* *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 345-8314.* Free. www.stmattsAustin.org.

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: BASTROP PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL ASB performs as part of this annual festival of Americana along the banks of the Colorado River. *Sat., July 3, 8pm.* *Fisherman's Park, Bastrop.* 345-7420. www.austinsymphonicband.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 July 16 issue is Monday, July 5.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

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THE L.A. GUITAR QUARTET AND PEPE ROMERO

Austin Goes Classical

Dell Hall, Long Center for the Performing Arts
June 23-26

Prior to last week, I had but a passing acquaintance with classical guitar – you know, the kind that, if you met on the street, you'd greet with a cordial smile and handshake. Sure, I'd grown up knowing Andrés Segovia as a legend on the instrument

(and even knowing a bit of his music) and, given its incessant repetition on Top 40 radio, knew *intimately* Mason Williams' guitar work on "Classical Gas," but beyond that and the odd run-in with Christopher Parkening or Julian Bream, I didn't know my Assad from a hole in the ground. While a few concerts hasn't transformed me into a connoisseur of the instrument, my immersion last week in Austin Goes Classical – the series of events put together by the Austin Classical Guitar Society for the Guitar Foundation of America's 2010 convention – has boosted my familiarity to the degree that I'd now greet classical guitar with the beaming countenance and bear hug reserved for a dear friend.

Collectively, the events showcased a repertoire of astonishing breadth and variety, extending back centuries yet still expanding today, and a virtuosity by its practitioners that was breathtaking, as often for the subtlety and depth of emotion in the playing as for the speed with which their fingers worked the strings. They expanded my sense of what classical guitar is or can be.

That began with *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote: Words and Music From the Time of Cervantes*, an ambitious attempt to marry traditional classical-guitar repertoire – here, music from 16th and 17th century Spain – with theatre: an adaptation of Cervantes' novel. The music, played masterfully by the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and the text, acted with delightful flair by the Firesign Theatre's Phil Proctor, were performed simultaneously – a risky choice by creator Bill Kanengiser of the LAGQ as it gave away most of the limelight to the actor. At times one wanted the music to have room to breathe; still, it was revelatory to hear classical guitar work as a collaborator in drama, grounding us in the period and setting and adding dimension to the feelings in the text.

The next night, the concert pairing UT's Butler School of Music guitar professor Adam Holzman with the school's resident string quartet, the Miró Quartet, expanded that sense of classical guitar as collaborator to show how comfortably the instrument can nestle into a chamber ensemble. Trading phrases in Giuliani's *Sonata* for violin and

guitar, Holzman and violinist Daniel Ching were as playful as siblings making up a game. And Holzman was equally at home with the full ensemble, his serenely expressive playing bringing an entirely new set of colors to the sound of a traditional string ensemble.

And when the LAGQ and Pepe Romero performed with the Austin Symphony Saturday night, the guitar's distinctive sound gave a new hue to the orchestral palette as well: Combining the flowing lyricism of the bowed string instruments with the nimble, percussive drama of the piano, it gave the grand ensemble an ineffably personal touch. This was especially true in *Concierto de Aranjuez*, in which Romero, with exquisite finesse, plumbed the depths of Rodrigo's heart-wrenching score such that it felt as if he'd suffered its tragedies himself.

These events will live long in my memory for the reasons most concerts do, for the resonance of the music and the rich musicianship at play. But the other Austin Goes Classical events I attended were memorable more for the unconventional ways they offered the community to engage with classical guitar.

Having Master Pancake Theater mock Ralph Macchio's eminently mockable film *Crossroads* may not have had done much to promote the instrument, but the collective joy of 800 people sharing the experience on the Long Center City Terrace proved it a brilliant bit of programming by Austin Classical Guitar Society Director Matthew Hinsley. Likewise, the inclusion of popular children's act the Biscuit Brothers, who shared the stage with the LAGQ, opened the door to classical guitar for Austin's youngest citizens – and they listened much more quietly and attentively than I'd have imagined. Last but not least, the performance of the Guitar Foundation of America Youth Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Michael Quantz, was a moving testament to the future of the instrument; the 200 young musicians covered every foot of the Dell Hall stage, and the enthusiasm and commitment evident in every pluck and strum of the strings was its own stirring song.

Six events, one for each nylon string on the classical guitar, and like those strings played by a master, they made the most exceptional sounds.

– Robert Faires

'That Summer Feeling'

Davis Gallery, 837 W. 12th, 477-4929
Through Aug. 28
www.davisgalleryaustin.com



A perfect way to capture that summer feeling, this show. The Davis Gallery's regulars, especially strong when it comes to landscapes, turn the walls of Bill Davis' multiroom space into

vistas of Texas and further – but these are vistas you can peruse in easy, air-conditioned comfort while the G-type lone star blazing outside bakes the living tarnation out of every uncovered citizen.

Susu Meyer and Laurel Daniel frame the wilderness in oils that capture the serenely colorful majesty of what we might plan our vacations to escape into. Although that "serenely" has to be amended in the case of Meyer's *Dancing Light*, which seems to almost compete with Randolph Howard's nearby *Distant Light* for Impressionistic Landscape Most Likely To Be Mistaken for a Kaleidoscope Experiencing a Petit-Mal Seizure; gorgeous, we mean, but startling. Albert Bronson's digital photography eschews color for brilliant black and white, conflating the interiors and exteriors of a Western ghost town in several images along one room's long wall. The rural boonies get left behind with Sam Yeates' expertly shaded figurative paintings and with Bryan Cobble's large *Suburbia*, in which Cobble has rendered asphalt-textured parking-lot lines

and chain-link fencing and the interlocking shadows of trees with such evocative, pastel-wielding skill that you'd think his hands were guided by built-in lasers.

Out of the country and into the city, David Leonard's expansive oils go all divine Polaroid on concrete jungles with their soaring, peopled verticals, the streets of San Francisco and New York and Chicago right before your eyes and your eyes compelled (especially by the canyon of light sparked by a foreground manhole cover in *The Thirsty Scholar*) to follow wherever they lead.

Now that you've entered the city, walk into an art gallery. What you might find there is what's also featured in this summer show at the Davis: Joseph Hammer's beautiful collages, built from old texts and other printed materials; his *The Spectator*, in fact, turns the mirror back on you, viewer, its omnium-gatherum of card-stock shards forming a lowercase "i," the base of which is dressed in black and the dot of which is as blue as the big Texas sky beyond these gallery walls.

– Wayne Alan Brenner

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: RED, WHITE & BOOM! The annual concert and fireworks is the largest Independence Day celebration in the state and includes patriotic classics with a finale punctuated by the 70-millimeter cannons of the Texas National Guard Salute Battery. Amen! Grab a picnic spot and enjoy this annual fete with 100,000 of your closest friends! *Sun., July 4, 8:30pm (fireworks: 9:30pm).* Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside, 476-6064. Free. www.austinsymphony.org.

AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: FRONTIER DAYS CELEBRATION Free watermelon, children's games, arts & crafts vendors, and skydivers all lead up to the fireworks display accompanied by patriotic music. *Sun., July 4, 8pm. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 345-7420.* www.austinsymphonicband.org.

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: CHILDREN'S DAY ART PARK Learn about the symphony and its various instruments (and performers), take part in arts & crafts, listen to storytellers, and enjoy mimes, magicians, and more. Each week is capped with a performance by one of Austin's favorite kid-friendly acts. After the performance, follow the Pied Piper down the Lemonade Trail to the Magic Oak Tree, where the fun continues under the Big Top. This week: **Lucas Miller.** *Through July 28. Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am. Symphony Square, 1101 Red River, 476-6064. 50 cents (adults free when accompanying a child).* www.austinsymphony.org.

ONGOING

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION ASO invites Texas composers 18 years and younger to submit full, original (not arrangements) orchestral compositions between five and seven minutes in length. Works should use standard orchestral instrumentation and doublings. Works requiring electronics or special effects are not eligible. Works must not have been previously performed, recorded, or published professionally. The winning composition will be performed during the ASO's High School Concerts Tour next January. See website for details. Deadline for submissions: Nov. 19. 476-6064. www.austinsymphony.org.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: NOONDAY CONCERT This weekly series features local professionals, students, and special guests. A light lunch is served after the concerts (reservations required by 10am on day of the concert; if e-mailing, write "lunch" in the subject line). *Thursdays, noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free (lunch: \$5, adults; \$3, children).* www.cpcastin.org.

visual arts

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY Nine galleries within walking distance (and with ample parking) are bedecked with new works and await your visit on this particular day each month. Venues include Art on 5th, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, Sterling Images, Wally Workman Gallery. See website for gallery map. *Thu., July 1, 6-8pm. 478-4440.* www.artaustin.org.

CANTANKER MAGAZINE RELEASE PARTY Co-Lab celebrates the latest issue of the fierce (and fiercely local) visual-arts paper showcase – No. 10, *Misinform* – with much merrymaking and interactive installations that explore the creation and alteration of information. *Sat., July 3, 7-11pm. 613 Allen.* www.cantanker.com.

OPENING

PUMP PROJECT: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN So many women, so many prints, so much beautiful ink and industry. Reception: *Thu., July 1, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through July 31.* 702 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.

BIG MEDIUM: TOO MANY UNIQUE USERS OF THE SUN Michael Merck's show features new and recent large-format works on canvas which focus on "the cerebral and experiential aspects of painting while ignoring or drawing comparison to the medium's formal concerns." Reception: *Fri., July 2, 7-10pm.* Exhibition: *Through July 24.* 5305 Bolm, 385-1670. www.michaelmerck.com.

AUSTIN ART SPACE: WHAT TEXAS MEANS TO ME Work by 35 different artists, juried by Phillip Wade. Reception: *Sat., July 10, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *July 2-Aug. 28.* 7739 Northcross, 771-2868. www.austinartspace.com.

'THE PORTRAIT' OPENS AT L. NOWLIN GALLERY *Wed., July 7. 512/626-9301. Free.* www.lnowlingallery.com.

D BERMAN GALLERY: FAITH GAY AND RAYMOND UHLIR The newest works from these Austin artists are an explosion of color and (in Uhlir's case) strange narrative. Reception: *Thu., July 8, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Aug. 21.* 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

CLOSING

L. NOWLIN GALLERY: LANCE ROSENFELD "Thirst for Grit" showcases Rosenfeld's gorgeous black-and-white photography of the people and pageantry of modern rodeo. *Through July 3.* 1202-A W. Sixth, 626-9301. www.lnowlingallery.com.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: 100 RECORDS The albums of 100 fictitious bands, designed and rendered by Sonny Smith, are accompanied by a jukebox filled with songs by Smith and William T. Wiley, Mingering Mike, Chris Johanson, and Reed Anderson, among others. *Through July 3.* 1312-B E. Cesar Chavez. www.okaymountain.com.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ALI CAVANAUGH + AMERICA MARTIN "Two Figures" brings together two figurative artists with two very different techniques and mediums. Watercolorist Ali Cavanaugh's paintings explore the dichotomy of the seen and unseen in human existence. Oil painter America Martin is a Colombian-American artist whose work is distinguished by a command of line and color. *Through July 3.* www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

LA PEÑA: DIMENSIONES New works by Miguel Angel Santana. *Through July 2.* 227 Congress #300, 477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.

D BERMAN GALLERY: GLADYS POORTE AND SARAH GREENE REED Two terrific artists, two distinct styles, one beautiful show of new works. *Through July 3.* 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.

ONGOING

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and "sculptural tattoos" by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646. www.joycedibona.com.

FRESH BLACK PAINT: TIGHTROPE REALITIES This annual exhibition is curated by Nailah Sankofa and features new work by John Yancey, Arleen Polite, Bob Jones, Ifaniike "Taiwo" Sankofa, Jonathan Clark, Ketu'rah Glore, Kelly Stafford, and others. *Through July 24.* *DiverseArts New East Gallery, 1601 E. Fifth #106.* www.diversearts.org.

SUPERIALRIGHT!: DISPOSABLE EDITS Seventeen Austin artists come together for this unique photography project, with each artist displaying one unaltered, enlarged photograph taken with a standard single-use disposable 35mm camera. 301 Chicon. www.digitalpurity.com.

STUDIO2GALLERY: RHYTHMS OF NATURE Works inspired by the natural world, by Ron Crose, Omid Aski Laridjani, Elliott Stone, Oscar Silva, Chalda Maloff, Randy Waln, Leslie Kell, and Barbara Lugge. *Through July 10.* 1700 S. Lamar #318. www.studio2gallery.com.

ART IN A NUTSHELL This is the gallery of Ismael Cavazos, creator of "The Old Man in the Peanut," featuring his creations involving scribbles, drip paintings, rocks, inkblots, and clouds. 2209 S. First, 436-6551. www.ismaelcavazos.com.

VSA ARTS: ON MOUNTAIN TIME Work by four artists from El Paso: Elena Octuna Batista, Lorene Glenn Rogers, Leonardo Cenicerros, and Elisha Rachelle. Access Gallery, 3701 Guadalupe #103. 454-9912. www.vsatx.org.

GALLERY BLACK LAGOON The husband-and-wife team of David Lujan and Singer Mayberry (of the Parlor family) have turned the former Movie Store at 43rd & Guadalupe into an art gallery. Now featuring work by Jeffrey Swanson, Ryan Davis, and Christa Palazzolo. 4301 Guadalupe. www.galleryblacklagoon.com.

WYATT BRAND GALLERY: KENNY BRAUN The (astonishingly good) photographer presents "Surf" in glorious black and white. *Through October.* 107 Leland #4, 904-9928. www.wyattbrand.com.

film listings



I Am Love

D: Luca Guadagnino; with Tilda Swinton, Flavio Parenti, Edoardo Gabbriellini, Alba Rohrwacher, Pippo Delbono, Diane Fleri, Maria Paiato, Marisa Berenson, Gabriele Ferzetti. (R, 120 min., subtitled)

“When I moved to Milan, I stopped being Russian,” explains Emma Recchi, the austere, well-heeled wife, mother, and woman at the center of this swirling and gorgeous film. “There was too much of everything,” she continues, “in the shops, in the streets. I learned to be Italian.” American ideas of what it means to be

“Italian” aside, what Emma learns over the course of *I Am Love* is how to throw herself – body, soul, and sanity – upon the unexpected breakers of *l’amour fou*. It is her hope – and ours – that this prematurely dour beauty will thus regain an epicurean measure of the Emma that, presumably, once was and perhaps could still be. It helps tremendously that Emma is played, frighteningly, fetchingly, by the breathtaking Swinton, who long ago cornered the market on that peculiar mix of ethereality and carnal gravitas that no other actor I know of can touch. Emma is married to wealthy Milanese textile heir Tancredi (Delbono) and has two children, Edoardo (Parenti) and Betta (Rohrwacher). A chance encounter with some exceedingly erotic sautéed prawns, cooked to perfection by Edoardo’s friend Antonio (Gabbriellini), is seemingly all that it takes to awaken Emma to the possibilities of delicious delirium beyond the walls of her home. Soon she’s off to San Remo, in

search of blissful sun-drenched idylls and ... what? She’s uncertain and possibly naive, but really, those prawns? Ecstasy on a fork, with a side of ratatouille and a dollop of hope. Swinton, who also produced, has been prepping for *I Am Love* for the better part of the past decade; she and director Guadagnino set out to make a seriously sultry work of cinematic art, and they accomplished their goal. *I Am Love* slews gracefully, then jarringly, among Visconti, Hitchcock, Flaubert (the name Emma is no coincidence), and a fearless sort of melodramaticism that might have seemed silly if it weren’t for the impeccable *everything* on display here, from the lush, sexy camerawork of director of photography Yorick Le Saux (*Swimming Pool*) to the throbbing, atavistic score by John Adams. It’s not silly or, at least, rarely so, and Swinton’s nuanced, aching performance is downright revelatory. – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor



new reviews

I HATE LUV STORIES D: Punit Malhotra; with Sonam Kapoor, Imran Khan. (NR, 135 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood film, an assistant to India’s biggest romantic filmmaker is scornful of love, but then the cynic meets a female production designer who lives for love. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Tinseltown South

THE LAST AIRBENDER D: M. Night Shyamalan; with Noah Ringer, Dev Patel, Nicola Peltz, Jackson Rathbone, Shaun Toub, Aasif Mandvi, Cliff Curtis, Seychelle Gabriel. (PG, 103 min.)

There’s a new avatar at the cineplex, but this one comes not from the imagination of James Cameron but, rather, the animated Nickelodeon series *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. Replete with its own vast mythology about the airbending cultures and a multiaged fan base hungry for more chapters in the now defunct TV series, this film dropped the “A” word from its title while retaining the show’s creators, Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, among the film’s producers. Director Shyamalan, who has rarely met a myth he didn’t like, cottoned to the airbender lore, while maybe also having a sixth sense about a project that had franchise potential. Indeed, instead of containing one of Shyamalan’s signature surprise endings, the conclusion of *The Last Airbender* is a tease for the saga’s sequel. Yet, with a surprising lack of verve, humor, and narrative tension, Shyamalan’s live-action foundation film is unlikely to woo new fans to the tale. Despite the rampant tribal fighting that drives the narrative, *The Last Airbender* is a fairly bloodless PG affair, although that is not the real problem with the story. Action sequences are just not constructed or paced very well, and an avatar hero who will simply be reborn if murdered takes all the mortal threat out of skirmishes. The story is set in a world where the tribal Air, Water, and Earth nations have been under siege for the last 100 years by the industrialized Fire Nation, which has turned its collective back on the spirit world and seeks global domination. Each nation has a chosen few who can command and bend their land’s element to their will – which makes for some nifty images, until they grow increasingly repetitive and ordinary. Young waterbender Katara (Peltz) and her brother, Sokka (Rathbone), discover the avatar Aang (Ringer), the last of the airbenders, whose nation has been vanquished by the firebenders. Together, they set out to free their nations from the fire overlords and fulfill their destinies. (Destiny is a very important motivator in this saga; everyone has one, which must be reassuring

to young viewers. So, too, courageous children lead the grown-ups in this world.) Stark divisions separate the lifestyles and appearances of all the tribes. Although meta-debates have recently sprung up regarding the film’s expansion of the airbender nations’ racial attributes, the film’s divisional traits seem to be grounded in other, more conventional stereotypes. The good water tribes live amid the white snow and ice; the bad industrialist fire tribes are surrounded by darkness and enter with thundering tympanic and horn motifs. As the arch-villain of the piece, Mandvi does the film little good by his popular association with *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, as tinges of that show’s ironic comic delivery inevitably shadow his character’s dastardly pronouncements. Patel (*Slumdog Millionaire*), however, as tortured Fire Prince Zuko, provides the film’s only exciting performance. Without his dramatic persona, the film’s most winning characters would be its mythical creatures: a flying platypuslike thing and a companionable lemurbat. A franchise needs more than cute creatures to survive. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

D: David Slade; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Ashley Greene, Bryce Dallas Howard, Peter Facinelli, Nikki Reed, Dakota Fanning, Billy Burke, Xavier Samuel, Kellan Lutz, Jackson Rathbone, Elizabeth Reaser. (PG-13, 124 min.)

I would’ve pegged high schooler Bella Swan (Stewart) as a Sylvia Plath fan – this is a girl with daddy issues, for sure – but it’s Robert Frost she quotes in the beginning minutes of this third film in the *Twilight* series. “Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice,” she reads aloud to her undead – although he doesn’t look a day over 18 – boyfriend, Edward Cullen (Pattinson). The fire-and-ice metaphor signals early on that the dominant dramatic struggle of this installment will be Bella’s push-pull between two suitors, her hot-blooded wolf friend, Jacob (Lautner), and her cold-to-touch vampire beau, Edward. The two rivals bicker and tussle like schoolboys in a sandbox over a prized toy – and, really, for long stretches of the film, Bella might as well be an inanimate object. She’s the narrator of this saga and nominally its heroine, but more often than not, she’s just a bystander, referred to in third person even as she stands mere inches away. Bella has always been a milquetoast – that much is a constant, both in Stephenie Meyer’s source books and their feature film adaptations – but what especially rankles here is that when the sexually curious Bella does try to take action by initiating sex with Edward, she’s swatted away, with Edward – the mouthpiece

openings & ratings

I Am Love (R)

I Hate Luv Storys (NR)

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

The Last Airbender (PG)

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- La bomba

for Meyer's hectoring pro-abstinence message – murmuring paternalistically about her “virtue.” (Vampires, a famously lusty lot, should consider a defamation suit; this neutered, even priggish portrayal can't be good for business.) So, no action in the bedroom: Let slip the dogs of war, then. Make that wolves: When a vengeful vampire amasses against Edward an army of “newborns” (brand-new vampires who are especially bloodthirsty during their baby-steps phase), the outnumbered Cullen clan must strike an uneasy alliance with their long-standing enemies, Jacob's wolf pack. (The CG wolves, alas, have become less convincing, but they fit right in with the Cullens, who storm through the movie like posable action figures with bad bleach jobs.) During this brief détente, *Eclipse* becomes more emphatic and more energized, especially when Lautner and Pattinson get a quiet

mountaintop scene of teasing back-and-forth that's sparkier than any other configuration heretofore seen in this tormented love triangle. (Would that series scribe Melissa Rosenberg went off-book and explored other options. Why not Team Jacob and Edward?) New director Slade (*30 Days of Night*) splits the difference between kickstarter *Twilight*'s stylish camp and follow-up *New Moon*'s turgid drama, and, as a piece, it's superior to the latter film. But the supposedly epic battle the entire film builds toward – the single action set-piece – is a ho-hummer. Fire and ice, turns out, was an oversell: Think tepid tap water instead.

– 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, Gold Class, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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the twilight saga
eclipse

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★ THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

D: Niels Arden Oplev; with Michael Nyqvist, Noomi Rapace, Lena Endre, Peter Haber, Sven-Bertil Taube. (NR, 152 min., subtitled)

No one escapes untainted in this grimly fiendish adaptation of Stieg Larsson's bestselling novel. On the face of it, the film is something of an investigatively inclined thriller. The film quickly realizes itself as vastly intriguing, well-written, and sensationally topical. Chief among those intrigues is the disappearance, some 40 years earlier, of a young girl from a Swedish island. She was the niece of a now-82-year-old retired industrialist who hires Stockholm-based journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Nyqvist) to investigate the cold case. Running parallel to and finally weaving its way into Blomkvist's own storyline is the scrutiny of the fearsomely independent and black-clad, cycle-riding female hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rapace): the girl with the dragon tattoo. Oplev's film is deftly calculated to thrill even as it repulses. This is not your mother's murder mystery, unless your mother's maiden name is de Sade and she has an appallingly bleak vision of modern society that occasionally fixates on the historical misdeeds of the corporate/industrial world and the correction thereof. (04/02/2010) — Marc Savlov
★★★ Dobie

GROWN UPS D: Dennis Dugan; with Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade, Rob Schneider, Salma Hayek, Maria Bello, Maya Rudolph, Joyce Van Patten, Ebony Jo-Ann, Steve Buscemi, Colin Quinn, Tim Meadows. (PG-13, 102 min.)

A review of Sandler's checkered past roles reveals a once-daring comic slooowly sinking out of sight in a cookie-cutter quicksand career that — *Funny People* notwithstanding — has turned into

a rote, staggeringly unchallenging, and generally unfunny series of riffs on none other than Adam Sandler™. *Grown Ups* is the latest in an ongoing series of Sandlerian schmaltzests that are at once achingly nostalgic morality tales and stuttery repetitions of everything that has come before. The manic, hair-trigger man-child is almost entirely replaced by some sort of child-man who looks longingly to the past in an effort to forestall the future. Thus we get the harried dad of *Click*, the other harried dad of *Bedtime Stories*, and *Grown Ups*' successful (but harried) Hollywood agent (and dad) Lenny Feder, who reunites with his four best friends from the old junior high school basketball team only to realize that his current life, wife, and kids are drowning in the shallows. (06/25/2010) — Marc Savlov

★ Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draffhouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

D: Dean DeBlois, Chris Sanders; with the voices of Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, America Ferrara, Craig Ferguson, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Kristen Wiig, T.J. Miller. (PG, 98 min.)

Whether Viking-born or contemporary American, all children want to control their dragons, be they of literal or metaphorical origins. That's the bet made by this new animated film, which is directed by the same team that made *Lilo & Stitch*. Inspired by Cressida Cowell's eight-book series, this film is set on the Viking island of Berk, where the community's only problem derives from its occasional onslaught of flying dragons. It is cerebral young Hiccup (Baruchel), previously an embarrassment to

his clan-leader father (Butler), who discovers the secret to conquering the clan's dragon problem: Make love, not war. Nursing a downed Night Fury, the most feared of all dragons, Hiccup realizes that all the Vikings' assumptions about dragons have been incorrect. The flight scenes are made with a great understanding of 3-D, and despite several incongruities the film is an engaging yet bloodless adventure with a sterling message about meeting the enemy and discovering that he is us. (03/26/2010) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

IRON MAN 2 D: Jon Favreau; with Favreau, Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Scarlett Johansson, Mickey Rourke, Don Cheadle, Sam Rockwell, Samuel L. Jackson, Clark Gregg, Paul Bettany, Leslie Bibb, Garry Shandling. (PG-13, 124 min.)

Despite its high tech sheen and overstuffed cast of characters, played by some of the best actors in the land, this mega-mecha melee manages to give short shrift to both the airborne action set-pieces that define Iron Man's zoomy panache and incoming supervillain Whiplash, aka Ivan Vanko (Rourke). Vanko's interactions with Iron Man (Downey Jr.) and Iron Man knockoff/upgrade War Machine (piloted by Cheadle's Col. Rhodes) seem poorly thought out, and the climactic battle scene busies itself with explosions and comes to a perfunctory conclusion. It's admittedly tough to follow up the slam-bang snark of Favreau's initial *Iron Man*. Thankfully, Downey is every bit as good this time around as he was previously. In a comic-book universe crammed to bursting with almost 50 years of Stan Lee's four-color melodramatics, *Iron Man 2*, while no slouch in the summer matinee department, finally feels like a setup for the upcoming *Avengers* movie. (05/07/2010) — Marc Savlov

★★★ Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

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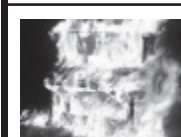
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Killer of Sheep

Killer of Sheep (1977) D: Charles Burnett; with Henry Sanders, Kaycee Moore, James Miles, Charles Bracy, Angela Burnett, Eugene Cherry, Jack Drummond. (NR, 83 min.) **Austin Film Society: A Summer of Restoration – Selections From Milestone Films.** Burnett's film draws on the daily lives of the inhabitants of South Central Los Angeles in the Seventies. *Killer of Sheep* is a soul-pounding exploration of the life of a black man who works in a slaughterhouse. Shot in a neo-realist style with nonprofessional actors, the film is a blistering assessment of the L.A. ghettos 10 years after the Watts riots. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Saturday, noon; \$6, AFS members free.



★ JOAN RIVERS: A PIECE OF WORK

D: Ricki Stern, Anne Sundberg. (R, 84 min.) Stern and Sundberg (award-winning filmmakers of such politically conscious docs as *The Trials of Darryl Hunt* and *The Devil Came on Horseback*) could hardly avoid the subject of Rivers' famously doctored face. In fact, an early montage deftly charts both the evolution of that face, from a not-unattractive angularity to her modern-day, tautly puffed and leonine look, and her remarkable career. The mounting of an autobiographical play in 2008 gives the film an early structure and tension; when it abruptly closes after lackluster reviews, the film becomes more scattershot. Never uninteresting – and often wickedly funny, with the sardonic, canny comedienne not at all censoring herself for the camera – *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work* is a softball, an entirely sympathetic portrait of the artist at an advancing age. And to a generation that knows Rivers only as a screeching red-carpet provocateur or as an overknifed monstrosity, that revelation alone is worth the cost of admission. (06/25/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Arbor

JUST WRIGHT

D: Sanaa Hamri; with Queen Latifah, Common, Paula Patton, Phylicia Rashad, James Pickens Jr., Pam Grier. (PG, 99 min.) In this completely rote modern romance, the only surprising plot element is that the New Jersey Nets, the favorite ball team of heroine Leslie Wright (Latifah), are basketball championship contenders. Leslie is a 35-year-old physical therapist who has been unlucky in love. She's the kind of woman guys want to pal around with, but not the kind they fall in love with. Her cousin Morgan (Patton) is a gold digger. The plot thickens when Leslie and Morgan attend a party given by Nets superstar Scott McKnight (Common) and Morgan catches Scott's eye. It's all so formulaic it could be plotted on graph paper. Latifah and Common have a nice chemistry, though it would be nice to see more of Latifah's comic attributes in this film. Dwight Howard, Dwyane Wade, and a host of other NBA players and ancillary personnel get some screen time as well. (05/14/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Movies 8

THE KARATE KID

D: Harald Zwart; with Jaden Smith, Jackie Chan, Taraji P. Henson, Han Wenwen, Yu Rongguang, Wu Zhenwei. (PG, 140 min.) John G. Avildsen's 1984 original has become, in the fullness of time, a genuine pop-cultural touchstone. The intense remake by Zwart isn't likely to take the gleam off Avildsen's *Kid*, but it's directed with sympathetic panache and arrestingly shot on location in China with an eye toward the epic by Roger Pratt. It also benefits tremendously from Christopher Murphey's deliberate and fine script, which takes its time setting up the story and then hits all the right beats until it slips up in a puddle of sappiness mere minutes before the end of the film's lengthy running time. Jaden Smith, son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, is fine and realistically precocious as 12-year-old Dre, who finds himself in Beijing after his mother (a smart, sassy, entirely mom-worthy performance from Henson) is transferred from their hometown of Detroit. Chan does some of his most nuanced work in ages here. (06/18/2010) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Westgate

KILLERS

D: Robert Luketic; with Ashton Kutcher, Katherine Heigl, Tom Selleck, Catherine O'Hara, Kathryn Winnick, Kevin Sussman, Lisa Ann Walter, Casey Wilson, Rob Riggle, Martin Mull. (PG-13, 100 min.) Heigl reteams here with her director of *The Ugly Truth* to see, apparently, if they could stoop any lower. The sad truth is that they can and did, although the hackneyed script is a not-insubstantial factor in this tedious romp. Premise: A woman marries her dream guy only to abruptly discover that he was once an assassin for the CIA. *Killers* coasts on the strength of its eye-candy casting of two handsome former models-turned-actors, Heigl and Kutcher. Both have in common a limited emotive range, which grows quickly tiresome, though Heigl, with her ability to play both a shrieking hysteric and uptight sexpot, has double the range of Kutcher. There was potential in the setup to make a mockery of suburban values and lifestyles, but instead the script only calls for violent mayhem and chaotic, nonsensical plotting. Only the underplaying Selleck gets out of this with any dignity, while O'Hara is totally wasted as Jen's one-note tiptling mom. (06/11/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Metropolitan

KNIGHT AND DAY

D: James Mangold; with Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz, Peter Sarsgaard, Jordi Mollà, Paul Dano, Viola Davis. (PG-13, 110 min.) Cruise plays a CIA agent gone rogue named Roy Miller. He's unfailingly polite to women, especially Diaz's Boston mechanic June Havens, quick to compliment her pretty dress or bodily shield June from a fresh barrage of artillery. But all attentiveness aside, Cruise's Roy doesn't seem all that interested in women, either; he radiates about as much sex and danger as an Eagle Scout (which he proudly points out he used to be). We must settle, then, for a sort of sexless chumminess struck between Cruise and Diaz, and they do seem awfully companionable as the wronged spy trying to right his name and his spunky civilian charge. Diaz's June doesn't get interesting until midway through the movie, when she makes the switch from mostly helpless to adventure-seeking. Logistics don't worry director Mangold – fade-to-black is his winking way of addressing the plot holes – and clearly he expects his wink to be met by our smile. (06/25/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE LAST SONG

D: Julie Anne Robinson; with Miley Cyrus, Greg Kinnear, Liam Hemsworth, Bobby Coleman, Hallock Beals, Kelly Preston, Nick Lashaway, Carly Chaikin. (PG, 108 min.) Cyrus waves goodbye to her Hannah Montana tween-star identity with *The Last Song*, the latest Nicholas Sparks-penned romance to be made into a movie. Though she plays a troubled music prodigy in *The Last Song*, Cyrus is not heard singing in the movie

Cropsey

Cropsey (2010) D: Barbara Brancaccio and Joshua Zeman. (NR, 84 min.) This documentary, which screened at Fantastic Fest, explores the urban legend of the titular child-snatcher who comes out at night on the grounds of Staten Island's notorious and now-abandoned Willowbrook Mental Institution. The filmmakers use adult insight and investigative skills to uncover new disturbing facts. For more on the film, see "When That Bump in the Night Becomes Flesh and Blood," p.43. @Alamo Ritz, Monday & Tuesday, 7pm; Wednesday, 9:40pm.

Man With the Movie Camera

Man With the Movie Camera (1929) D: Dziga Vertov. (NR, 68 min.) **EAT and Starving Art: First Fridays.** In this groundbreaking silent Russian film, a vast array of creative camera and editing techniques are used to convey a day in the life of a cameraman observing his city. Presented with an original score by the Cinematic Orchestra. @E.A.T.S., Friday, 9pm.



until, literally, the final song plays over the closing credits. Marked by her bubbly and assertive presence, smiley Miley is not the best dramatic choice to play this movie's rebellious and conflicted Ronnie. No doubt hoping that her appearance in this Sparks melodrama would do for her career what it did for a young singer named Mandy Moore in 2002's *A Walk to Remember*, Cyrus unfortunately proves to be a bad fit for the form. The expression of dramatic complexity and nuance does not appear to be a part of Cyrus' vocabulary. The narrative points the film hits are completely predictable, and none are developed with anything but passing interest. (04/02/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Movies 8

★ MICMACS

D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Dany Boon, André Dussollier, Omar Sy, Dominique Pinon, Julie Ferrier, Nicolas Marié, Jean-Pierre Marielle, Yolande Moreau, Marie-Julie Baup, Michel Crémadès. (R, 104 min., subtitled) Jeunet's *Micmacs* resembles a live-action cartoon, one in which the set-pieces, the characters, and their actions all have the flavor of physical impossibility and unfettered imagination. Best known on these shores as the director of *Amélie*, Jeunet maintains some of that film's puckish naivete in *Micmacs* while also utilizing some of the bizarrely makeshift visual aesthetics and discreet social commentary of his breakthrough films, *Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children*. *Micmacs* is not as sharply delineated as any of these prior films but is still charmingly packaged. The *Micmacs* are an odd collection of junkyard angels whose personal narratives are as inventive as their surroundings. The bad guys are also cartoon villains with strange fetishes and ambitions. As the *Micmacs*' plan of action takes shape and unfolds, the film bogs down and Jeunet's gentle political barbs come to the surface, though the film is never at a loss for imaginative frills. (06/25/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Dobie

MOTHER AND CHILD

D: Rodrigo Garcia; with Naomi Watts, Annette Bening, Kerry Washington, Jimmy Smits, Samuel L. Jackson, Eileen Ryan, Elpidia Carrillo, Shareeka Epps, Cherry Jones, S. Epatha Merkerson, David Morse, Amy Brenneman, David Ramsey, Elizabeth Peña. (R, 125 min.) If the mother-child bond is the core human relationship, then this movie implies that we are an emotionally doomed species, though I do not think this was writer-director Garcia's intent. Adoption, particularly, is fraught with psychic dangers, is the revelation of each of the three individual storylines in *Mother and Child*. Composed in discrete but concurrent story strands, the characters never physically connect with one another even though the viewers have privileged inklings of the links among them. Garcia's seriously contrived third-act melodramatics also bring some sense of unity to the various narrative arcs. This shift to sappy melodrama, however, pierces the film's tough shell, turning what had theretofore been thorny characterizations into banal stereotypes. Yet if powerhouse performances are the sum of what you're looking for, search no further than this movie. In the lead roles, Watts, Bening, and Washington deliver some of the best work of their careers, as do all the supporting actors. (06/18/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Arbor

OCEANS

D: Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud; narrated by Pierce Brosnan. (G, 84 min.) In the opening moments of this nature documentary from the French filmmaking team who made *Winged Migration*, narrator Brosnan wonders aloud about the identity – no, the essence – of the substance that covers two-thirds of the planet. (Only a French film could hook on the ocean's je ne sais quoi.) Brosnan sniggeringly dismisses the idea that Latin names will get you any closer to understanding *la mer* – even though Latin names, in fact, can be quite instructive – and that sort of resistance to hard facts dogs the film. The camera may dive deep, but the content merely skims the surface, with a faux-poetic script that surely sounded better in French (“the ocean smiles at the sky”) and a frustrating tendency to dangle fascinating bits of information and then going silent. The dazzling marine life on display speaks for itself – but it shouldn't have to. (04/30/2010) – Kimberley Jones

★★ Movies 8

★ PLEASE GIVE

D: Nicole Holofcener; with Catherine Keener, Oliver Platt, Rebecca Hall, Amanda Peet, Sarah Steele, Ann Guilbert, Lois Smith, Thomas Ian Nicholas. (R, 90 min.) Spending time in the company of writer/director Holofcener's characters is a treat that comes around too infrequently. Her films capture snatches of life and conversations that are resonant and recognizable, contemporary and complex, precise yet open-ended in their presentation and meaning. Holofcener's world is drenched in familiarity, especially in its focus on women, their interior lives, and their complicated feelings about body image. Yet this Manhattan-set movie also captures a sense of the present-day economic reality in America in its depiction of the growing gulf between the haves and have-nots and the ever-increasing sense of guilt the privileged feel regarding their altruistic impulses – or lack thereof. Yet the pleasure of *Please Give* lies in its conversations rather than its plot. Some of what's so lovely about the



All That Heaven Allows

All That Heaven Allows (1955) D: Douglas Sirk; with Jane Wyman, Rock Hudson, Agnes Moorehead. (NR, 89 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Here's to the Ladies.** Wyman plays a proper middle-class widow who falls in love with the gardener (Hudson) who prunes her bushes. Not only is there a problem with his social class and his belief system (he reads Thoreau!), the man is 15 years her junior. Her grown children and her country-club circle are scandalized. (Double bill: *Imitation of Life*.) (*) @Paramount, Tuesday, 7pm; Wednesday, 9:30pm.

film is its very reluctance to spell out exactly what the characters have learned and its acceptance of the prickliness that is essential to so many of their natures. (06/11/2010) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★☆☆ Arbor

PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME

D: Mike Newell; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton, Ben Kingsley, Alfred Molina, Steve Toussaint, Toby Kebbell, Richard Coyle. (PG-13, 116 min.)

What is Brit director Newell (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) doing helming an epic, CGI-intensive, scimitar-propelled riff on *1001 Arabian Nights*, one that's based on a video game, no less? He's having a whale of a time, to all appearances, mining classic Hollywood swords-and-sandals tropes. *Prince of Persia* is by no means a great film, but it is an entertaining one, a nearly bloodless, family-friendly throwback. The film sports the same convoluted, logic-free plotting we've come to expect from films based on gamer favorites, but that doesn't really hinder its ability to hold your attention and, occasion-

ally, move you to the edge of your seat. The film's wittiest and most playful moments come from Molina as a desert entrepreneur with rusty scruples. At times, the story threatens to topple from the sheer weight of the exposition being delivered, but, this being a Jerry Bruckheimer production, you can count on massive, explosive set-pieces to arrive to divert imminent boredom and save the day. (05/28/2010) - Marc Savlov
 ★☆☆ Tinseltown South

RAAVAN D: Mani Ratnam; with Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai, Vikram, Govinda, Prithviraj. (NR, 130 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood film, a gang leader kidnaps the wife of a policeman who killed his sister, but then he falls in love with her. The story is a loose variation on the Indian epic *Ramayana*. The film screens in separate Hindi and Tamil versions. (06/18/2010) - Marjorie Baumgarten
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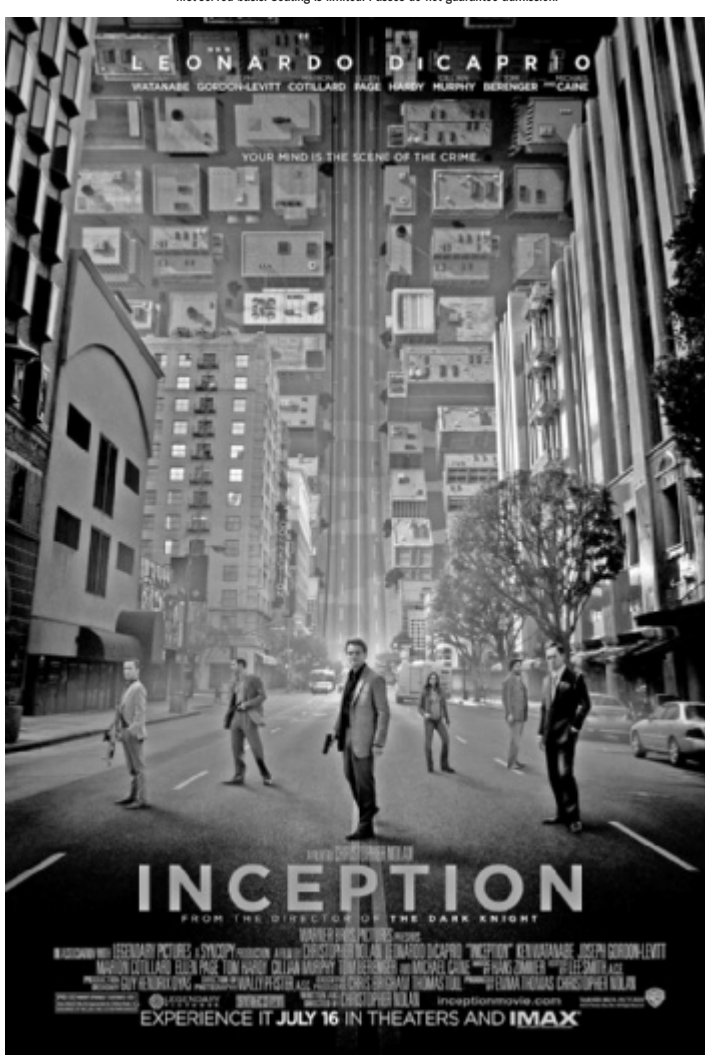
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Yankee Doodle Dandy

Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) D: Michael Curtiz; with James Cagney, Joan Leslie, Walter Huston. (NR, 126 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Yankee Doodle Joy.** The life and times of showman George M. Cohan are brought to life by Cagney, whose robust singing and dancing are a kinetic wonder and earned him an Oscar. @Paramount, Saturday, 1:45pm.

ROBIN HOOD D: Ridley Scott; with Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, Max von Sydow, William Hurt, Mark Strong, Oscar Isaac, Eileen Atkins, Danny Huston, Mark Addy, Matthew Macfadyen, Kevin Durand, Scott Grimes. (PG-13, 139 min.)

Scott's *Robin Hood* ends at just about the point that other renditions of the tale begin. His is the story of how Robin Longstride (Crowe), an archer in Richard the Lionheart's last Crusade, became Robin of the Hood, the wily defender of the overtaxed people of Nottingham. In this origin story that's full of handsomely staged battle sequences, Scott and screenwriter Brian Helgeland strive to rectify certain historical inaccuracies in the Robin Hood legend, but also create some new lore of their own. The film does an admirable job of parsing dense swaths of history and making the events and players understandable, but *Robin Hood* is notably lacking in warmth. Scott is at his best directing the action sequences and moving the story forward but is unable to imbue the characters with any dimensionality. This new, focused *Robin Hood* is free of rousing emotions. (05/14/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown South

THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES D: Juan José Campanella; with Ricardo Darín, Soledad Villamil, Pablo Rago, Javier Godino, Guillermo Francella, Carla Quevedo, Rudy Romano. (R, 127 min., subtitled)

Winner of the Best Foreign Language Film award at this year's Oscars, this Argentine film is a reflective mystery story. Benjamin (Darín), a retired court investigator, is trying to write a novel about an old case of his that was never resolved to his satisfaction. For help, he returns to his old office and bounces his thoughts off Irene (Villamil), whom he

Detour

Detour (1945) D: Edgar G. Ulmer; with Tom Neal, Ann Savage, Claudia Drake. (NR, 67 min.) **Making Movies Film Series.** Both a great film noir and a terrific example of low-budget B filmmaking from the Forties, *Detour* is Ulmer's crowning achievement. It's the story of a man whose date with destiny meets a detour when he picks up a hitchhiker, who proceeds to make his life a living hell. Be sure to catch the accompanying museum exhibit beforehand; theatre doors open at 6:30pm. @Harry Ransom Center's Prothro Theater, Thursday (7/8), 7pm.



David Holzman's Diary

David Holzman's Diary (1967) D: Jim McBride; with L.M. Kit Carson, Eileen Dietz. (NR, 74 min.) **Nueva Onda Unrentable Series.** Inducted into the National Film Registry in 1991, this film is essential viewing for students of cinema. Out long before the term "mockumentary" came into being, this pseudo documentary naturalistically portrays the daily life of a young filmmaker as the draft board hounds him and his girlfriend grows tired of his camera's constant gaze. Playing before the feature is the short "I Love You, Will Smith" by Austinite Bradley Jackson. @Nueva Onda, Thursday (7/8), 8pm; outdoors; free.



has always loved despite never acting on those feelings. The past and the present merge as pieces of the case are reinvestigated and aspects of it reflect situations in Benjamin's own life. Campanella's uneven script bogs down when the focus of the story is on Benjamin, who is dogged by his memories and his inability to make a play for Irene. The character is just too reserved to arouse passions in either Irene or the viewers. Obviously, though, the Academy voters disagreed. (05/14/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Arbor

SEX AND THE CITY 2 D: Michael Patrick King; with Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Kim Cattrall, Chris Noth, John Corbett, David Eigenberg, Evan Handler, Mario Cantone, Willie Garson, Liza Minnelli, Alice Eve. (R, 146 min.)

Like Carrie Bradshaw (Parker), who frets that the "sparkle" has gone out of her two-year marriage to Big (Noth), this film douses whatever sparkle remains of these beloved characters and their adventures. Writer/director King piles on the quips, lame puns, and product mentions to the detriment of character and plot development. The story takes the girls out of the city and plunks them down in Abu Dhabi, where the entire subject of "sex and the city" is taboo. The conflicts that arise regarding sexual politics only highlight the obvious, while the opulence of the Middle Eastern playground exaggerates the story's inherent fantasy aspect. The film instead puts the onus of profligate extravagance on the Arabs and rebukes the Arab men for their hypocritical puritanism. Well, at least we still have the fabulous fashions to gaze at, right? Wrong. The clothes in this movie are no fun at all: frequently preposterous, yes, but attractive and aspirational, no. (05/28/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Barton Creek Square, Gold Class, Tinseltown South

SHREK FOREVER AFTER D: Mike Mitchell; with the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Walt Dohrn, Julie Andrews, John Cleese, Jon Hamm, Jane Lynch, Craig Robinson, Lake Bell, Kathy Griffin, Mary Kay Place, Meredith Vieira. (PG, 95 min.)

What's an ogre with a midlife crisis to do? Now that Shrek (voiced by Myers) has settled into connubial bliss with his wife, Fiona (Diaz), a feeling of impotence begins to eat at the big green ogre. Shrek's depression is ripe for the picking when he's offered a shady deal by Rumpelstiltskin (Dohrn) that allows him to be a scary ogre for a day in exchange for any past day in his life. With this, Shrek ventures into *It's a Wonderful Life* territory, getting to see what the community would be like for others had he never been born. The story jumps from the land of fairy tales into the land of the real, and it becomes evident that this irreverent, fairy-tale-tweaking series has run out of ideas. Yet even though *Forever After* is not as fresh-seeming as its predecessors, it provides passable entertainment, especially for the kids. (05/21/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

SOLITARY MAN D: Brian Koppelman, David Levien; with Michael Douglas, Susan Sarandon, Danny DeVito, Mary-Louise Parker, Jenna Fischer, Imogen Poots, Jesse Eisenberg, Ben Shenkman, Richard Schiff, Olivia Thirlby. (R, 90 min.)

Ben Kalmen (Douglas) is one downward dog. No, this solitary man of the title is not into yoga, he's just a skirt-chaser who makes one bad decision after another. A formerly successful businessman, Ben is already well-entrenched in his downward spiral at the time of the movie's start (that is, apart from a short preamble which is supposed to provide the explanation for all his bad behavior – which it doesn't). This character study, ultimately, doesn't add up, but with Douglas playing the subject under investigation, the character is never slack or lacking definition. If anything, *Solitary Man* seems a bit overwritten, although it is indeed a pleasure to watch Douglas and the rest of this impressive cast deliver the dialogue. In light of Douglas' imminent re-emergence as the stock-market titan Gordon Gekko in this summer's *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, it is especially interesting to see him playing an entirely different version of a rich weasel. (06/18/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

SPLICE D: Vincenzo Natali; with Adrien Brody, Sarah Polley, Delphine Chanéac. (R, 104 min.)

This film does everything to *Frankenstein*, but these days what doesn't? *Splice* director Natali (*Cube*) has crafted a classic cautionary tale that works simultaneously as a thriller, love story, and meditation on what it means to be a scientist in a time in which everything is suddenly possible – at least in theory. It's also a grim window into a genetically engineered future that is almost certainly going to happen, if it hasn't already. Clive and Elsa (Brody and Polley) are married geneticist geniuses in the employ of a chilly biotech firm that's seeking to "splice" together the genetic strands of various organisms with the aim of creating new life forms – chimeras whose enzymes may carry the cures for all manner of human ailments ... if all goes according to plan. When at its best, *Splice* is a seething cauldron of intellectually-of-the-now arguments, both pro and con. (06/04/2010) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Metropolitan

TOY STORY 3 D: Lee Unkrich; with the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Ned Beatty, Don Rickles, Michael Keaton, Wallace Shawn, John Ratzenberger, Estelle Harris, John Morris, Jodi Benson. (G, 102 min.)

While the first *Toy Story* triumphantly announced Pixar's arrival back in 1995, the franchise has never felt on par with the studio's later, more overtly lyrical pieces (*WALL-E*, *Up*). *Toy Story 3* doesn't attempt the kind of narrative artistry of those films, but that doesn't mean it's unsophisticated: In its own unassuming way, it says as much as *Up* did about the often-uneasy transition from one stage of life to the next – and all the more ingenious, then, that it's the life cycle of a pliable, plasticine doll we genuinely worry over here. At the film's beginning, the toys – including series regulars Sheriff Woody (voiced by Hanks), and Buzz

Exit Through the Gift Shop

Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010) D: Banksy; narrated by Rhys Ifans. (R, 87 min.) Documentary? Artwork? Puzzle? Prank? Social commentary? This film by the British graffiti artist known as Banksy is, indeed, all of the above. (*) @Alamo Ritz, Saturday-Sunday, 4:20pm.



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Lightyear (Allen) – are confronted with the question of their own continued usefulness when owner Andy packs up to go to college. The 3-D format is well-used but never intrusive, and one of the essential pleasures in the piece is its toy-sized perspective. (06/18/2010) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ 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, Gold Class, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

WINTER'S BONE D: Debra Granik; with Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes, Lauren Sweetser, Kevin Breznahan, Dale Dickey, Garret Dillahunt, Shelley Waggner, Isaiah Stone, Ashlee Thompson. (R, 100 min.)

"Never ask for what ought to be offered," 17-year-old Ree Dolly (Lawrence) admonishes her younger brother and sister. Despite their hunger and destitution, the Dolly clan will know the difference between right and wrong and learn the codes of behavior that govern the isolated social milieu in these Ozark Mountain backwoods of Missouri. It's an almost hermetically sealed environment ruled by its own moral laws and customs, traditions that have been further skewed by years of poverty, rampant methamphetamine abuse, and the callous concern of outsiders. Dolly carries the weight of her family on her young shoulders. "Never ask for what ought to be offered," could also sum up my feelings about Granik's film, a work so finely wrought that it makes other movies appear wanting. With piercing characterizations and as tense and harrowing a plot as I've seen in a long time, *Winter's Bone* never hits a false note. (06/25/2010) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★★ Arbor

also playing

CLASH OF THE TITANS ★★ Movies 8

DATE NIGHT ★★ Movies 8

DEATH AT A FUNERAL ★★★ Movies 8

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The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

THURSDAY 01

The Devil-Doll (1936) D: Tod Browning; with Lionel Barrymore, Maureen O'Sullivan. (NR, 79 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Gruesome Twosome.** In this seriously creepy horror movie, Barrymore stars as a Devil's Island escapee who takes revenge on the three men who framed him by shrinking human beings to the size of dolls and forcing them to do his evil bidding. (Double bill: *Freaks*.) (*) @Paramount, 7pm.

Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars With Intergalactic Nemesis (1938) D: Ford Beebe and Robert Hill; with Buster Crabbe, Jean Rogers. **Foleyvision.** To this old serial, Foleyvision adds live dubbing, with voice actors, sound effects, and music created right in the theatre. Before the feature, enjoy a live, 10-minute performance of the *Intergalactic Nemesis* live-action graphic novel. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Freaks (1932) D: Tod Browning; with Wallace Ford, Olga Baclanova. (NR, 64 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Gruesome Twosome.** This movie set among the world of circus freaks uses a real troupe for the players. It's a perverse story, full of psychic S&M, about a band of little people who take revenge on the sexy trapeze artist and her strongman boyfriend who cause harm to one of their members. "Gabba, gabba, hey." (Double bill: *The Devil-Doll*.) (*) @Paramount, 8:50pm.

Strange Brew Beersplosion (1983) D: Rick Moranis and Dave Thomas; with Moranis, Thomas, Max von Sydow. (PG, 90 min.) **Canada Day Beersplosion.** Bob and Doug McKenzie, SCTV's beer-guzzling Canadian brothers, broke out of their TV-sketch format to star in this feature-length movie written and directed by their alter egos, Thomas and Moranis. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

Team America: World Police: Quote- and Sing-Along (2004) D: Trey Parker; with the voices of Parker, Matt Stone, Kristen Miller. (R, 98 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Ritz, 10:10pm.

SPACES

Words of Advice From William Burroughs Avant Cinema. *Words of Advice: William S. Burroughs on the Road* (D: Lars Movin and Steen Møller Rasmussen, 2007, 74 min.) is a feature-length Danish documentary about Burroughs' life and career, with particular focus on his appearance and performance in Copenhagen in 1983. Also on the program are selections from Burroughs' film collaborations in the Sixties. @Austin Film Studios Screening Room, 7pm.

KIDS

Astro Boy (2009) Summer Movie Clubhouse. \$1. (*) @Tinseltown South, Lakeline, 10am.

Charlotte's Web (2006) Family Film Festival. Free. (*) @Arbor, 10am.

Clash of the Titans (1981) Summer Kids Camp. Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am.

Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009) Summer Kids Camp. Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am.

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) Family Film Festival. Free. (*) @Arbor, 10am.

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (2008) (G, 85 min.) **Family Film Festival.** Free. (*) @Westgate, 10am.

Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) (G, 78 min.) **Family Film Festival.** Free. (*) @Lakeline, 10am.

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 July 16 issue is Monday, July 5.** 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, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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FRIDAY 02

Alien: The Director's Cut (2003) D: Ridley Scott; with Tom Skerritt, Sigourney Weaver, Veronica Cartwright, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt, Ian Holm, Yaphet Kotto. (R, 116 min.) **Summer Film Classics: In Space, No One Can Hear You Scream.** The modern horror story meets the space opera in this outstanding film that launched a small franchise. (Double bill: 2010.) (*) @Paramount, 7pm.

Independence Day (1996) D: Roland Emmerich; with Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum. (PG-13, 145 min.) **Master Pancake Theater.** The Pancake jokesters plan to blow this timely thriller to kingdom come. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:15pm.

Mars Attacks! (1996) D: Tim Burton; with Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Annette Bening, Pierce Brosnan, Danny Devito, Martin Short, Sarah Jessica Parker, Michael J. Fox, Rod Steiger, Tom Jones, Lukas Haas, Natalie Portman, Jim Brown, Lisa Marie, Sylvia Sidney. (PG-13, 105 min.) Burton's sci-fi spoof gleefully recounts the unspeakable horror that takes place when Martians attack the planet Earth. (*) @Tinseltown South, 12mid.

Repo! The Genetic Opera With Live Shadow Cast (2008) D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Alexa Vega, Paul Sorvino, Anthony Head, Sarah Brightman, Paris Hilton, Bill Moseley. (R, 98 min.) This cyber-goth musical features the vocal talents of both Sarah Brightman and Paris Hilton. Performing the lines and songs in front of the screen, *Rocky Horror*-style, will be the movie's devotees. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid.

2010 (1984) D: Peter Hyams; with Roy Scheider, John Lithgow, Helen Mirren, Bob Balaban, Keir Dullea. (PG, 114 min.) **Summer Film Classics: In Space, No One Can Hear You Scream.** Based on a novel by Arthur C. Clarke and adapted for the screen by Hyams, the film is a sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey. A joint American-Soviet expedition is sent to Jupiter to study a monolith in the planet's orbit and discover the fate of the computer H.A.L. (Double bill: *Alien: The Director's Cut*.) @Paramount, 9:20pm.

SPACES

Jaws (1975) D: Steven Spielberg; with Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, Richard Dreyfuss. (PG, 124 min.) **Floating Roadshow.** Both shows sold out. (*) @Lake Travis, 8pm.

Man With the Movie Camera (1929) See p.70.

Under the Same Moon (2008) D: Patricia Riggen; with Kate del Castillo, Eugenio Derbez, Mário Almada, Adrian Alonso, Isaac Bravo, Ernesto D'Alessio, Julie Dove, America Ferrera. (PG-13, 109 min.) **Movie Under the Stars.** This film tells parallel stories of a mother and son seeking each other across geographical divides. Popcorn and cold drinks available for donations to support the high school band trip. (*) @Hope Lutheran Church Baseball Field, 9pm; free.

SATURDAY 03

Alien: The Director's Cut (2003) @Paramount, 4:40, 9:15pm. (See Friday.)

Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010) See p.72.

Independence Day (1996) @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10:15pm. (See Friday.)

Killer of Sheep (1977) D: Charles Burnett; with Henry Sanders, Kaycee Moore, James Miles, Charles Bracy, Angela Burnett. (NR, 83 min.) **Austin Film Society: A Summer of Restoration – Selections From Milestone Films.** Burnett's film draws on the daily lives of the inhabitants of South Central Los Angeles in the Seventies. *Killer of Sheep* is a soul-pounding exploration of the life of a black man who works in a slaughterhouse. Shot in a neo-realist style with non-professional actors, the film is a blistering assessment of the L.A. ghettos 10 years after the Watts riots. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12pm; \$6, AFS members free.

Mars Attacks! (1996) @Tinseltown South, 12mid. (See Friday.)

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.

2010 (1984) @Paramount, 7pm. (See Friday.)

Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942) See p.72.

SPACES

Jaws (1975) @Lake Travis, 8pm. (See Friday.)

SUNDAY 04

Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010) See p.72.

Independence Day (1996) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Friday.)

Team America: World Police: Quote- and Sing-Along (2004) @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

offscreen

Austin FilmWorks: Production One Filmmaker Steve Mims covers the issues of technology, design, and practical application of technique with this comprehensive, hands-on, 14-week series of classes. Registration now open; see website for details. Sept. 7-Dec. 7. Tuesdays, 6:30pm. Studio A-7, 701 Tillery. \$960. www.austinfilmworks.com.

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, screenwriting essentials, introductions to Dreamweaver and Fetch, animation and lighting techniques, and more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org/classes.

"Bloom" Art Exhibition & Benefit AGLIFF presents a *fabulous* celebration of artists who surprise, delight, and challenge the status quo and buck tradition across all mediums including digital, canvas, performance, photography, theatre, dance, sculpture, and film. Not just another art show – this is a full-on party with live music and cocktails, too! Fri., July 23, 8pm. Action Figure Studios, 3000 E. Cesar Chavez. 302-9889. \$40 (\$35, in advance). www.agliff.org.

channelAustin Classes Austin's digital media center offers filmmakers professional, hands-on instruction in HD field equipment and studio production, plus affordable access to the latest high-end gear and software by Sony and Apple. Learn more on Mondays from 6 to 7pm. See website for details. 1143 Northwestern. www.channelaustin.org.

Harry Ransom Center: "Making Movies" This revealing exhibition – arranged from documents of film producer and director David O. Selznick, actors Gloria Swanson and Robert De Niro, screenwriter Ernest Lehman, acting teacher Stella Adler, special effects master Norman Dawn, and others – explores the collaborative processes that take place behind the scenes in filmmaking. Through Aug. 1. Tue., Wed., Fri., 10am-5pm; Thu., 10am-7pm; Sat.-Sun., noon-5pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st. 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/2010/movies.

Homoscope: Call for Entries The third annual Queer Arts Festival is now accepting experimental film shorts to complement its showcase of visual art and live performance in August. (Also wanted are feature-film submissions for ongoing screenings.) See website for details. www.homoscope.org.

The Screenplay Workshop All programs taught by professional screenwriters in Central Austin classrooms. **Tuesday Night Workshops 7-9:30pm.** Five-week fundamentals: \$225. Ten-week Master Class: \$390. **Private Screenwriting Coaching and Consultation** also available. See website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Thursday Night Blockbuster ColdTowne Theater and I Luv Video present a pair of video-making, movie-mocking merriments each Thursday, featuring a troupe of cut-ups who create meshing and battling narratives from an on-the-spot mix of live performance and instant video (**3,2,1 ... Kill!**, 8pm) and improvise commentary tracks to the most popular movies of today, yesterday, and tomorrow (**Commentary Track Live**, 10pm). And there's free

Willie Nelson's 4th of July Celebration (1979) D: Werner Brandt. (R, 100 min.) Willie, Waylon Jennings, Leon Russell, and the Lost Gonzo Band are the highlights of this 35mm document of one of the early picnics – and nobody celebrates independence like Nelson. @Alamo Ritz, 2pm.

MONDAY 05

Cropsey (2010) See p.70.

Willie Nelson's 4th of July Celebration (1979) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Sunday.)

SPACES

The Wizard (1989) D: Todd Holland; with Fred Savage, Luke Edwards, Jenny Lewis, Beau Bridges, Christian Slater. (PG, 100 min.) **Classic Game Fest 2010: Video Game Movies That Rock.** Three kids trek cross-country to compete for a video-game championship, while sidestepping adults all the way. Outdoors. @Game Over Videogames (Round Rock), 9pm.

KIDS

The Iron Giant (1999) Summer Kids Camp. Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11am.

The Muppet Movie (1979) Summer Kids Camp. Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am.

Spy Kids (2001) Summer Kids Camp. Free. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am.

TUESDAY 06

All That Heaven Allows (1955) See p.70.

Cropsey (2010) See p.70.

Imitation of Life (1959) D: Douglas Sirk; with Lana Turner, John Gavin, Susan Kohner, Sandra Dee, Juanita Moore. (NR, 125 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Here's to the Ladies.** In this second Hollywood remake of the Fannie Hurst sob story, Turner and Moore each play husbandless women in New York raising daughters on their own. The film is a biting critique of American race relations in the Fifties and a complex study in contrasts and paradoxes. (Double bill: *All That Heaven Allows*.) (*) @Paramount, 8:55pm.

Night of the Comet (1984) D: Thom Eberhardt; with Mary Woronov, Robert Beltran, Catherine Mary Stewart, Kelly Maroney. (PG-13, 95 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** In this Eighties froth, a comet strikes Earth and only zombies, scientists, and Valley Girls are left standing. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

Soity Rei Animé at the Alamo. Animated Japanese television series. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

SPACES

Blood Simple (1984) D: Joel Coen; with John Getz, Frances McDormand, Dan Hedaya, M. Emmet Walsh, Samm-Art Williams. (R, 97 min.) **Austin Public Library: Neo-Noir Nights.** With this first film, the Coen Brothers grabbed the national spotlight for their audacious visual stylings and the perception that the film and its makers sprang out of nowhere, fully formed. (*) @Milwood Branch Library, 6:30pm; free.

KIDS

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) Family Film Festival. Free. (*) @Lakeline, 10am.

Astro Boy (2009) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Hotel for Dogs (2009) Summer Movie Clubhouse. \$1. (*) @Tinseltown South, Movies 8, 10am.

The Iron Giant (1999) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11am. (See Monday.)

Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (2001) (G, 83 min.) **Family Film Festival.** Free. (*) @Lakeline, 10am.

Madagascar (2005) Summer Movie Camp. \$1. (*) @Barton Creek Square, 10am.

The Muppet Movie (1979) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am. (See Monday.)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) Family Film Festival. Free. (*) @Arbor, 10am.

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (2008) @Arbor, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Ponyo (2009) Austin Public Library: Family Movies. Free. (*) @Windsor Park Library, 6:30pm.

Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Spy Kids (2001) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am. (See Monday.)

WEDNESDAY 07

All That Heaven Allows (1955)
See p.70.

Birdemic: Shock and Terror (2008)
D: James Nguyen; with Alan Bagh, Whitney Moore. (NR, 90 min.) A bona fide cult phenomenon, this inexpensively made "romantic thriller" shows a platoon of eagles and vultures attacking the residents of a small town, Hitchcock-style. For more on the film, see "When Bad Movies Attack," p.44. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Cropsey (2010) See p.70.

Eugene Onegin (2007) Metropolitan Opera: Encore Presentation. Tchaikovsky's opera presentation features Renée Fleming performing the role of Tatiana and Dimitri Hvorostovsky in the title role. @Southpark Meadows, Metropolitan, CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, Hill Country Galleria, 6:30pm.

Gone With the Pope (2010) D: Duke Mitchell; with Mitchell, Peter Milo, Jim LoBianco, Lorenzo Dardado. (NR, 83 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Award-winning editor and film distributor Bob Murakowski completed this film by exploitation director and star Mitchell, who died in 1981 before finishing it. The story is one of a criminal just out of jail, who hatches a plot to kidnap the pope. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Imitation of Life (1959) @Paramount, 7pm. (See Tuesday.)

SPACES

Kolya (1996) D: Jan Sverak; with Zdenek Sverak, Andrej Chalimon. **UT Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.** This Oscar-winning film from the Czech Republic is a funny, sexy, emotionally honest story about a bachelor who assumes custody of a cute kid. (*) @Geography Bldg., Rm. 102 (UT campus on 24th), 7pm; free.

Un Quixote sin Mancha (1969) D: Miguel M. Delgado; with Cantinflas, Ángel Garasa, Lupita Ferrer, Susana Salvat. (NR, 100 min.) **Austin Public Library: Mexican Comedy Wednesdays Featuring Catinflas.** The adored comedian portrays a lawyer who fights for the rights of Mexico City's underprivileged. @Cepeda Public Library, 6pm; free.

KIDS

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) @Lakeline, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

Astro Boy (2009) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Hotel for Dogs (2009) @Tinseltown South, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

The Iron Giant (1999) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 11am. (See Monday.)

Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (2001) @Lakeline, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

The Muppet Movie (1979) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am. (See Monday.)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) @Arbor, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (2008) @Arbor, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Spy Kids (2001) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am. (See Monday.)

THURSDAY 08

Eugene Onegin (2007) @Southpark Meadows, CM Cedar Park, 10am; Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, 12pm. (See Wednesday.)

The Goonies Quote-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Grease Sing-a-Long (1978) D: Randall Kleiser; with John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, Didi Conn. (PG, 112 min.) The original high school musical returns with nothing changed but your lyrical participation. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7:15, 10:15pm.

Norma Rae (1979) D: Martin Ritt; with Sally Field, Rob Liebman, Beau Bridges. (PG, 113 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Here's to the Ladies.** Field picked up her first Oscar for her title performance as an ordinary Southern mill worker who, with the help of a labor organizer from New York, finds the courage to agitate for unionization of the factory at which she works. (Double bill: *Silkwood*.) @Paramount, 7pm.

Prince Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 9:50pm.

Silkwood (1983) D: Mike Nichols; with Meryl Streep, Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson, Diana Scarwid, Fred Ward, Ron Silver, Studie Bond. (R, 128 min.) **Summer Film Classics: Here's to the Ladies.** Wonderful performances steal the show in this film based on the real life of Karen Silkwood, a worker in a plutonium factory in Oklahoma, whose health and safety concerns prompt her public exposure of the company's practices which, in turn, lead to dire personal consequences. (Double bill: *Norma Rae*.) (*) @Paramount, 9:30pm.

SPACES

David Holzman's Diary (1967) See p.72.

Detour (1945) See p.72.

KIDS

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) @Lakeline, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

Astro Boy (2009) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Hotel for Dogs (2009) @Tinseltown South, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (2001) @Lakeline, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

The Muppet Movie (1979) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 11am. (See Monday.)

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) @Arbor, 10am. (See Tuesday.)

The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie (2008) @Arbor, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) @Westgate, 10am. (See Thursday, 7/1.)

Spy Kids (2001) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 11am. (See Monday.)

imax

Arabia 3D (2010) D: Greg MacGillivray. (NR, 40 min.) A combination of historical re-creations and contemporary scenes of everyday life, this film follows the story of Hamzah Jamjoom, a 22-year-old Arabian filmmaking student, as he returns home from Chicago to make a film about his native culture. Thu. (7/1), 10am; Mon.-Thu. (7/8), 10am.

Hubble 3D (2010) D: Toni Myers; narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio. (NR, 45 min.) This breathtaking documentary follows NASA's May 2009 mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope. (*) Thu. (7/1), 11am; Sat., 10am; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Thu. (7/8), 11am.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as the state is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Fri., 10am.

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) D: David Slade; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner. (PG-13, 124 min.) See review on p.66. (*) Thu. (7/1), noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10pm; Fri.-Sat., 11:30am, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm, 12mid; Sun., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm; Mon.-Thu. (7/8), noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10pm.

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RECOMMENDED EVENTS FOR JULY 2 TO JULY 8

music

EDITED BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

listings



Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic

The Backyard, Sunday 4

Last month, Willie Nelson's 1975 landmark, *Red Headed Stranger*, was inducted into the National Recording Registry. In 1973, his inaugural 4th of July Picnic was born in Dripping Springs. Now that

he's reached national treasure status – and cut his signature braids – it's easier to trace his passing from cosmic cowboy to last of the breed. The annual all-day bash boasts Red Dirt wranglers (**Kevin Fowler, Randy Rogers Band, Jack Ingram**), local ringers (**Del Castillo, Los Lonely Boys, Asleep at the Wheel, Ray Wylie Hubbard**), and the usual assortment of musical cronies (**David Allan Coe, Johnny**

Bush, and Ray Price), most of whom are enjoying a bit of a comeback. **Leon Russell** recently cut a new record with Elton John, **Kris Kristofferson** dusted off his early publishing demos for *Light in the Attic's Please Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends*, and **Billy Joe Shaver** shot a man in the face and walked away from the courtroom without so much as a slap on the wrist. Doors at 11am. – Austin Powell

PONG, WOODGRAIN ND at 501 Studios, Friday 2

Between Pong's latest dance party transmission, *Escobarb*, and Woodgrain's debut, *The Bronze*, there's some serious static cling to be made tonight. Electro-punk vibes meet Australian Cattle God's patented low end, which should rattle the ND's washing-machinelike confines. Add in beat doctors Bodytronix, and parking on the dance floor is required. – Audra Schroeder

TORTILLA FACTORY Flamingo Cantina, Friday 2

If it seems like Tortilla Factory is suddenly popping up all over, that's because it is. Ever since Tony "Ham" Guerrero handed the reins to his son and daughter, Alfred and Laura Guerrero, the Grammy-nominated band's reinvented itself with style. The upcoming summer release, *Cookin'*, fuses traditional Tejano and Chicano rock and soul with "American world music" and still features master vocalist Bobby Butler. – Margaret Moser

MAKE AUSTIN WEIRDER FEST Lovejoy's, Saturday 3

The summer edition of the Make Austin Weirder Fest promises a ringing of ears and sweat in places you didn't know could get sweaty. Masters of ceremony Hug headline after Austin's dirty girl Christeene, plus Cry Blood Apache, Jwery Sinefewuld's Atwopeed Sac, Crapulence, Alexander J. Hamilton, Telepathik Friend, and Seahorse. 4pm. – Audra Schroeder



Audio-visual stimulation at austinchronicle.com/earache

SIMPLE CIRCUIT, THE ZOLTARS Carousel Lounge, Saturday 3

Linda and Lisa, *Clear Spot's* ladies of Saturday night radio, bring their stacks of psych and punk oddities out of the studio for this KOOP benefit. Locals Simple Circuit are hard at work on a debut LP with Eddy Current Suppression Ring guitarist Mikey Young, and lo-fi duo the Zoltars just released its buzzworthy self-titled debut. High kick. – Audra Schroeder

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION Seaholm Power Plant, Sunday 4

Not feeling the trek out to Willieville? Then pack a blanket and head to the power plant like a true American! This benefit for Eastside music educators Anthropos Arts features locals T Bird & the Breaks, the Bright Light Social Hour, and 'Til We're Blue or Destroy. Fireworks at sunset. The show is free, but you can always bring a donation for a good cause. – Audra Schroeder

OLA PODRIDA Mohawk, Thursday 8

"There's always a shadow in the prettiest of scenes," reflects David Wingo on Ola Podrida's "The Closest We Will Ever Be." The local songsmith has composed acclaimed film scores for director David Gordon Green and a new political documentary, *Gerrymandering*, currently making the festival circuit. Those sort of nostalgic observations add to the sepia-toned haze of last year's serene *Belly of the Lion*. Old soul folklorists Dana Falconberry and Denton's Bosque Brown open. – Austin Powell

TEXAS TORNADOS Antone's, Thursday 8

Talk about high Texas riders: Texas Tornados are still blowing hot since releasing *¡Está Bueno!* in the spring. That's easily attributed to ridiculously lovable songs ("Who's to Blame, Senorita?") but it's also a tribute to the three who carry on without the two. Shawn Sahn, Augie Meyers, and Flaco Jiménez still create a revolutionary fusion of Tex-Mex and rock stamped on every side with the word "Texas." – Margaret Moser

soundcheck

BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

PUREGREASE.COM LAUNCH PARTY

Beauty Bar, Friday 2
Local poster children roll out ... Trail of Dead, Girl in a Coma, Eagle Claw, Markov, and others.

JEFF LOFTON'S ELECTRIC THANG Lamberts, Friday 2

Local trumpeter works his way through Miles Davis' *Bitches Brew*.

STORYVILLE

Antone's, Friday 2 & Saturday 3
The 35th anniversary month struts on with time-tested R&B.

BASTARD SONS OF WILLIE JULY 3RD PICNIC Mohawk, Saturday 3

Scorpion Child, Smoke & Feathers, Vitamins, and more smoke out Red River.

THE LOW LOWS

Scott Inn, Saturday 3
Brassy summer ballads, plus swagger from the Happen-Ins and Preservation.

BURGER CITY ROCK & ROLL RECORD PARTY

The Grand, Monday 5
Cowabunga Babes fry chords and melt vinyl.

EDWARD SHARPE & THE MAGNETIC ZEROS

La Zona Rosa, Tuesday 6
Sold out.

CAGE

Mohawk, Tuesday 6
NYC rapper spits out the seedy underbelly.

NEXT UP NIGHT

Antone's, Wednesday 7
The new wave hits Fifth: Carson Brock, Cipher Crew, Electric Society, Sarah Rivas & 24-7, Team Next, Retro City, and Casino.

MARCIA GRIFFITHS, TANYA STEPHENS

Aces Lounge, Thursday 8
Two titans of reggae, plus Louie Culture, Jesse Jender, and Yogi.

live music venues p.78

roadshows + club listings p.82

in-stores

Saturday: **Horse Opera**, Antone's Records, 3pm; **Baby Robots, Bali Yaaah**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Tuesday: **Wild America, Knifey Spooney, Literature, Joe Lawler & the Mathletes**, Trailer Space, 7pm

Wednesday: **Alejandro Escovedo**, Waterloo Records, noon



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THURSDAY, JULY 1

Larry Joe Taylor Band 8PM \$10

Miss Lavelle White's B-Day 10PM \$10
Amber Lucille 12AM \$5

No Cover Happy Hour **THE SIDESHOW FIVE** 6PM

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Hector Ward 11:30PM \$10 Adv* / \$12 Door

SETH WALKER 9PM \$10 Adv* / \$12 Door
*Tickets available from Frontgate/tickets.com

NO COVER HAPPY HOUR
EARL POOLE BALL & THE COSMIC AMERICANS 6PM

SATURDAY, JULY 3

The Reflectacles 10PM \$10

Gary Nicholson with **Mickey Raphael** 8PM \$10

Baker Hotel 12AM \$10
Leila Lopez 3PM NO COVER

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Mike & the Moonpies 7:30PM NO COVER

Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 6PM \$10

THE HIGHWAY 10:30PM \$5
Lincoln Durham 12AM \$5

SkyCityBand 3PM NO COVER

MONDAY, JULY 5

LONELYLAND WITH **BOB SCHNEIDER** 8:30PM \$10

DAPHNE WILLIS 7PM \$10

Jeff Plankenhorn w/ Yogi, Brannen & Phil 11PM \$5

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Chris Brecht & the Dead Flowers 10PM \$5

L.L. Cooper 8PM \$5
Laura Lee Bishop 12AM \$5

NO COVER HAPPY HOUR **WAYLON PAYNE** 6PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

WALT WILKINS & THE MYSTIQUEROS 9PM \$10

Reid Wilson 11PM \$7
JOEL WARREN 12:30AM \$5

NO COVER HAPPY HOUR **The Nortons** 6PM

COMING UP

JULY 9 **MALFORD MILLIGAN**
JULY 10 **WC CLARK**
JULY 15 **SHAKE RUSSEL**

live music venues

219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ACES LOUNGE, 222 E. Sixth, 477-2237
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777
ANTONE'S RECORDS, 2928 Guadalupe, 322-0660
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUDITORIUM SHORES, 920 W. Riverside,
AUNT JULIE'S COUNTRY KITCHEN, 1208 N. I-35 Ste. Z, 246-1144
AUSSIE'S GRILL & BEACH BAR, 306 Barton Springs Rd., 480-0952
THE BACKYARD, 13472 Bee Cave Pkwy., 263-4146
BAR 141, 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos, 512/558-7399
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water St., Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BB ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943
BEERLAND, 711 Red River, 479-ROCK
BLU, 360 Nueces, 904-5666
BOTTICELLI'S, 1321 S. Congress, 916-1315
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
BULL MCCABE'S, 714 Red River, 478-4022
C. HUNTS ICE HOUSE, 9611 McNeil Rd., 836-0558
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473
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
CHARLIE'S AUSTIN, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham St., San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CHUCK'S DELI & COFFEE SHOP, 12115 Manchaca Rd., 502-5808
CLUB DE VILLE, 900 Red River, 457-0900
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla St., Granger, 512/859-0700
COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL, 6500 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1742
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
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 E. Sixth, 444-7770
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 505-8541
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie, 28-CAJUN
FAIR BEAN COFFEE, 2210-I S. First, 444-BEAN
1ST DOWN & STASSNEY SPORTS BAR, 730 W. Stassney #120, 215-0600
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 480-8646
FREDDIE'S PLACE, 1703 S. First, 445-9197
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
THE GRAND, 4631 Airport, 454-1986
GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4477
GRUENE HALL, 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIGHBALL, 1120 S. Lamar, 383-8309
HILL'S CAFE, 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe,
HOUSE WINE, 408 Josephine, 322-5210
HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL, 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700
IGUANA GRILL, 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439
JOE'S CRAB SHACK, 600 E. Riverside, 441-1010
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
KEY BAR, 617 W. Sixth, 236-9389
KICK BUTT COFFEE, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425
LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN, 6507 Circle S Rd., 442-9925
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
LAMBERTS, 401 W. Second, 494-1500
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LINDA'S FINE FOODS, 500 FM 2325, Wimberley, 512/847-5464

THE LION AND ROSE, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., West Lake Hills, 512/335-5466
LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR, 13776 Hwy. 183 N., 257-0607
LOVEJOYS, 604 Neches, 477-1268
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
THE MARCHESA HALL & THEATRE, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MEAN-EYED CAT, 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326
MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA, 503 E. Sixth, 499-0350
MICKEY'S THIRSTY 1 LOUNGE, 11806 N. Lamar, 836-9991
MOHAWK, 912 Red River, 482-8404
MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth #200, 479-8848
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MUGSHOTS, 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008
ND AT 501 STUDIOS, 501 N. I-35, 485-3001
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
THE OASIS, 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442
ONE 2 ONE BAR, 121 E. Fifth, 473-0121
OPA! COFFEE AND WINE BAR, 2050 S. Lamar, 326-8742
OPAL DIVINE'S FREEHOUSE, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE, 5001 E. 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
QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET, 5621 Airport, 454-5827
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
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum Blvd., 343-2626
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock, 512/218-0813
ROADHOUSE RAGS, 1600 Fortview, 762-8797
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE, 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR, 5900 Slaughter, 288-9994
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
THE SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200
SEAHOLM POWER PLANT, 214 West Ave.,
SENGELMANN HALL, 531 N. Main St., Schulenburg, 979/743-2300
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB, 9012 Research Ste. C-1, 380-9443
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STOMPIN' GROUNDS COFFEE & COCKTAIL LOUNGE, 3801 S. Congress #116, 394-6999
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE, 300 Colorado #200, 495-6504
SYMPHONY SQUARE, 1101 Red River, 476-6064
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THINGS CELTIC, 1806 W. 35th, 472-2358
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS, 1401-A Rosewood, 524-1445
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary St., San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 902-5057
VINO VINO, 4119 Guadalupe, 465-9282
WAREHOUSE SALOON & BILLIARDS, 509 E. Ben White, 443-8799
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 9600 S. I-35 Ste. D-100, 292-7900
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600-A N. Lamar, 474-2500
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355
ZINGERS SPORTS BAR, 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Bee Cave, 512/524-2434

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

ART BY **DANA SMITH**
 • THURSDAY // 10PM
CONTINENTAL GRAFFITI
 • FRIDAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY // 10:30PM
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
 FRI & SAT WITH
DENNY FREEMAN
 FRIDAY 9PM: **MARATHON-DARDEN SMITH & RICHARD ISACKES**
 • MONDAY // 10PM
DAN DYER
 • TUESDAY
 10PM **EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**
 8PM **DANA WHEELER**
 • WEDNESDAY
 10:30PM: **TRUBE FARRELL & SNIZ**
 8:30PM: **JON BLONDELL**

THUR JULY 1
 HAPPY HOUR
PLANET CASPER 12AM
 Shannon McNally And Hot Sauce
DEADMAN
 10PM **FRIDAY JULY 2**
 NO HAPPY HOUR TODAY
 DOORS OPEN AT 9PM
JEFF HUGHES 12AM
 AND CHAPARRAL
TWO TONS OF STEEL
 10PM **SATURDAY JULY 3**
 MATINEE 3-7PM **REDD VOLKAERT** 12:30AM
Jungle Rockers
 11PM **ROYAL BUTCHERS**
 9:30PM **MODERN DON JUANS**
SUNDAY JULY 4
JUNIOR BROWN AND TANYA RAE
 10PM **HEYBALE**
 WITH **REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL**
 DOORS 6:30PM SHOWTIME 7:30PM

MONDAY JULY 5
 H. H. Olivier Giraud's Continental Graffiti
 10PM **TWO HOOTS AND A HOLLER**
TUESDAY JULY 6
 HAPPY HOUR 6:30
TONI PRICE
 Wendy Colonna
WEDNESDAY JULY 7
 HAPPY HOUR 12AM
STONE RIVER BOYS
SAM HILL
 FEATURING **DUSTIN WELCH**
 10:30PM **JON DEE**
THURSDAY JULY 8
 HAPPY HOUR **PLANET CASPER**
 12:15AM **WISEBIRD**
 11PM **RICKY STEIN & THE 444**
THE PRESERVATION
FRIDAY JULY 9
 H. H. THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
 9:30PM **THE DERAILERS**
 12AM **DAMON BRAMBLETT**
SATURDAY JULY 10
 MATINEE 3-7PM **REDD VOLKAERT**
 12AM **GRAHAM WILKINSON**
 10:45PM **DREW SMITH**
 9:30M **ROSS COOPER & THE COMBOYS FROM MARS**

COMING SOON
7/15 SHOCK-A-BOOM
7/16 ALL NIGHT LONG!
7/17 THE FLESHTONES

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 JUNE

WATERLOO

SHINER BOCK

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1	GRUPO FANTASMA ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "El Existential"
2	COURT YARD HOUNDS ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Court Yard Hounds"
3	SHINYRIBS ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Well After Awhile"
4	ROKY ERICKSON WITH OKKERVIL RIVER ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "True Love Cast Out All Evil"
5	SARAH JAFFE ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Suburban Nature"
6	PATTY GRIFFIN ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Downtown Church"
7	VARIOUS ARTISTS ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Sweet Songs: Music For Families"
8	BOB SCHNEIDER ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Lovely Creatures"
9	WILLIE NELSON ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Country Music"
10	BLUEBONNETS ★ TOP SELLING ARTIST ★ "Boom Boom Boom Boom"

THERE'S Nothing FINER!

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MAGGIE MAE'S
 AUSTIN TEXAS

JULY 3RD
 SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
RO-TEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES

THURSDAY 7/1
 COLLEGE NIGHT!
 \$2 YOU HOLLA!
DJ TAKTIK (VIDEO DJ)
CURTIS GRIMES
 TEXAS COUNTRY

FRIDAY 7/2
 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM
DJ KENN (VIDEO DJ)
SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS

SATURDAY 7/3
 HAPPY HOUR 3-9PM
DJ KENN (VIDEO DJ)
RO-TEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES
DJ KIDD IN THE GIBSON ROOM!

SUNDAY 7/4
ALAN HAYNES
 LIVE BLUES \$2 DOMESTICS
 SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT

MONDAY 7/5
MIKE MILLIGAN
 & **THE ALTAR BOYZ** LIVE BLUES
 \$2 DOMESTICS

TUESDAY 7/6
 TEXAS COUNTRY TUESDAY W/
AARON NAVARRO
 \$2 DOMESTICS, \$3 HIDEOUS BOMBS

WEDNESDAY 7/7
ERIC TESSMER
 \$2 DOMESTICS

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at Bee Cave

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IS BACK!

LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:

WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY

Jamey Johnson • Leon Russell
Los Lonely Boys • Del Castillo • Randy Rogers Band

Ray Price • Kris Kristofferson • Johnny Bush
Asleep at the Wheel • Ray Wylie Hubbard

And Many More...

THIS SUNDAY, JULY 4TH

WILLIE NELSON'S

4TH OF JULY PICNIC

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT WWW.THEBACKYARD.NET

2 SEALED WATER BOTTLES PER PERSON PERMITTED
BE GREEN AND CARPOOL
ADDITIONAL PARKING AT THE GALLERIA

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at Bee Cave

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IS BACK!

SHERYL CROW
AND THE THIEVES
100 MILES FROM MEMPHIS TOUR



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*Colbie
Caillat*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH
AT THE NEW BACKYARD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.THEBACKYARD.NET

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH

CROSS CANADIAN RAGWEED

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MICKY & THE MOTORCARS • CHARLIE ROBISON

MIKE MCCLURE BAND • SETH JAMES • BRUCE ROBISON

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THURSDAY JULY 1 \$5
 THE APPLE TRIO 6:30
 KATIE GRAY 8
ABRA MOORE 9:15 EVERY THURS
 MEGGAN CARNEY 10:30 JACKIE MYERS BAND 12

FRIDAY JULY 2 \$10
 TARA CRAIG 7:30
 OUACHITA 8:30
THE BELLEVILLE
 10
OUTFIT
 MARGO VALIANTE 12:15

SATURDAY JULY 3 \$10
 JENNIFER ELLEN COOK 7
 RICKY STEIN 8
 ALYSE BLACK 9:15
 EAGLE PRITCHARD MURRAY BAND 10:30
 BUS STOP STALLIONS 12

SUNDAY JULY 4 \$7
 NICK STILES 6:15
 LA TAMPIQUENA 8
WARREN HOOD 9:30
 & THE GOOD
 GREG SCHROEDER 12:15

MONDAY JULY 5 \$5
 STEPHANIE GRESSET NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
 16 STRINGS 6:30 ME & B 8
 DREW SMITH SONGSWAP 9:15
 DUSTIN WELCH & SAM HILL 11
 JAVI GARCIA & THE COLD COLD GROUND 12:30

TUESDAY JULY 6 \$5/\$3 W/STUDENT ID
JOE SEGURA 6:30
WORLD MUSIC NIGHT
 AUSTIN PIAZZOLLA QUINTET 8
 LETICIA RODRIGUEZ 10
 MYRNA CABELLO 12

WEDNESDAY JULY 7 \$5
 LINDSAY SCHULZ NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
 THE BLUE RIBBON HEALERS 6:30
 JOHNNY GOUDIE 8
SUZANNA
CHOPPEL 10:15
 NANO WHITMAN 10:45
 JASON FREED 12

UP COMING SHOWS
DAN DYER BAND
 FUNKYBATZ PRESENTS HAPPY HOUR W/ BONERAMA 6-8P

Romeo's



Italian Bar & Grill

Live Local music wed thru sat

Thursday, July 1st

6:30 Ulrich Ellison
 7:30 Calico Jazz Trio
 8:30 Anna Lively
 9:30 Ghosts Along the Brazos

Friday Night, July 2

Friday Night Supper Club
 7 Marc Palaoro
 7:30 Tahni Handal
 8 Patrick Michalik
 8:30 Karen Chisholm Band
 9 Roy Pilgrim
 9:30 Erica Noble
 10 Craig Haskell & John Allison

Saturday Night, July 3

7 Anna Lively
 8 Hannah McLendon
 9 J-Dub and the Tease
 10 Stevie Norman Band

Wed Night, July 7

9 The Saddle
 Join us after
 Blues on the Green

Free Valet Parking

late night
Happy Hour
 thurs 10PM*
 fri sat 10PM*
 crazy drinks & food

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 512-476-1090

club listings

ALL AGES VENUE ROADSHOW RECOMMENDED HEAR MUSIC ONLINE

THU 01

219 WEST James Speer (7:00)

ANTONE'S Pinetop Perkins CD Release, Birthday (8:00); Bill Carter & the Blame (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star Swing (7:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Sean Orr (8:00)

BEERLAND Literature, Come and Take It, Gun Outfit (8:00)

BOTTICELLI'S Shawn Nelson (7:30)

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE Daryl Gleeson (8:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE L.L. Cooper, Wahoo Trout (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Karen & Kaki, Suede (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cody Lawson CD Release (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Deadman, Shannon McNally & Hot Sauce (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Dave Insley & Chip Dolan (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Dave Stryker (9:30)

EMO'S Jesse Moore & the East Cameron Folkcore, Look Mexico, Andrew Jackson Jihad

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis (7:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Mystic Moot, Man Made Fire (9:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00)

FREDDIE'S PLACE Graham Wilkinson (6:00)

GIDDY UPS The Love Band (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros (7:00)

HEADHUNTERS Ese, the Butts, Tagalongs

HOLE IN THE WALL Uncle Doobie, Time Out (9:00)

HOUSE WINE Jay Sims (8:00)

JOVITA'S Blue Ribbon Healers, Pure Luck (6:30)

LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN Bob Barney (7:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Led Zeppelin II (8:00)

LAMBERTS Gary Clark Jr. (7:00)

THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Phoenix Down (10:00)

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND PRINTED ON A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS. Acts are listed chronologically. Schedules are subject to change, so call clubs to confirm lineups. Start times are provided where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Music listings deadline is Monday mornings, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Please indicate roadshows and residencies. Send venue name, address, phone, acts, and start times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 458-6910; phone, 454-5766 x159; e-mail, clubs@austinchronicle.com.

Austin bands: We want to hear from you. If you haven't registered and uploaded your MP3s to the Musicians Register, go to austinchronicle.com/register. Anywhere your band is mentioned, your music will be featured.

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Textcellorators (8:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Reid Wilson & His So-Called Friends (8:00)

MOHAWK Honey & Salt, the Non, Death Is Not a Joyride. (10:00)

MOMO'S The Apple Trio, Katie Gray, Abra Moore, Meggan Carney, Jackie Myers (6:30)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Jamie Thomas

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce Newman

THE OASIS The Cornell Hurd Band

roadshows

july

THU 1
 Gun Outfit, Fergus & Geronimo, Beerland
 L.L. Cooper, Carousel Lounge
 Shannon McNally & Hot Sauce, Continental Club

Dave Stryker, Elephant Room
 Andrew Jackson Jihad, Emo's
 The Butts, Ese, Headhunters
 Led Zeppelin II, La Zona Rosa
 The Non, Honey & Salt, Mohawk

Meggan Carney, Momo's
 Bob Cheevers, Patsy's Cowgirl Cafe
 Doodlin' Hogwallops, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

Down Syndrome, Bad Antics, Trailer Space Records

FRI 2
 Girl in a Coma, Beauty Bar
 Buster Jiggs, C. Hunts Ice House
 Project Pitchfork, Ayria, Elysium

The Von Ehrics, Emo's
 Radney Foster & the Confessions, Rosehill, Gruene Hall
 Computer Jesus
 Refrigerator, Hole in the Wall

Everclear, the Marchesa Hall & Theatre
 Guns of Navarone, Mohawk
 Ouachita, Momo's
 Doodlin' Hogwallops, Roadhouse Rags

Ashes of Babylon, Ruta Maya
 Roach, the Scoot Inn

SAT 3
 Buster Jiggs, Cheatham Street Warehouse
 Modern Don Juans, Continental Club
 Dimitri's Ascent, Flamingo Cantina

Shotgun Rebels, Headhunters
 Red Alert, the Oasis
 Ouachita, One 2 One Bar
 Barrett Schaub, Poodie's Hilltop Bar & Grill

Funeral Pyre, Red 7
 Louie's Homemade Jam, Ruta Maya
 The Reflectacles, Saxon Pub
 Todd Fritsch, Sengelmann Hall

SUN 4
 Billy Joe Shaver, David Allan Coe, Kris Kristofferson, Leon Russell, Johnny Bush, Ray Price, Randy Rogers, Jack Ingram, the Backyard

Albanie Falletta, Flipnotics Coffeespace
 Brison Bursey, Gruene Hall
 Whiskeydick, Headhunters
 L.L. Cooper, the Pier on Lake Travis

Music Hates You, Red 7
 Modern Don Juans, Roadhouse Rags

MON 5
 PLF, My Fist Your Face, Mohawk
 Roach, Red Eyed Fly
 Daphne Willis, Saxon Pub

TUE 6
 Gasoline Rainbow, Holy Wave, Beerland

Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, We Are Each Other, La Zona Rosa
 Cage, Hate Your Guts, Timmy Wiggins, Mohawk

Islands, Steel Phantoms, the Parish
 Kepi Ghoulie, the Pets, Red 7
 Waylon Payne, Saxon Pub
 L.L. Cooper, Saxon Pub

Knifey Spooniey, Joe Lawler & the Mathletes, Trailer Space Records

WED 7
 Sarah Rivas & 24-7, Antone's
 Gravehill, Cardiac Arrest, Birth A.D., Beerland
 Navasota String Band, Carousel Lounge

Stone River Boys, Continental Club
 Thrive, Kevin Devine, Bad Veins, the Dig, Emo's

THU 8
 The Dirty Mug, Death Before Dishonor, Red 7
 Seabird, House of Heroes, Stubb's

THU 8
 Marcia Griffiths, Tanya Stephens, Jesse Jender, Yogi, Aces Lounge
 Leopold & His Fiction, Beerland

Kinch, Fulton Read, Emo's
 Done Deal, Flamingo Cantina
 Bosque Brown, Mohawk
 Meggan Carney, Naga Valli, Momo's
 Disaster Strikes, Revenants, Red 7
 Tejanosaurus Rex, Red Eyed Fly

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J.D. Newberry

Saturday, July 3rd
Customer Appreciation
Night-DJ Music-No Cover

Friday, July 9th
JOHNNY COOPER
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Saturday, July 10th
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LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE JULY 1-7

INSIDE STAGE:

WED 6/30: 4-7 KATHY SMOCK

THURS: MARIACHIS ROMANCE!!!

FRI: 10 PM IAN WOLF
OPEN MIC NITE 'TIL 1:30AM
get heard & get a gig!!!

SAT: 7-10 PM NICHOLS & LAVVORN

SUN: 10 AM-2 PM BRUNCH
12-2 PM GOSPEL MUSIC

WED 7/7: 4-7 BOB SARNATARO

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& THE JALAPENO EXPRESS

SAT: 8-10PM NIGHT TRAIN (JAZZ)
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SATURDAY, JULY 3RD
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RUBEN V. 11:30PM
\$5 COVER

FRIDAY, JULY 9TH @ 9:30PM
ROTEL & THE HOT TOMATOES
\$10 COVER

SATURDAY, JULY 10TH
LIVERDOG 8-10PM
PRIDE & JOY 10:30PM

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FRI 7/2 6PM: HAPPY HOUR WITH
KEVIN MCKINNEY 
LATER 9PM:
TIN CAN PHONE

SAT 7/3 9PM
LATER: **DJ PETE MASH, DJ FLIPS & DJ VO'S**
SPIN 'TIL 2AM

SUN 7/4 9PM
4TH OF JULY BLOWOUT!

MON 7/5 10PM
FRANCIS

TUE 7/6 10PM
BOOMBOX TUESDAYS FEATURING
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DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!

WED 7/7 10PM
bMused Music Series

THU 7/8 10PM
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4th of July

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'TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY
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+ MORE TBA

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THURSDAY JULY 1 *DUB/REGGAE/FUNK* DOORS 9:00
MAN MADE FIRE
MYSTIC MOOT
SHEER KAHN & THE SPACE CASE

FRIDAY JULY 2 *LATIN/SALSA* DOORS: 9:00
LATIN + SALSA NIGHT
WITH TORTILLA FACTORY

SATURDAY JULY 3 *ELECTRONIC/DUBSTEP* DOORS 9:00
DIMITRI'S ASCENT
PSYMBIONIC

WEDNESDAY JULY 7 *REGGAE* DOORS 8:30
DREADNECK NIGHT: NO COVER
WITH THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
& STOP THE TRUCK

UPCOMING SHOWS

07.08: MAN MADE FIRE, KILLING INDUSTRY & DONE DEAL
07.09: GRIMY STYLES
07.10: TRIBAL NATION & D-MADNESS
07.13: MYKA 9, DJ DREZ, MEDUSA

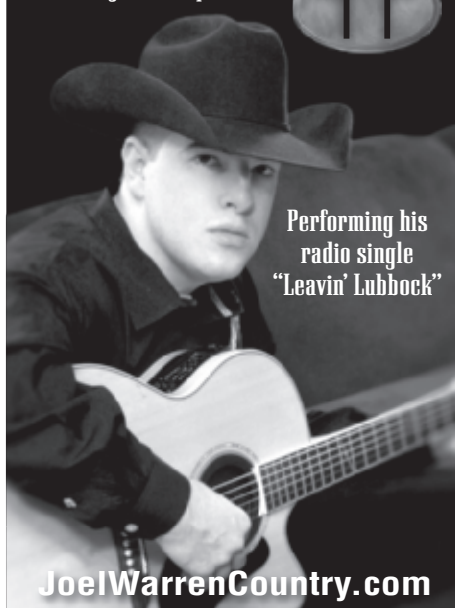
Joel Warren

Leavin' * Lubbock

SAXON PUB - Wed. July 7-12:30am

THOMAS MICHAEL RILEY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Luckenbach Dance Hall - Fri. July 16-7pm

POODIES HILLTOP ROADHOUSE
Sat. July 17-9:30pm



Performing his
radio single
"Leavin' Lubbock"

JoelWarrenCountry.com

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM THURSDAY

ONE 2 ONE BAR Baby Atlas, Lisa Marshall (9:00)

OPAI COFFEE AND WINE BAR Naked Folk Collective (6:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Bob Cheevers (7:30) Ⓡ

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Doodlin' Hogwallops, La Tampiquena Ⓡ Ⓢ

RED 7 Gulf Coast Recovery Benefit w/ Air Traffic Controllers, Magic Jewels, Naw Dude, Muhamadali

RED EYED FLY Apostrophe, Rousing Flurries, Attack Power, Post Bellum

RED FEZ DJ Tako (10:00)

ROMEO'S Calico Jazz Trio, Much Love, Ghosts Along the Brazos (7:30)

RUTA MAYA Larry Seaman, Michael & Gina, Two Hoots and a Holler (9:00)

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Marshall Ford Swing Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Eightysixed (6:00), Larry Jo Taylor, Miss Lavelle White, Amber Lucille Ⓡ (8:00)

THE SCOOT INN Team Fabrication, Model U.N., The Great Nostalgic Ⓡ, Distance Runner EP Release (9:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB Blue Finger Disco

SPEAKEASY Video Stars (9:30)

STUBB'S Capital of Texas Team Survivor Benefit w/ Beautiful Mistakes, Skyrocket! (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Acoustic Open Mic

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Shinyribs, Bob Schneider's Bluegrass Massacre (8:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Bad Antics, Down Syndrome, Monkeytown, Capitalist Kids (7:00) Ⓡ

TRIPLE CROWN Coke Hendry (6:00), Scott H. Biram (10:00)

TROPHY'S Charlie Hurtin & the Hecklers

ZTEJAS The Jitterbug Vipers (6:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Al Monti (10:30)

BEAUTY BAR Markov, Eagle Claw, Girl in a Coma, ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead Ⓡ Ⓢ

BEERLAND The Stuffies, Bottle Service, Contact High Fives

BOTTICELLI'S Pee Wee Moore (8:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Alvin Crow (8:00)

BULL MCCABE'S Ghosts of Texas, Think Lizzy (9:00)

C. HUNTS ICE HOUSE Buster Jiggs Ⓡ

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Mad Cowboys (7:00), Justin Rayfield, the Rosendales (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Trent Durham, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH McLemore Avenue Ⓡ (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Señor Gato (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Foscoe Jones (9:30)

CLUB DE VILLE Soul Happening (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: "Marathon" (8:00), Mike Flanigin w/ Denny Freeman (10:00); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:00); Two Tons of Steel, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes (10:00)

COTTON CLUB People's Choice (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Floyd Domino, Redd Volkaert (7:00)

DRY CREEK SALOON Damon Bramblett (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Robert Kelly (8:00)

EL SOL Y LA LUNA Mariachi Tamazula (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Nathan Hook (6:00), Red Young (9:30)

ELYSIUM Ayria, Project Pitchfork Ⓡ

EMO'S Marshall Rellin Memorial w/ Death Kings, Lone Star Demons, the Von Ehrlics, Honky Ⓡ

EVANGELINE CAFE Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights (10:00)

FAIR BEAN COFFEE Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Tortilla Factory (9:00) Ⓡ

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00); Ben Mallott, Noelle Hampton, Mark Hallman (8:00)

FREDDIE'S PLACE Pete Minda (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Roadhouse Rockers (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dane Sterling (6:00)

GRUENE HALL James Pardo (1:00); Rosehill, Radney Foster & the Confessions (8:00) Ⓡ

HEADHUNTERS Barry Whitesnake, Oklahomos, Splithoof

HILL'S CAFE Arielle Nicole

HOLE IN THE WALL Computer Jesus Refrigerator, Jetu (10:00) Ⓡ

JOE'S CRAB SHACK Burnevik Vega (7:00)

JOVITA'S Girl Guitar, Mike Murphy, These Mad Dogs of Glory (5:30)

LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN Trio4mas (7:00)

LAMBERTS Miles Davis' Witches Brew w/ Jeff Lofton's Electric Thang (9:30)

LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR Johnny Gonzales (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Kevin McKinney (6:00), Tin Can Phone (9:00)

THE MARCHESA HALL & THEATRE Everclear (8:00) Ⓡ

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)

MOHAWK On After Dark, Guns of Navarone, Built by Snow Ⓡ, Whitman (10:00) Ⓡ

MOMO'S Tara Craig, Ouachita, the Belleville Outfit, Margo Valiente (7:00) Ⓡ

ND AT 501 STUDIOS Woodgrain Ⓡ, Pong, Bodytronix Ⓡ Ⓢ

NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY Suzanne Smith

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Cedar Valley Band

THE OASIS Jul & the Chrome Wheels

ONE 2 ONE BAR Tommy Mora, Bobby Bookout (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE JT Junior Band (7:30)

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS The Fabs Ⓡ

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Ruben Ramos

RED 7 Come & Take It, Whatbreaker (9:00)

RED EYED FLY Tex Offenders, Shogun Shakedown Ⓡ, Chemical Noose, Porifera, Moon

RED FEZ Get Right Kids (10:00)

ROADHOUSE RAGS Doodlin' Hogwallops, La Tampiquena Ⓡ (9:00) Ⓡ

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FRIDAY, JULY 2
MCLEMORE AVE
1960's soul

SATURDAY, JULY 3
RUBY JANE
americana, TX fiddle

SUNDAY, JULY 4
NO MUSIC FEATURED
DUE TO THE HOLIDAY.
HAVE A GREAT FOURTH OF JULY.

FRIDAY, JULY 9
RATTLETREE MARIMBA
high energy African dance music

SATURDAY, JULY 10
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
hobo hot jazz

SUNDAY, JULY 11
HARD PROOF AFROBEAT
afrocuban soul grooves

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14
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SUNDAY 12:30 - 3 PM

THURSDAY, JULY 1
CHARLES THIBODEAUX & THE AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

FRIDAY, JULY 2
SEÑOR GATO
latin, afrocuban

SATURDAY, JULY 3
AKINA ADDERLEY
soul funk

SUNDAY, JULY 4
MARC DEVINE & DENIA RIDLEY TRIO
jazz

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
BOCK, BBO & THE BLUES
TEXAS EASTSIDE KINGS

THURSDAY, JULY 8
VANESSA LIVELY
latin folk

FRIDAY, JULY 9
LISA MARSHALL
soul grooves

SATURDAY, JULY 10
BRUCE JAMES SOULTET
straight up soul

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CD RELEASE 9PM
FR 7/2 **FOSCOE JONES** 9:30PM
BUSTER JIGGS 9:30PM
SA 7/3 **KYLE WAYNE KUTSCHER BAND** 4-8PM
SU 7/4 **MIDNIGHT RIVER CHOIR**
TU 7/6 **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE**
WE 7/7

JULY 8 **KYLE BENNETT BAND**
JULY 9 **JAVI GARCIA**
JULY 26 **RANDY ROGERS & WADE BOWEN**

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Thur 7/8 **Wink Keziah**

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& OUR FRIEND, ROBIN SHIVERS**

FRIENDS OF CLIFFORD
JAMES CROUCH

THURSDAY JULY 1ST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ILSE!

PINETOP PERKIN'S 97TH BDAY & CD RELEASE!

**SPECIAL GUESTS
THE PETERSON BROTHERS**



**-SPECIAL GUEST-
MARCIA BALL!**

**-LATER- BILL CARTER & THE BLAME
w/ HOLT, FREEMAN, SALMON, LAYTON**

ADVANCED TICKETS & TABLES AVAILABLE!

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STORYVILLE



FRIDAY: CARSON BROCK
SATURDAY: ZAPATA!

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JULY 6TH DOORS 7

Blue Tuesday

**-WITH-
DEREK,
RILEY,
& SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
GUESTS**

**-OPENING-
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**NEXT UP
ANTONE'S**

**-WITH-
CARSON BROCK
CIPHER CREW
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HONORING OUR FRIEND, DOUG SAHM

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JULY 9TH & 10TH

**ARC
ANGELS**



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BLUEBONNETS-SATURDAY**

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SUNDAY JULY 11TH

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PIANORAMA w/
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TOMMY SHANNON & CHRIS LAYTON,
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MALFORD MILLIGAN & MORE!**

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**JULY 12TH
ALL ARE WELCOME!
OPEN BLUES
JAM! EVERY
MONDAY**

**SIGN UPS 7PM
JAM STARTS 8PM**

WEDNESDAY JULY 14TH

**THE REAL
HEROES**

**SHANE
BARTELL**

**JOHNNY
GOUDIE
&
SPENCER
GIBB**

THURSDAY JULY 15TH

**OFFICIAL
ANNIVERSARY
DATE!**



BOB SCHNEIDER

-WITH- SPEAK

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FRI JULY 16TH

**WHITE
DENIM**



**-WITH-
THE GOLDEN BOYS
MY EDUCATION**


SATURDAY JULY 17TH

SISTER 7




**ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS
AMPLIFIED HEAT**

SUNDAY JULY 18TH



**GUY FORSYTH
& FRIENDS**

THURS JULY 22ND




**JONATHAN TYLER
& THE
NOTHERN LIGHTS**

with: AMERICAN BANG
& BLACK BONE CHILD

FRIDAY JULY 23RD

**THE
SCABS**



**ZAPATA!
THE SOUTHERN
SIRENS LIVE BAND
BURLESQUE**

JULY 24TH

SOULHAT

-WITH- THE BLACK

TUESDAY JULY 27TH

**-BIG CHICAGO BLUES SHOW WITH-
HUBERT SUMLIN &
TONS OF PLAYERS**



JULY 28TH

**COREY
SMITH**



THURSDAY JULY 29TH - FOR CLIFFORD -

with: ANGELA STREHLI, MARCIA BALL,
TEAL COLLINS, CAROLYN WONDERLAND,
PATRICIA VONNE, TONI PRICE, THE
BLUEBONNETS, SHELLEY KING, SARAH
BROWN, CINDY CASHDOLLAR, LISA
PANKRATZ, LIVVY BENNETT, & MORE!

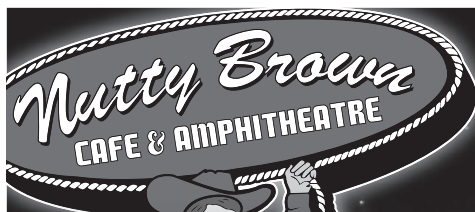
★ JULY 30TH & JULY 31ST ★

RECKLESS KELLY



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SATURDAY: DERTYBIRD & UNCLE LUCIUS

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THIS SATURDAY
ERIC TESSMER BAND
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SUN, JULY 4
BOB SCHNEIDER
5th Annual 4th of July Bash
Special Guest
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HUGE FIREWORKS SHOW! mix94.7

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LIVE MUSIC JAVA JAZZ BAND
Brunch Buffet & \$2.50 Bloody Marys & Mimosas

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FREE MUSIC by **LUCAS MILLER**
Moonwalk • Balloon Art • 99¢ Kids Meals

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TICKETS @ NUTTYBROWN.COM
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July 16 **MINGO FISHTRAP**
July 17 **N'AWLINS NIGHT**
FREE SHOW by Zydeco Blanco, kids' moonwalk,
mardi gras beads, shrimp boil, all-you-can-eat
catfish, cajun/creole entrées
July 23 **GUY FORSYTH**

SAT, JULY 24
FOWLER FEST
Plus
AARON WATSON
KYLE PARK
CURTIS GRIMES

July 30 .. **ROTEL & THE HOT TOMATOES**

SAT, JULY 31
RANDY ROGERS
Band
SPECIAL GUEST: **BRUCE ROBISON**

CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

- CLUB LISTINGS FROM FRIDAY**
- ROMEO'S** Tahn Handel, Patrick Michalik, Karen Chisholm, Roy Pilgrim, Craig Haskell & Johnny Too Bad (7:30)
 - RUTA MAYA** DJ Ivor, Chris Boomer, Ashes of Babylon R
 - SAM'S TOWN POINT** Classic Rock Open Jam w/ Breck English
 - SAXON PUB** Hector Ward (11:30am), Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00), Seth Walker (9:00)
 - THE SCOOT INN** Roach, Candi & the Cavities, Open Casket (9:00) R
 - SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** LC Rocks (9:30)
 - STUBB'S** Early Republic, Naked Empire J, Red Line Chemistry, Sounds Under Radio
 - SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE** Hank Hehmsoth, Spencer Starnes
 - THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Jonny Burke, James McMurtry (9:00)
 - TRIPLE CROWN** Pepper's Blues (6:00), Orquesta Ritmo (10:00)
 - WAREHOUSE SALOON & BILLIARDS** Texas Blues Heelers (6:00)
 - ZINGERS SPORTS BAR** Michael Samuels (7:00)
 - CHUCK'S DELI & COFFEE SHOP** Jay DiBiasio (6:00)
 - CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Denny Freeman (10:00); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00); Modern Don Juans, Royal Butchers, Two Hoots & a Holler (9:30) R
 - COTTON CLUB** Last Call
 - COUNTY LINE ON THE HILL** The Swingsters (7:00)
 - THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Patricia G. (8:00)
 - EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Bruce James (8:00)
 - EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Oliver Rajamani (8:00)
 - ELEPHANT ROOM** The Brew (9:30)
 - FLAMINGO CANTINA** Pysmbionic, Dimitri's Ascent (9:00) R
 - FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Dan & the Deerlicks J (6:00); Have Banjo Will Travel w/ Lindsey Verrill, Shaky Graves, Adam Kobetich, Ralph White (8:00)
 - FREDDIE'S PLACE** Wynn Taylor (6:00)
 - GIDDY UPS** Wild Healers (9:00)
 - GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Heybale! (9:00)
 - GRUENE HALL** Clay McClinton J (1:00), Gary P Nunn (8:00)
 - HEADHUNTERS** Hot Crush, Shotgun Rebels, Blue Flames, the Inconvenience R
 - THE HIGHBALL** The Blind Pets, Department of Public Safety (9:00)
 - HILL'S CAFE** Ronnie Caywood
 - HOLE IN THE WALL** Dead Cat Cello, Focus Group, Muchos Backflips! J (10:00)
 - IGUANA GRILL** Lisa Marshall (6:30)
 - JOVITA'S** Girl Guitar, Harmony Brothers, Don McBride's Red Dirt Rebellion (5:30)
 - KICK BUTT COFFEE** Andrew Stone J, Full Score (8:00)
 - LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN** Jonas Alvarez (7:00)
 - LAMBERTS** Continental Graffiti (7:00), James Moran (10:30)
 - LINDA'S FINE FOODS** Foscoe Jones (7:00)
 - LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR** Johnny Gonzales (6:00)
 - LOVEJOYS** Make Austin Weirder Fest w/ Seahorse, Telepathik Friend, Alexander J. Hamilton, Crapulence, Jherri Signfeldt's Atropheed Sac, Cry Blood Apache, Christeene, Hug J (4:00) R
 - LUCKY LOUNGE** Slick Willito, DJ Pete Mash, DJ Flips, DJ Vos (9:00)
 - MEAN-EYED CAT** Dos Mystiqueros & Jimmy Davis (9:00)
 - MICKEY'S THIRSTY 1 LOUNGE** Dewayne Davis Deluxe (8:00)
 - MOHAWK** Bastard Sons of Willie Picnic w/ Light Me Up, Spellcaster, Bloody Work, the Boxing Lesson, Vitamins, Bridge Farmers, Tow the Line, Smoke & Feathers, Scorpion Child (10:00) R
 - MOMO'S** Jennifer Ellen Cook J, Ricky Stein, Alyse Black, Eagle Pritchard Murray Band, Bus Stop Stallions (7:00)
 - ND AT 501 STUDIOS** Ring the Alarm
 - NORTH BY NORTHWEST RESTAURANT & BREWERY** Stephen Doster & Bill Carter
 - NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Eric Tessmer
 - THE OASIS** Red Alert J R
 - ONE 2 ONE BAR** Ouachita, Alan Haynes (9:00) R
 - THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS** Tish Lancaster
 - POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** The Vagabonds, Barrett Schaub R
 - RED 7** Thieves CD Release (6:00); Newlywed, Lions of Tsavo, Lords, Funeral Pyre, Early Graves (10:00) R
 - RED EYED FLY** Stage of Existence, Raven Charter, Residue, Dawn Over Zero
 - RED FEZ** DJ Digg (10:00)
 - RENAISSANCE HOTEL** Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
 - ROADHOUSE RAGS** Jubal Lee Young, No Show Ponies
 - ROMEO'S** Hannah McLendon, J-Dub & the Tease, Stevie Norman Band J (7:30)
 - RUTA MAYA** Louie's Homemade Jam, the PJs, Garaj Mahal (6:00) R
 - SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Paul Eddy
 - SAXON PUB** Gary Nicholson, Mickey Raphael, the Reflectacles, Baker Hotel (8:00) R
 - THE SCOOT INN** The Preservation, the Happen-Ins, the Low Lows (9:00) R
 - SENGELMANN HALL** Todd Fritsch R
 - STOMPIN' GROUNDS COFFEE & COCKTAIL LOUNGE** Kevin Brown, Douglas Greer
 - STUBB'S** Fatback Circus (9:00)
 - SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE** Hank Hehmsoth, Spencer Starnes
 - THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Jimmy LaFave (9:00)
 - TRAILER SPACE RECORDS** Bali Yaaah J, Baby Robots (7:00)
 - TRIPLE CROWN** Lucky Luciano, Low G., Wiseguy, Rockbox, Chief J

SAT 03

- 311 CLUB** The Top Kats J (8:30)
- ANTONE'S** Zapata!, Storyville (9:00) R
- ANTONE'S RECORDS** Horse Opera (3:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Jerry Lightsey & the Pick-Up Band (7:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Dave Inslay (10:30)
- BEERLAND** Izzy Cox, Robert Allen Caldwell
- BOTTICELLI'S** Ryan Young J (8:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Element (9:00)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons, the Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** BettySoo, Barbara K
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Zoltars, Simple Circuit (9:30) R
- CEDAR STREET** Suede (9:30)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** Ruby Jane Smith (6:30)
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Akina Adderley & the Vintage Playboys J (6:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Buster Jiggs (9:30) R
- HILL'S CAFE** Ronnie Caywood
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Dead Cat Cello, Focus Group, Muchos Backflips! J (10:00)
- IGUANA GRILL** Lisa Marshall (6:30)
- JOVITA'S** Girl Guitar, Harmony Brothers, Don McBride's Red Dirt Rebellion (5:30)
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** Andrew Stone J, Full Score (8:00)
- LA FUENTES RESTAURANT & TEXAS BEER GARDEN** Jonas Alvarez (7:00)
- LAMBERTS** Continental Graffiti (7:00), James Moran (10:30)
- LINDA'S FINE FOODS** Foscoe Jones (7:00)
- LOS REYES MEXICAN GRILL & BAR** Johnny Gonzales (6:00)
- LOVEJOYS** Make Austin Weirder Fest w/ Seahorse, Telepathik Friend, Alexander J. Hamilton, Crapulence, Jherri Signfeldt's Atropheed Sac, Cry Blood Apache, Christeene, Hug J (4:00) R
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Slick Willito, DJ Pete Mash, DJ Flips, DJ Vos (9:00)



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FRI Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs 6p, Noelle Hampton - Ben Mallot & Mark Hallman Song Swap 8p
SAT Dan & the Deer Licks 6p, Have Banjo Will Travel 8p
SUN Charlie King 8p, Albany Falletta 8:45p, Nefresh 9:30p
MON La La Quarry 6p, Robert Steele & Annie Street Arts Collective - Matt Burnett
TUE Lost & Nameless Orchestra 7p, Erik Hokkanen 9p
WED Graham Wilkinson 6pm, Black Jesus 8pm

Full Schedule @ Flipnotics.com

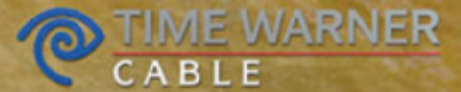
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Thu, 7/1 @ 6-9 **Graham Wilkinson**
Fri, 7/2 @ 6-9 **Pete Minda**
Sat, 7/3 @ 6-9 **Wynn Taylor**
Sun, 7/4 @ 5-8 **Paul Logan**

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- 7:00PM to 8:30PM **Jason Boland & The Stragglers**
- 5:00PM to 6:30PM **Cory Morrow**
- 3:30PM to 4:30PM **Sean McConnell**
- 2:00PM to 3:00PM **Mark McKinney**
- 12:30PM to 1:30PM **Ryan Beaver**
- 9:50PM to 11:00PM **The Jeremy Miller Band**



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THU, JULY 1 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:20PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, JULY 2 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:30PM **ALVIN CROW**

SAT, JULY 3 8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:30PM **CORNELL HURD**

TUE, JULY 6 **BILLY GARZA** (NO COVER)

WED, JULY 7 6-8PM **BAND IN RESTAURANT**
8-9PM DANCE LESSONS
9:20PM **WELDON HENSON**

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North

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The Grass Onions
SUN. 7/4 11am Bluegrass Brunch no cover

Earl Poole Ball & Special Guests
WED. 7/7 7pm Sittin' Singin' & Supper no cover

THUR. 7/8 - AUDREY AULD

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DJ Boozwa and Drewlio Iglesias spinning their own mix of genres
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THURSDAY, JULY 1
LA TAMPIQUENA

THE DOODLIN' HOGWALLOPS

FRIDAY, JULY 2
RUBEN V

SATURDAY, JULY 3
JARRETT SCHAUB AND THE VAGABONDS

SUNDAY, JULY 4
TROUBADILLOS

TUESDAY, JULY 6
SINGERS AND SONGWRITERS WITH **BROOKS** WITH **FOND KISER**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
OPEN MIC WITH **MARK ALLAN ATTWOOD**

THURSDAY, JULY 8
SINGERS AND SONGWRITERS WITH **BROOKS** **SHANE SMITH**

THE SCOOT INN

11 LOCAL DRAFTS * 2 FULL BARS * 2 STAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 9PM
DISTANCE RUNNER
(EP RELEASE SHOW!)
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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 9PM
THE OPEN CASKET
CANDI & THE CAVITIES
ROACH (JAPAN)

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 9PM
THE LOW LOWS
THE HAPPEN - INS
THE PRESERVATION

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 9PM
THE MCMERCY FAMILY BAND
CLYDE & CLEM'S
WHISKEY BUSINESS
COUNTRY WILLIE

FRIDAY, JULY 9, 9PM
WIZARDRY (BROOKLYN, NY)
BEZOAR (BROOKLYN, NY)
& SPECIAL GUESTS

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 9PM
REPRESENT AUSTIN PRESENTS NOT IN THE FACE!
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MONDAY, JULY 12, 6PM
SLIP N' SLIDE
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SUNDAY, JULY 11, 5PM
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 6PM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 6PM
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THUR. JUL 1, 7PM: SARA PIERCE

FRI. JUL 2, 7PM: POOR YORICK

TUES. JUN 29, 7PM - MICHAEL REAUX & THE OUTRIDERS

WED. JUN 30, 7PM - PTARMIGAN

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COME CHEER ON YOUR FAVORITE TEAMS IN THE WORLD CUP AT WATERLOO!

SHOWING FIFA GAMES DAILY AT ALL LOCATIONS!

SOUTHPARK MEADOWS

THUR. JUL 1, 10PM: KARAOKE w/ TOMMY

FRI. JUL 2, 10PM: TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER & DJ BOBBY K

SAT. JUL 3, 10PM: JUMPING FROM JETS

WED. JUL 7, 8PM: PUB QUIZ w/ GEEKS WHO DRINK EVERY TUESDAY

SUN. JUL 4, 10PM: OPEN MIC w/ JULIE NOLEN

TUE. JUL 6, 7PM: TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER

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JUNE 23 ANTONE'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW WITH CAROLYN WONDERLAND

JULY 7 ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO

JULY 21 BODEANS

AUGUST 4 CHARLIE MARS WITH AMY COOK

AUGUST 18 RAUL MALO

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FRI JUL 23

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WED AUG 4


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2010



WITH **LAWRENCE ARABIA**

FRI AUG 6

AN EVENING WITH JOAN BAEZ



WITH **JAMES McMURTRY**

WED AUG 11


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Destructo
and **Proxy**

TUE AUG 24

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Summer Tour



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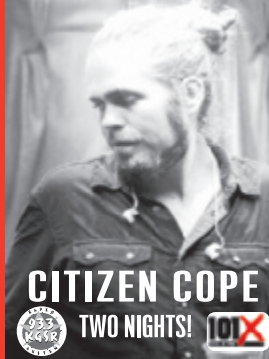
FRI SEP 3

rodrigo y gabriela



FRI SEP 17 & SAT SEP 18

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SAT SEP 25

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SAT JUL 3 DOORS 9PM
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WITH FATBACK CIRCUS

SUN JUL 4
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WED JUL 7 DOORS 9PM
SEABIRD
WITH HOUSE OF HEROES

FRI JUL 9 DOORS 9PM
JOE PUG
WITH RAYLAND BAXTER

SAT JUL 17 DOORS 9PM
ROCK SHOW PROMOTIONS PRESENTS:
RADIO FALLOUT
WITH WAITING FOR AUGUST,
TRASHY AND THE KID & FULL STRIDE

SUN JUL 18 DOORS 9PM
LANGUAGE ROOM
WITH COURRIER & ILL PASTEL

THU JUL 22 DOORS 9PM
NAYSAYS
WITH KEITH MOODY & MY BAND
& HECTOR WARD & THE BIG TIME

SAT JUL 24 DOORS 9PM
LOVEHATEHERO
WITH THE VENITIA FAIR
& YOUNG AND DIVINE

SUN JUL 25 DOORS 9PM
ANDREW BELLE
WITH HE IS WE

THU JUL 29 DOORS 9PM
DANNY MALONE
WITH THE STEPS

FRI JUL 30 DOORS 9PM
DIRTY PENNY
WITH NEW DISASTER & YAYO

CALENDAR

» OUTSIDE SHOW » INSIDE SHOW

7-31* SHE CRAVES
BLONDES MAKE BETTER VICTIMS.
TREBUCHET & DAK IS KEEPING

8-3* MINIATURE TIGERS
THE SPINTO BAND

8-11* CRYSTAL CASTLES AFTERSHOW
ART VERSUS INDUSTRY
FREE W/ HARD SUMMER WRISTBAND

8-13* A LETTER OF WARNING
THE BANNER YEAR, MEGAFUNA
& SECOND TO LAST

8-26* FEVER IN THE FUNKHOUSE
NEW BOHEMIANS

10-20* BETTIE SERVEERT

10-21* LIGHTS OVER PARIS

11-2* BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
CLUTCH, CHILDREN OF BODOM & 2CENTS

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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM SUNDAY

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (11:00am)

T.C.'S LOUNGE Jeff Lofton's Sunday-Go-to-Meetin' Jazz (3:00)

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Fourth of July Social w/ the Gourds (7:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Jeff Lofton Quartet (11:00am)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Open Mic w/ Julie Nolen (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Pee Wee Moore (8:00)

MOHAWK Chest Pain, My Fist Your Face, PLF (10:00)

MOMO'S 16 Strings, Me & B, Drew Smith, Sam Hill, Dustin Welch, Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground (6:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00)

MUGSHOTS Open Mic w/ Chuck Miller (8:00)

THE PIER ON LAKE TRAVIS Michael Ballew

QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (6:30)

RED EYED FLY A Fall From Sin, Roach, Natalie!, Consume the Fetus (6:00)

RED FEZ DJ Cauze-One & DJ Taco (10:00)

RUTA MAYA Flying Balalaika Brothers, Red Army Surrender Jam (9:00)

SAXON PUB Daphne Willis, Lonelyland, Jeff Plankenhorn, the Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (7:00)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB Brent Michael Wood (9:45)

SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE Paul Matthews Trio

VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)

VINO VINO Blue Monday w/ Mike Flanigin, Gary Clark Jr. (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Cheatham Street All-Stars (7:30)

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Dan Dyer (10:00); In the Club: Continental Graffiti (6:30), Two Hoots & a Holler (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Jam w/ Freddie Mendoza (9:30)

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE La La Quarry, Robert Steel & Matt Burnett

THE GRAND Ben Blackout, Cowabunga Babes (10:30)

GRUENE HALL Karen Abrahams (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Radar Radar, Drunk on Crutches (10:00)

HOUSE WINE Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Scott Andrews (8:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Francis (10:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Midnight River Choir (9:00), Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground (9:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30), Wendy Colonna (10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Grand Hotel (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Jon Doyle (6:00), Kris Kimura Quintet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Nineties Night w/ DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (6:00), Kevin Gallagher (8:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lost & Nameless Orchestra (7:00), Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Tracie Lynn (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Two Tons of Steel

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund

HOLE IN THE WALL The Bread (10:00)

JOVITA'S Nick Hirsch, Long Vacation (6:30)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LA ZONA ROSA We Are Each Other, Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros (8:00)

LAMBERTS Brently Heilbron's Sexy Ukelele Show (10:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox Tuesday w/ In the Pink (10:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT The Harringtons (8:00)

MI CASA TAMALES & CANTINA Jeremy Steding & His Band of Bastards (10:00)

MOHAWK Timmy Wiggins, Kill City, Hate Your Guts, Cage (8:00)

MOMO'S Austin Piazzolla Quintet, Leticia Rodriguez, Myrna Cabello (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR The Dank Trio (8:00)

THE PARISH Steel Phantoms, Islands (9:00)

THE PARLOR A Crack in the Wall (9:00)

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Sand & Sunnie (7:30)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Shane Smith, Songwriter Night w/ Brooks Alan Brannon, Shane Smith

MON 05

TUE 06

Riley's TAVERN SINCE 1933

THU 7/1 **MATT BEGLEY & BITTER WHISKEY**

FRI 7/2 **JENNY & THE CORN PONIES**

SAT 7/3 **TURBO 350**

SUN 7/4 **OPEN MIC W/ GLENN ALLAN**

MON 7/5 **MARK MONACO**

TUE 7/6 **SHAWN LINE**

WED 7/7 **TYLER CANNON**

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THUR. 7/1 **Bob Schneider's Texas Bluegrass Massacre Shinyribs**

8pm  \$15

FRI. 7/2 **James McMurtry Jonny Burke**

9pm  \$15

SAT. 7/3 **Jimmy LaFave**

9pm  \$15

SUN. 7/4 **Gospel Brunch Jon Emery**

11am no cover

Summer Social with

SUN. 7/4 **The Gourds**

7pm  \$15

FRI. 7/9 **Rodney Parker Ryan Beaver**

9pm  \$10

SAT. 7/10 **Bone-Nanza starring Jon Blondell**

9pm  \$10

TUE. 7/13 **Emory Quinn / Mike Kelly**

8pm \$8

THUR. 7/15 **Deadman**

honoring Kenneth Threadgill & Townes Van Zandt

9pm  \$10

FRI. 7/16 **Joel Guzman & Sarah Fox**

9pm  \$10

TUE. 7/20 **The Rankin Twins**

8pm \$5

FRI. 7/23 **Quiet Company**

9pm  \$10

THUR. 7/20 **Peter Case**

8pm  \$15

FRI. 7/30 **The Mother Truckers**

9pm  \$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s

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AUGUST 7TH 2010
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THE GHOST ROOM

THURSDAY JULY 1ST, 8PM

Ginger Leigh's Songwriters Night

JOHN POINTER

PATRICE PIKE

TONY SCAZO (of Fastball)

FRIDAY JULY 2ND, 10PM



THE NIGHT

MIE

CASTLE NOVA

SATURDAY JULY 3RD, 8PM

WENDY COLONNA
DAVE MADDEN



WEDNESDAY JULY 7TH, 8PM

JAZZ NIGHT

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HAPPY HOUR WED-FRI 4-7PM
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FRIDAY
AUGUST
13TH

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ALONG WITH...

RIZ MARKIE
BIG DADDY KANE
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2 JULY 2

7TH GARY P NUNN
 14TH STONEY LARUE
 AND THE ARSENALS
 21ST WADE BOWEN
 28TH TWO TONS OF STEEL

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 FREE SHOWS ☆ DOORS AT 6
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CALENDAR (COMMUNITY SPORTS ARTS FILM MUSIC) LISTINGS

CLUB LISTINGS FROM TUESDAY

RED 7 The Cassingles, Capitalist Kids, the Pets, Kepi Ghoulie, the Bulemics (9:00) Ⓡ
RED EYED FLY Sara Joyner, Full Score, Dopamine
RED FEZ DJ Manny (9:00)
RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Michael Welch (8:30)
SAXON PUB Waylon Payne (5:00) Ⓡ, L.L. Cooper, Chris Brecht & the Dead Flowers, Laura Lee Bishop (8:00) Ⓡ
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB Five Ways From Sunday (9:45)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Ember (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Usin' Me (9:30)
SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE Paul Matthews Trio
TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Joe Lawler & the Mathletes, Literature, Knifey Spooney, Wild America (7:00) Ⓡ
TROPHY'S Armadillo Road, Singer-Songwriter Night (7:00)
VINO VINO Son y No Son (9:00)

HILL'S CAFE Gary P. Nunn
HOLE IN THE WALL Disappearing Twins, Arum Rae (10:00)
JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
KEY BAR Jukebox Heroes (8:00)
LA PALAPA Acoustic w/ James Lamberts Scotty B. (7:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE bMused (10:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes (8:00)
MOMO'S Blue Ribbon Healers, Johnny Goudie, Suzanna Choffel ♪, Nano Whitman, Jason Freed (5:00)
ONE 2 ONE BAR Big Circle, TX; Douglas Jay Boyd (8:30)
PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE Ariel Abshire (7:30)
PLUSH Weight w/ the Herd
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Mark Allen Atwood
QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET Calico Jazz Trio (6:30)
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED 7 Before Dishonor, the Dirty Mug, Exile, A Violent Affair (10:00) Ⓡ

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton ♪ (6:00)
CEDAR STREET Karen & Kaki, Suede (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kyle Bennett, Charlie Shafter (9:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Continental Graffiti (10:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); the Preservation, Ricky Stein & the .44's, Wisebird (9:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Dance U2, Alvaro Aguilar (8:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Gillian Welch Tribute
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Lucky Strikes (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Ron Wilkins (9:30)
EMO'S Isle of White ♪, Fulton Read ♪, Kinch Ⓡ
FLAMINGO CANTINA Done Deal ♪, Killing Industry, Man Made Fire (9:00) Ⓡ
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettle (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Mark Ambrose (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)
GRUENE HALL The Texas Sapphires (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Frank Smith
HOUSE WINE Jay Sims (8:00)
LAMBERTS Gary Clark Jr. (7:00)
THE LION AND ROSE Open Mic w/ the Cole Williams Band (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (10:00)
MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey & the Textcellorators (8:00)
MEAN-EYED CAT Darren Hoff & the Hard Times (8:00)
MOHAWK On the Deck: DJ Orion, Dubbel Dutch ♪, Headroom; Inside: Bosque Brown, Dana Falconberry, Ola Podrida (10:00) ⓇⓇ
MOMO'S Naga Valli, Winter Wallace, Abra Moore, Meggan Carney, Kendall Beard (6:00) Ⓡ
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Rusty Trapps' Midnight Ramble
ONE 2 ONE BAR Jumbo Shrimp (8:30)
OPAI COFFEE AND WINE BAR Naked Folk Collective (6:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Jimi Lee
RED 7 No Champions, Revenants, Snake Handler, Disaster Strikes Ⓡ
RED EYED FLY Hope for Aviana, Moniker, Clinical Girls, Tejanosaurus Rex ♪, Drip Drop Ⓡ

WED 07

ANTONE'S Next Up Showcase w/ Casino, Retro City, Team Next, Sarah Rivas & 24-7, Electric Society, Cipher Crew, Carson Brock (8:00) ⓇⓇ
ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Flyin' A's (7:30)
BEERLAND Birth A.D., Cardiac Arrest, Gravehill, HOD Ⓡ
BOTTICELLI'S P.J. Herrington (7:30)
BROKEN SPOKE Weldon Henson (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Soulphonics ♪, Navasota String Band Ⓡ
CEDAR STREET Josh & Jason, the Spazmatics (6:00)
CHARLIE'S AUSTIN Mistress Stephanie & Her Melodic Cat (9:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE Jacinta (7:00)
CHUCK'S DELI & COFFEE SHOP Harmony Brothers
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Blondell, Trube, Farrell & Sniz (8:30); In the Club: Stone River Boys (6:30) Ⓡ; Jon Dee Graham, Sam Hill w/ Dustin Welch (10:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE James Speer (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharaohs (6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister
EMO'S The Dig, Bad Veins, Kevin Devine, Thrice Ⓡ
1ST DOWN & STASSNEY SPORTS BAR Zillionaires
FLAMINGO CANTINA Stop the Truck, Mau Mau Chaplains (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Graham Wilkinson, Black Jesus (6:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Stewart Mann & the Statesboro Revue (7:00)

RED EYED FLY Black Focus, the Anti-Scene ♪, Cavegirl
RED FEZ DJ Hannibal (10:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)
RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:30)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Sloppy Wednesdays Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (8:35)
SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00), Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Reid Wilson, Joel Warren (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Speakeasy Superstar! (9:30)
STOMPIN' GROUNDS COFFEE & COCKTAIL LOUNGE Wine Down w/ Gary Williams
STUBB'S House of Heroes, Seabird Ⓡ
SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE Lucky Strikes
SYMPHONY SQUARE Children's Day Art Park w/ Lucas Miller (9:30am)
TROPHY'S No Parachute Music Happy Hour Showcase (6:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS Alejandro Escovedo (noon)
Z'TEJAS Bill Carter, Ruby Jane Smith, David Holt (6:00)

ACES LOUNGE Yogi, Jesse Jender, Louie Culture, Tanya Stephens, Marcia Griffiths ⓇⓇ
ANTONE'S Robert Larouche, Patricia Vonne, Texas Tornados (8:00) Ⓡ
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Russell Bros. (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Dave Insley (8:00)
BEERLAND Drew Smith, Cowboy & Indian, Wine & Revolution, Leopold & His Fiction Ⓡ
BOTTICELLI'S Brannen Temple

THU 08

ACES LOUNGE Yogi, Jesse Jender, Louie Culture, Tanya Stephens, Marcia Griffiths ⓇⓇ
ANTONE'S Robert Larouche, Patricia Vonne, Texas Tornados (8:00) Ⓡ
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Russell Bros. (7:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Dave Insley (8:00)
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See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

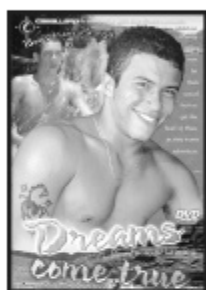
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MIKE MURPHY CAMP SHOW 7-9PM



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SATURDAY, JULY 3

GIRL GUITAR 5:30-6:30PM

THE HARMONY BROTHERS 7-8:30PM

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9:30-11PM

SUNDAY, JULY 4

ERIC LARSON &
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MONDAY, JULY 5 - CLOSED

TUESDAY, JULY 6

NICK HIRSCH 6:30-7:30PM

LONG VACATION 8-10PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

CORNELL HURD BAND 8-10PM

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F 7/2 - Built By Snow, Whitman, After Dark - 10pm

Sa 7/3 - Bastard Sons of Willie 3rd of July Picnic w/ Scorpion Child, Smoke and Feathers, The

Boxing Lesson, Tow The Line, The Bridge Farmers, Vitamins, Formations, Bloody Work, Light Me Up, Spellcaster - 7pm

Tu 7/6 - Cage, Hate Your Guts, Kill City, Timmy Wiggins - 8pm

Th 7/8 - Ola Podrida, Dana Falconberry, Bosque Brown - 10pm // HEAD ROOM w/ Dubbel Dutch & Orión - 10pm (greenroom deck)

Sa 7/10 - Lighting Bolt, Indian Jewelry, Guards - 9pm // Clouds are Ghosts, Obsolete Machine - 12am

Su 7/11 - Jonathan Terrell, Graham Weber - 10pm

M 7/12 - Scott Lucas and the Married Men w/ Rambler Rose, Catahoula - 10pm

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F 7/2 - FREE! Whatabreaker (Jawbreaker cover band), Come and Take It! BBQ 4th of July Party - 9pm

Sa 7/3 - EARLY: Thieves (CD Release/Benefit Show) w/ For Hours and Ours, The Stampede, Diamonds - 6pm

LATE: Early Graves, Funeral Pyre, Lords, Lions of Tsavo, Newlywed - 10pm

Su 7/4 - Music Hates You, Perish the Land - 10pm

Tu 7/6 - Bulemics, Kepi Ghoulie, The Pets, Capitalist Kids, Cassingles - 9pm

W 7/7 - Violent Affair, Exile, The Dirty Mug, Before Dishonor - 10pm

Th 7/8 - Disaster Strikes (Alternative Tentacles), Snake Handler, Revenants, No Champions - 10pm

F 7/9 - Woods of Ypres, Vex, Sakrefix, Ruins of Honor, Manifestation - 10pm

Sa 7/10 - Honey Thief, East of the Wall, Name, The Vanity Press, Stasis - 9pm

Su 7/11 - Nekromantix, The Howlers, The Mutilators, Pickled Punks - 9pm // FREE! Inside - Special Guest DJ: Tommy KrumBum - 10pm

Tu 7/13 - FREE: Part the Skies Empty the Seas, Arctica Embrace, Persistence in Flames, Descend to Ashes - 9pm

W 7/14 - Unter Null, Cyanotic Holocaust, Humanity, Lucid Dementia - 10pm

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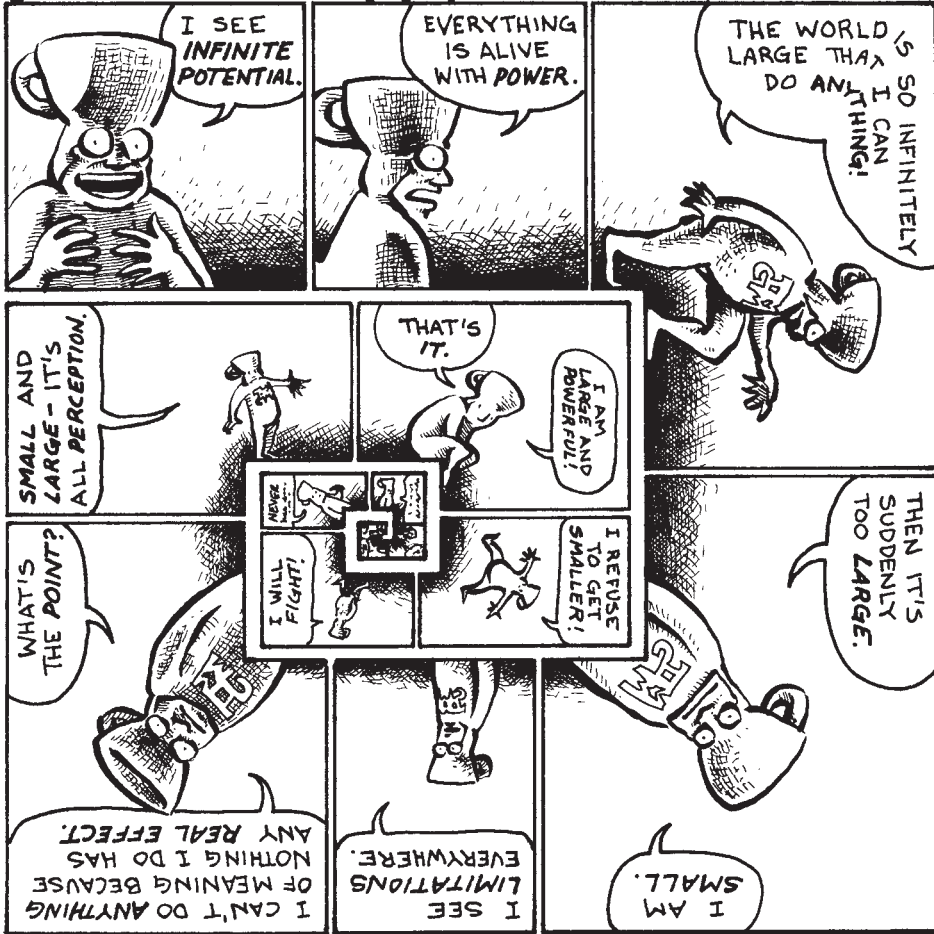
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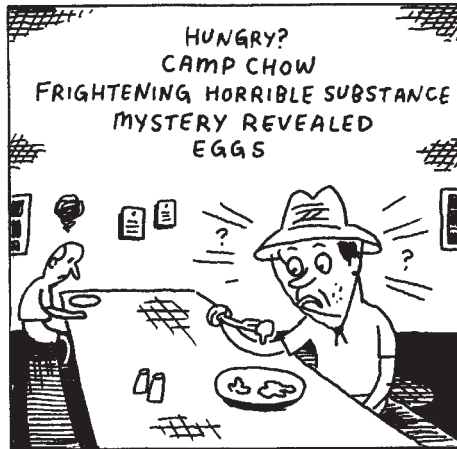
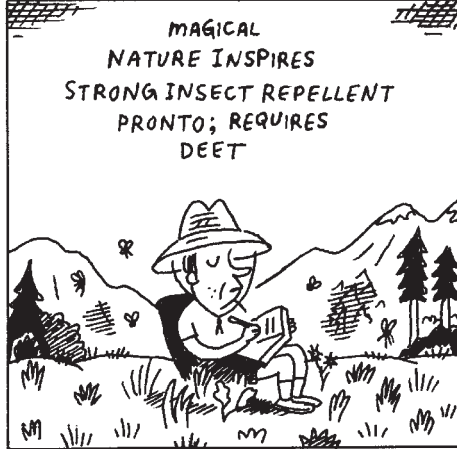
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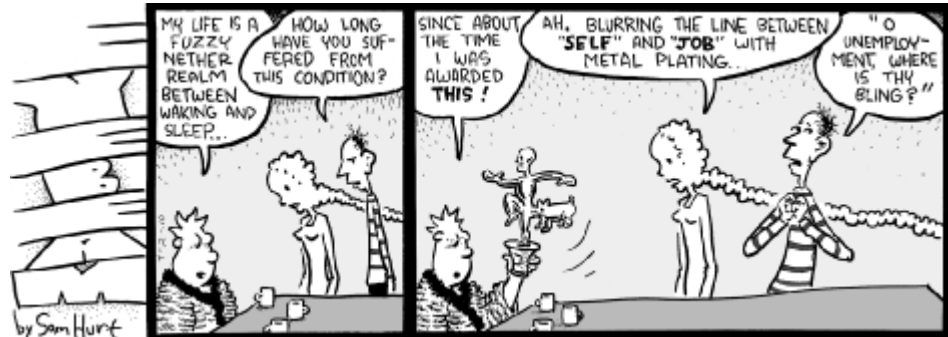


TROUBLETOWN FOUR POEMS FOR SUMMER

BY LLOYD DANGLE



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MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Some estimate that about 40% of the cases in the Central African court system are related to witchcraft.

Tom Cruise used to sell greeting cards door-to-door.

According to a recent nationwide survey of nearly 3,000 high school students, when asked "Who are your heroes, past and present?" the top five, in order, were Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, and Thomas Paine. The survey was conducted by the Bill of Rights Institute.

The first cellular call was placed on April 3, 1973, by Martin Cooper, the general manager of Motorola's Communications System Division. He made the call to his rival, Joel Engel, Bell Labs' head of research.

Oysters hibernate when the temperature is below 40 degrees, and they seem to lose their gender.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpant@austinchronicle.com.

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by Rob Breznsny for July 2-8

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let's do a check-in on your progress so far in 2010, Cancerian. The year's half over, and I'm wondering if you've been cashing in on the unique invitations that life has been sending your way. The way I understand it, you've been summoned to emerge from your hiding place and go wandering around in exotic and unfamiliar places. Events that in the past may have turned you inward toward thoughts of safety have in recent months nudged you out in the direction of the great unknown. Have you been honest enough with yourself to recognize the call to adventure? Have you been wild and free enough to answer the call? If not, I suggest you find it in yourself to do so. The next six months will be prime time to head out on a glorious quest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The year's half over, Leo. Let's take an inventory to see whether you've been taking maximum advantage of the special opportunities life has been offering you. Consider these questions: Has the quality of your intimate alliances become especially intense, invigorating, and catalytic in recent months? Have you created lots of small miracles with the people you care about most? Have you been willing to risk more to get the most out of togetherness, even if it means dealing with shadowy stuff that makes you uncomfortable? If there has been anything missing from your efforts in these heroic tasks, get to work. Between now and January 2011, you'll have a mandate to go even deeper than you have since January 2010.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): So how is 2010 going for you so far, Virgo? Have you been taking advantage of life's offers to help you move into a dynamic new phase of your relationship life? Have you been willing to set aside tired old strategies for seeking intimacy so that you can discover approaches you've never imagined before? Have you been brave about overcoming the past traumas and hurts that scared you into accepting less than the very best alliances you could seek? I hope you've been pursuing these improvements, because this is the best year in more than a decade to accomplish them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Have you been doing a lot of sweating and grunting from sheer exertion in 2010? Have you thrown yourself conscientiously into the hardest, smartest labor you've ever enjoyed? I hope so, because that would suggest you're in rapt alignment with this year's cosmic rhythms. It would mean that you have been cashing in on the rather sublime opportunities you're being offered to diligently prove how much you love your life. The next six months will provide you with even more and better prods, Libra, so please find even deeper reserves of determination. Intensify your commitment to mastering the work you came to this planet to do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How's that project coming, Scorpio? You know, that assignment the universe gave you at the beginning of 2010 to loosen up, play more, and periodically laugh like a tipsy Sagittarius. Have you been taking a sabbatical from the seething complications that in most other years are your rightful specialty? Did you throw some of your emotional baggage off a cliff? Are you dancing more frequently? I hope you've been attending to all of this crucial work, and I trust that you're primed to do even more of it during the next six months. To take maximum advantage of your appointments with relief and release, you'll have to be even sweeter and lighter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Are you a dynamic bastion of stability yet, Sagittarius? Have you been growing deeper and deeper roots as you bloom in your power spot? Are you continuing to build your self-mastery as you draw abundant sustenance from the mother lode? You're halfway through 2010, the year when these wonders should be unfolding with majestic drama. The best is yet to come, so I recommend that you declare your intention to make the next six months be a time when you come all the way home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What are the toughest pairs of opposites in your life, Capricorn? What are the polarities whose different sides rarely resonate with each other and too often threaten to split you in half? One of the distinguishing characteristics of 2010 is the fact that you are getting unprecedented chances to bring them together in ringing harmony, or at least a more interesting tension. What have you learned so far about how to work that magic? And how can you apply it in even craftier ways during the next six months?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may still be gnawed by a longing for your life to be different from what it is. You might fantasize that you're missing a crucial element that would, if acquired, usher you into a golden age. But I've been analyzing the big picture of your destiny, Aquarius, and here's what I see: This year you're being offered the chance to be pretty satisfied with the messy, ambiguous, fantastically rich set of circumstances that you've actually been blessed with. The first half of 2010 should have inspired you to flirt with this surprising truth. The second half will drive it home with the force of a pile of gifts left anonymously on your doorstep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The journal *Nature* recently marked the 10th anniversary of a great scientific triumph: the complete mapping of the human genome. There was a cloud over the celebration, however, because few practical health benefits have yet to come out of this revolutionary accomplishment. It has proved unexpectedly hard to translate the deciphered code into cures for diseases. I offer this situation as a cautionary tale for you, Pisces. The first part of 2010 has brought you several important discoveries and breakthroughs. In the coming months, even as the novelties continue to flow, it'll be your sacred duty to put them to use in ways that will permanently improve your day-to-day life. Unlike the case of the human genome, your work should meet with success.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): How well are you capitalizing on this year's unique opportunities, Aries? Since we're halfway through 2010, let's take an inventory. I'm hoping you're well under way in the heroic task of conquering your past. It has been and will continue to be prime time for you to wean yourself from unresolvable energy-drains. So exorcise irksome ghosts, please! Pay off ancient debts! Free yourself from memories that don't serve you! You're finally ready to graduate from lessons you've had to learn and relearn and re-relearn. The coming months will bring you even more opportunities to finish up old business that has demanded too much of your time and energy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Now that we're midway through 2010, it's time to assess how well you're taking advantage of this year's good fortune. So let me ask you, Taurus: Have you been expanding your web of connections? Have you honed and deepened your networking skills? Have you taken bold steps to refine your influence over the way your team or crew or gang is evolving? The first half of the year has been full of encouragement in these areas, and the coming months will be even more so.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): How well have you been attending to 2010's major themes, Gemini? Since we're midway through the year, let's do a check-in. I hope that by now you are at least 15% sturdier, stronger, and braver than you've ever been in your entire life, and at least 20% better organized and disciplined. I hope that you have outgrown one of your amateur approaches and claimed a new professional privilege. Now write the following questions on a slip of paper that you will leave taped to your mirror for the next six months: "1) How can I get closer to making my job and my vocation be the same thing? 2) What am I doing to become an even more robust and confident version of myself?"

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