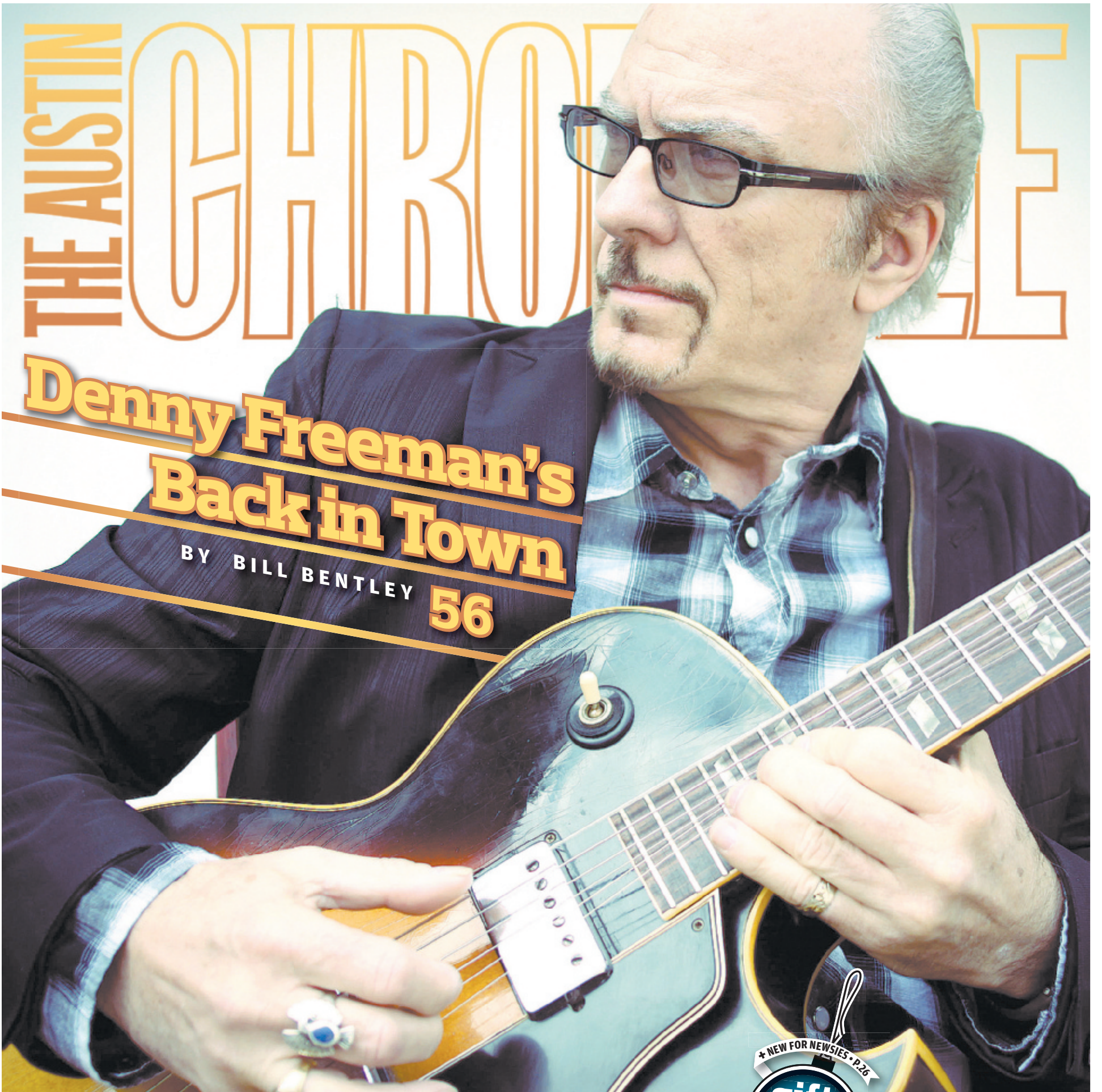


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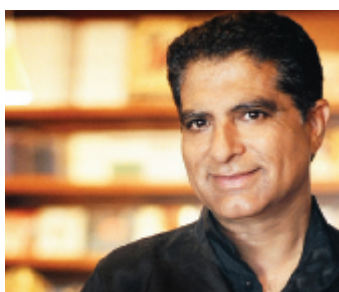
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Postmarks

FORMULA ONE WART-COUNTING

Dear Editor,

If there is a God, he or she must surely be the driving force in the recent eruption of trouble for the squalid attempt to build a Formula One racing facility in Austin. A feud between the principal players in the project has led to a stoppage of construction at the track and cast the entire enterprise into a divine state of doubt.

What's wrong with Formula One for Austin? Let us count the warts. The sprawling facility in eastern Travis County, including the track and ancillary features, will consume and destroy many hundreds of acres of prime farmland. This is a priceless resource that our community is going to need desperately in the decades ahead, when we will be driven by climate change and the end of cheap oil to make a transition from exurban sprawl and globalized economics to a radically different socioeconomic model based on local and regional self-reliance, i.e., local production of food and other life-support resources for mostly local consumption.

A second obnoxious wart on the face of Formula One is the manner in which it makes Austin a whore in the frantic scramble among cities of the world to prostrate themselves at the feet of Emperor Auto. A third wart is the manner in which something like a Formula One race track inflicts enormous damage to the environment

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or email address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

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and image of a city like Austin. Still another is the inevitable cost to local, county, and state taxpayers, as witnessed by the previous commitment by State Comptroller Susan Combs to award the Formula One project in Austin an annual subsidy of \$25 million in state funds for the first 10 years of the track's operation.

Let us sing "Hallelujah" that Formula One in Austin may now be choking to death on its own bad faith.

Ray Reece

Reader COMMENT

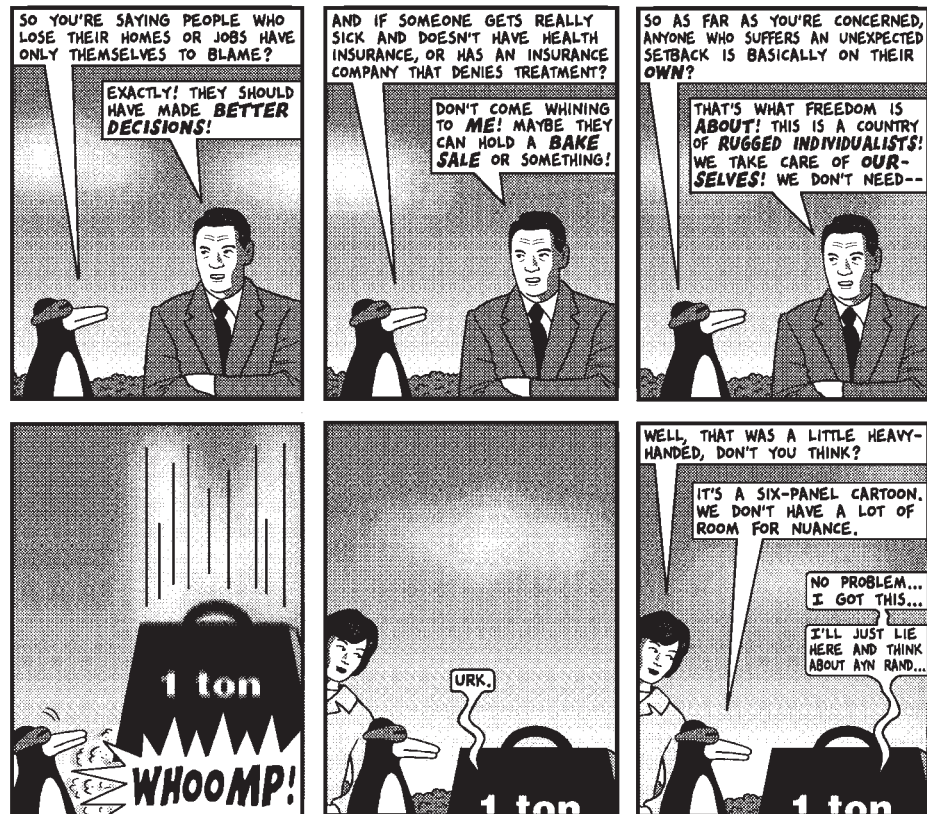
On the passing of Spencer Berry:

"Spencer was a very special person. He was the bass player for the Coffee Sergeants, drummer for the Blue Cat Bardo from Coleman, Texas.

continued on p.8

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



"PAGE TWO" IS TAKING A BREAK.

POSTMARKS ONLINE UPDATED DAILY austinchronicle.com/postmarks

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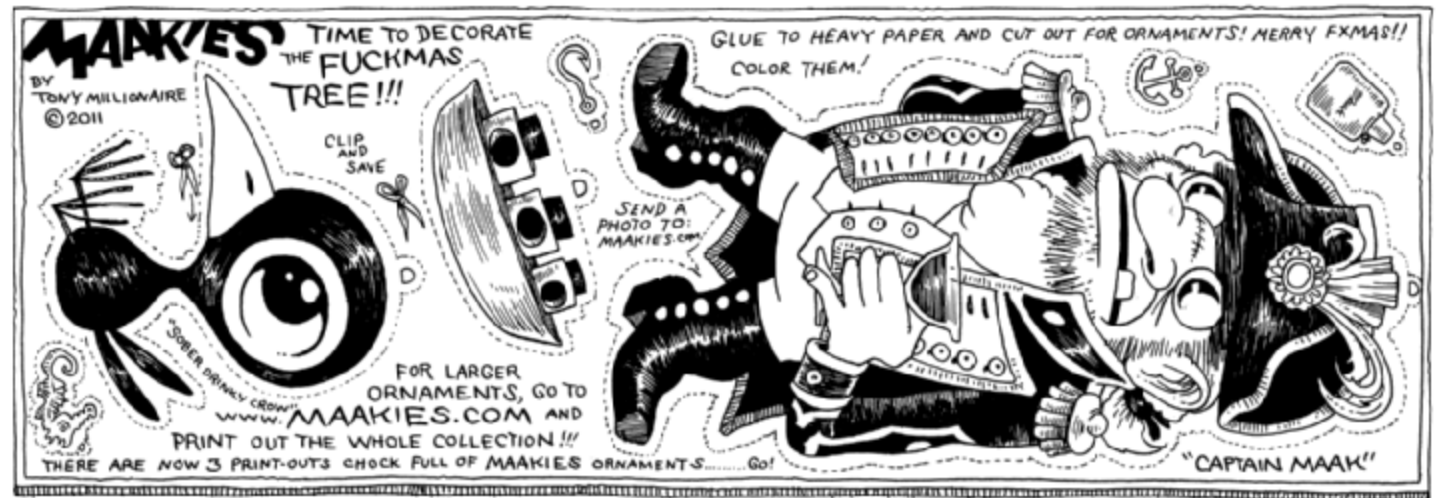
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POSTMARKS continued from p.6



"Spencer's love of music and enthusiasm for all music, his family and friends (who were like his family) is unparalleled by anyone.

"Generous with hugs and a quick wit, he would have you smiling in the blink of an eye."

- Sherbert

"Coffee Sergeants' Spencer Berry Dies," Earache!
Music blog, Nov. 23

austinchronicle.com/comments

CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH STYMIES POLITICAL CHANGE

Dear Editor,

I disagree with Adam Johnson's statement ["Postmarks," Nov. 25] that Latin America's main problem is crony capitalism rather than wealth concentration.

Just as in the U.S., the concentration of wealth in Latin America stymies political change. In 2006, Mexican presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised sweeping reform. A group of Mexico's wealthiest businessmen responded by illegally financing a massive media campaign portraying him as a "danger to Mexico." López Obrador lost the election by 0.56%, and Mexico's establishment remains firmly entrenched.

Similarly, Mexican Carlos Slim, declared by *Forbes* to be the world's richest person, uses his

vast wealth to deter any government regulation which would undermine his telecommunications empire. The resulting high telecommunications costs discourage investors.

Finally, Latin America's high degree of wealth concentration undermines sound economic development. Billionaires such as Carlos Slim simply don't buy that many TVs, stoves, or houses, thus dampening domestic demand and job creation.

Philip Russell

DON'T HOLD FELLOW MAN IN CONTEMPT

Dear Editor,

Every day I drive past people standing on the corner. At first I felt sorry for them, but after a

period of time, I came to feel contempt. In the words of our neighborhood newsletter "some feel sorry for these people, but if they observed them for one day I think they would change their mind." It is true, I watched them sitting on the edge of the road, drinking, littering, a bit intimidating on a dark night when you pull up to the light.

Then there is Robbie. I saw Robbie whenever I was getting a cup of coffee in the neighborhood shop. He was obviously homeless, dirty, weathered, and unkempt. I tried to pretend I didn't see him, preferring to see the pretty barista instead. I barely responded to his greeting, fearing it would be followed by the inevitable request for a handout.

continued on p.10

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POSTMARKS *continued from p.8*

Yet I began to notice something about him. First off, I never saw him doing anything disrespectful to himself or others. He washed windows for a cup of coffee and had a good rapport with the local businesses. He didn't ever approach or bother anyone, though he would stand on the side of the road.

I found out later Robbie was a Vietnam veteran. Several people had offered him a place to stay. Yet even in the bitterest cold he wouldn't accept gifts of clothes or offers for shelter. In fact, he takes very little and is willing to work for what he gets. I don't know why he lives that way, but he has done nothing to deserve my contempt.

As a Christian, I feel it was wrong to hold this fellow human being in contempt. As an American, I think we owe this man a debt. Maybe we don't spare some change for these people; perhaps it is enabling them to continue bad choices. Yet we must remember they are often struggling with mental illness and hard times; at the least, you could say they have poor coping skills. We must remember not to judge, lest we be judged. So the next time you see one of those people, try not to be the contemptuous ass I have been.

Thomas Vinson

Oops!

Due to an editing error "One Day at a Time," News, Nov. 25, erroneously stated that the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas pantry on East St. Johns Avenue is a block from Webb Middle School. The pantry is across the street from Webb Middle School.

humans around, ever. Thoughts in an endless loop, getting more and more bizarre. They don't experience the isolation, the loneliness, the insanity, and I bet not one of them has to be two arrogant cats' doorman. And surely all this will pay off one day, in the form of comedic success. Right? Right? I'm sorry, but I feel bad for you all - sure, hilarious today, but what about in 10 years? Will you be able to compete with someone whose mind became more and more warped? Time will tell, guys ... time will tell."

- Netters

"Where Comedy Lives," The Arts, Nov. 25
austinchronicle.com/comments

Reader COMMENT

Regarding the comedians of the Sandstone Apartments:

"Hilarious read, loved it.

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"But then I remembered: No, how sad for them - they don't live alone with cats. No other

Reader COMMENT

On Michael Morton's prosecutors:

"What these people did to Michael Morton was kidnap an innocent man, deprive him of his freedom, ignored and fought to silence his pleas for

continued on p.16

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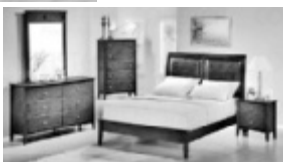
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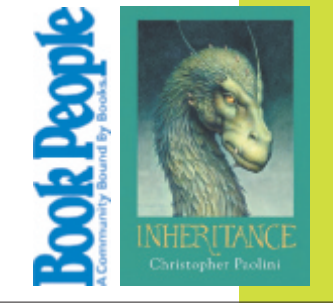
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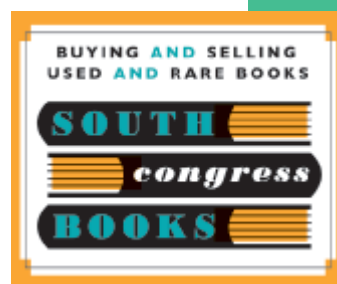


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POSTMARKS continued from p.10

help, and now fail to acknowledge any deliberate wrongdoings resulting in having his freedom taken away from him. Anyone else that committed such heinous acts would be severely punished for as many years as Mr. Morton was. It's time to start setting an example, raising the bar for accountability for those people like [John] Bradley, [Ken] Anderson, and [Mike] Davis, and punishing them like they would any ordinary citizen. And don't accept claims that they were not properly trained or instructed in procedures and ethics and they didn't know what they were doing. Remember "ignorance of the law is no excuse"? Send a clear message that judicial and prosecutorial immunity is no longer accepted when evidence shows you have misused your power and authority to convict an innocent person. Disbar, convict, and imprison. They are not above the law!"

- JoeFriday100

"Group Accuses Morton Prosecutors of Gross Misconduct," Newsdesk News blog, Nov. 29
austinchronicle.com/comments

Reader COMMENT

On Ume's discography:

"I liked the first album when it came out, and I still like it. This article seems to claim that it sucks."

- nigel182

"Like a Hurricane," Music, Nov. 18
austinchronicle.com/comments

Reader COMMENT

Regarding transportation planning:

"As a retired transportation planner, who has worked for some of the world's best-known transport planning consultancy firms, I can assure you that once a highway reaches capacity, and speeds slow down, it actually causes the highway's capacity to fall. So every extra car trying to use the road reduces traffic speed, and hence reduces the traffic that can get through.

"It is for this reason that standard practice in many congested urban areas is to install traffic lights on access ramps, limiting the number of cars that are allowed on to the highway. Unfortunately for MoPac this can only be done where there is sufficient room to hold traffic waiting to enter the freeway, and most MoPac ramps do not have that capacity. Recent changes to the Cesar Chavez and Sixth Street northbound ramps have had a similar purpose though.

"Look at any Austin traffic map (I prefer Sigalert.com) and you will see that congestion on MoPac is far more severe than on I-35. This is a huge change from the situation I found when I first moved to Austin in 1992. So all these 20-year-old plans need to be re-evaluated in

the light of current conditions. Any traffic study is going to tell you that building further access roads to MoPac will increase traffic delays, not reduce them.

"If you want to help motorists using FM 1626, simply improve that road into a four-lane divided highway all the way through to I-35, and then over to the airport and SH 130."

- paulm

"Point Austin: Buckle Up," News, Nov. 4
austinchronicle.com/comments

Reader COMMENT

Regarding the proposed PromiseLand West

Church amphitheatre:

"It is an amphitheater masquerading as a church! Quacks like duck

"How does one person get to decide such an important issue that affects so many people's lives, their investment in their homes, and their quality of life.

"Where is the involvement of our elected officials who represent us? They were all quick to show up out of nowhere when it was election time ... made me laugh when a few admitted they had never been to our community of more than 350 homes before and were unaware of the issue around the amphitheatre masquerading as a church. But they were all going to look into it and get to us! Well, we see how that worked out! I guess we'll see them next election cycle.

"As far as the one couple from the community who supports the amphitheatre, masquerading as a church ... find me No. 2."

- kemck

"Point Austin: Suburban Nightmare," News, Nov. 18
austinchronicle.com/comments

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Occupy Austin went to Barton Creek Square mall on Black Friday for a "mic check," but mall security shooed them away.

JOHN ANDERSON

Headlines

- › City Council keeps chilling, with no meeting scheduled this week. They return soon, with meetings on Dec. 8 and 15 to close out the year. If that's left you desperate for working, you could do worse than tonight's meeting of the **Charter Revision Committee** (Thursday, Dec. 1, 6pm, Carver Branch Library, 1161 Angelina), expected to delve deep into potential geographic representation scenarios for future council elections.
- › Speaking of council elections: On Wednesday, Mayor Pro Tem **Sheryl Cole** announced she is running for re-election to her Place 6 council seat, ending speculation she'd mount a challenge to Mayor Lee Leffingwell this spring. As Cole was the last sitting council member to rule out a run against Leffingwell, those looking to unseat him expand their reach beyond the dais. One name currently churning in the rumor mill is former Council Member **Brigid Shea**.
- › Don't celebrate too soon: Austinites have reason to be thankful for the federal court's rewrite of a congressional redistricting map that would have pitted Austin Congressman **Lloyd Doggett** against San Antonio state Rep. **Joaquin Castro**. (The old GOP-drawn map pitched them against each other along I-35, but now Doggett is safe in Congressional District 25, while Castro is running to replace retiring Dem Charlie Gonzalez in CD 20.) But as Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force Chair **Domingo Garcia** put it, "Attorney General Abbott is acting like the Grinch who wants to steal Christmas from all Texans," in response to the state's request to the U.S. Supreme Court to block new voting maps (see "Doggett, Travis Returned to Normalcy," p.28).
- › **Ken "Amnesia" Anderson** says he just can't remember what he did or did not do in prosecuting the 1987 Christine Morton murder case that ended with the conviction of her husband, **Michael Morton**, exonerated recently by DNA evidence after 25 years' imprisonment. Anderson says he believes he turned over all exculpatory evidence to Morton's attorneys but can't remember the details – although he bragged about the conviction in his 1997 book, *Crime in Texas* (see "A Possible Tip for Tips in Murder Case," p.27).
- › Texas governor and presidential candidate **Rick Perry** once again opened his mouth and inserted his foot this week, asking New Hampshire students "who are going to be over 21 on November 12th" to support him next year – cheerfully forgetting that the voting age is 18 and the 2012 election is on Nov. 6. But he did campaign with Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, the anti-immigration hysteric and self-appointed birther investigator; presumably Perry hopes he can save his dying campaign by having somebody even crazier on his right hand.
- › In other campaign news, **Herman "The Herminator" Cain** appears to be foundering as yet another woman – Atlanta resident Ginger White – has alleged his "inappropriate" sexual conduct (this time consensual), a longtime affair with her that ended a few months before his campaign began. Cain's campaign issued contradictory denials and told the media to mind its own business, then announced a pending "re-evaluation" of his situation. As Cain's polls plunge, acknowledged serial adulterer **Newt Gingrich** rises in the Anybody but Romney GOP carousel.
- › The pretrial hearings in the murder trial of Maj. **Nidal Hasan** continue at Fort Hood, as military judge Col. Gregory Gross denied a motion from the defense to recuse himself. Gross and his family were on the base when the shooting occurred.

NEWS

Storm Surge

Finger-pointing follows lost fed funds for Weatherization Assistance Program

"It's complicated" is not the best way to begin an explanation of how the city lost \$400,000 in stimulus money targeted for weatherproofing 54 low-income households, but we'll try to break it down this way: On Nov. 10, City Council was set to bless \$600,000 in federal funding (via the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs) and approve the contracts necessary to begin weatherization work on the Mount Carmel Village apartments in East Austin. It would have been a nice winter-time gift for some elderly person sitting in a drafty apartment or a single mother trying to balance work, family, and checkbook.

At the last minute, the city manager pulled the weatherization measure from the agenda and the matter was moved to Dec. 8. It's not immediately clear why the postponement occurred, but hell broke loose when word got out that the delay cost the city two-thirds of the \$600,000 due to a complicated set of time constraints that come with such unexpected windfalls. You would need a forensic auditor to determine who's to blame for this forfeit, but there's no shortage of conspiracy theories. The bottom line is that 54 needy households on deck for weatherization were left out in the cold.

'He's Not Our Darling'

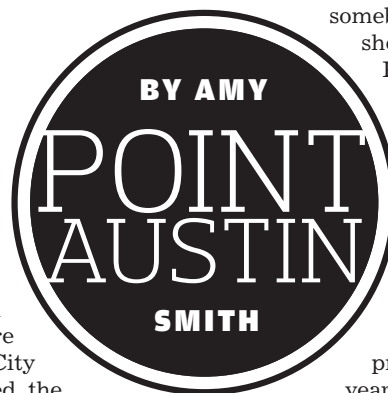
In the hours and days and weeks that followed the postponement, there were rumblings that City Manager Marc Ott pulled the agenda item after minority business representatives questioned whether the contracts met the city's goals that apply to women- and minority-owned businesses. Minority business reps went on the defensive, saying Austin Energy was blaming them for the postponement.

"You didn't hear anybody from Austin Energy say that, but you may have heard

somebody say that Austin Energy shouldn't blame them," said Karl Rábago, AE vice president for Distributed Energy Services, who oversees the utility's Weatherization Assistance Program. Rábago, it should be noted, has been a target of scorn among many minority business members since the weatherization funding process started about two years ago. Some have described him as "dismissive," "arrogant," and "obnoxious."

What? Is this the same Karl Rábago who walks on water in the green community? Say it isn't so! "He's the darling of the environmentalists, but he's not our darling," says Carol Hadnot, program manager/consultant for the Austin Black Contractors

continued on p.20



QUOTE of the WEEK



JANA BIRCHUM

"It is time to bury the concept of a gentleman's place. ... I'm running for re-election, but I may not always know my place."

– Sheryl Cole slamming Austin's "gentleman's agreement" unofficially reserving two council seats for minority candidates while announcing her re-election run

Association. This isn't news to Rábago, who's caught plenty of flack from minority business groups with respect to his management of the Weatherization Assistance Program. At a City Council meeting in April, when \$2 million in federal funds was on the agenda for approval, several minority business leaders aired their grievances about the lack of participation in the contract work. At the same time, they voiced their support for the program and went to great lengths to explain that they did not want to bring the program to a halt; they just wanted some adjustments. Paul Saldaña, representing the U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association, told council that his grandmother was one of the first recipients of the weatherization effort but that the program held few work opportunities for minority business owners.

A Cold Wind

Like the Nov. 10 agenda matter, the April action items also carried a "rush" that required securing the funding and getting the weatherization work under way within a certain time frame. City Council approved the funds in the interest of time but also directed Austin Energy to address the concerns of a city MBE/WBE advisory committee that was created after relations between AE and minority contractors reached a boiling point. The committee drew up a list of 15 recommendations designed to improve transparency and minority representation in the weatherization work. Committee members say AE has ignored those suggestions; AE denies it. In short, little progress has been

made. "It was an exercise in futility," Hadnot said of the process.

Rábago, who tackles feel-good environmental projects with the discipline of an Army JAG officer, responds to the criticism this way: "Because we're human beings, sometimes there will be disagreements. Somebody has to make the decisions to get the job done." Those decisions, he added, have helped 2,000 families who were challenged by their high energy bills. (A related, not-coincidental side note: Austin Energy officials are expected to justify their proposed rate increase in a presentation to City Council on Dec. 14.) "If that means that I was obnoxious or whatever adjectives they

You would need a forensic auditor to determine who's to blame for the \$400,000 forfeit, but there's no shortage of conspiracy theories.

want to use," Rábago continued, "that's the price to pay for leadership – that's the price we pay for trying to get a million dollars of federal money working in our community. If the price is that a few people got their noses out of joint or thought they had a better way of doing it, so be it." And if their noses weren't out of joint before, they may well be now.

The lesson learned in this weatherization assistance process is that the people who stand to benefit the most are also inevitably the ones who lose the most when things go awry. Rábago would argue that the program is a success – and for the most part it is, except for the ongoing tension with minority contractors and the lack of accountability on the \$400,000 hit. Four-hundred thousand dollars may not be a huge sum of money in the larger economic scheme, but it sure could have caulked a lot of windows and lowered a lot of electric bills. ■

... Held an Election, and Nobody Came?

COLE'S ANNOUNCEMENT FOR RE-ELECTION DWINDLES THE FIELD AGAIN

For a time, it looked like the 2012 municipal contest would be a momentous election locally: four **City Council** seats, including the mayor's, up for grabs, and potentially far-reaching changes to the **City Charter**, possibly including a switch to geographic representation, for starters.

It's beginning to look a little less exciting. Firstly, on the council election front: With Mayor Pro Tem **Sheryl Cole's** announcement on Wednesday she would not seek the mayor's post, incumbent **Lee Leffingwell** won't be facing a colleague as challenger in May.

But you wouldn't haven't known as much from Cole's initial press release, her campaign signage at the Carver Center event, or even her speech, which exhausted over half its length before announcing she was running for re-election, not the mayor's office. Thinking big was the theme, with Cole touching on everything from 2009's Texas Relays controversy and Eastside redevelopment to her work on Waller Creek's redevelopment, as well as the even larger opportunity to re-envision the sprawling, under-used area around the state Capitol complex.

Cole hit the traditional Austin bugaboos – growth, transportation, and what looks to be a hardy new addition: restoring **faith in government**. But she charted some interesting through-lines getting there. On gridlock, for instance, she noted: "The state and local government are sending us less and less resources to spread over more and more people. And when that happens, yes, we have transportation problems," problems that spread beyond rush-hour road rage. "You have less time to volunteer at your place of worship. You have less time to volunteer at a PTA meeting. You have less time to go to a neighborhood association meeting. And that is a threat, because that is a threat to our community bond. And without a community bond, we cannot solve any problems."

She plotted a similarly circuitous path along the topics of education and income, rightly noting: "Yes, we have opportunities, but we have a disparity in opportunities. We ignore this at our own peril. We have teen pregnancy and a drop-out rate that is close to the state average." That led directly to education, and "without education, you can't earn income, and without income, you do not have a tax base. And if you do not have a tax base, you don't have clean water, clean air, safe neighborhoods, and all the things that we treasure in the city that we love."

In turn, there followed the first of Cole's two most interesting pronouncements:

Regarding schools, Cole envisions "a role for everybody," the city included. "We don't want to run the schools, but we don't want to let them fend for themselves." It sounds like more collaboration between the city and the school district – which council has made a few tentative moves regarding, so far – is on Cole's radar.

Her second most interesting aside regarding Austin's belabored **Charter Revision Committee** and the potential switch to some form of geographic representation. While

Cole made our "Quote of the Week," p.19, with her contention that "it is time to bury" the gentleman's agreement informally reserving two seats for minority candidates, she also noted, "We have not fully had an open dialogue about the process of changing our system of government."

Which brings us full circle to those dwindling prospects of excitement we were talking about earlier. As the *Austin American-Statesman* recently noted, the charter committee hasn't shown much enthusiasm for Leffingwell's preferred six-district, nine-seat scenario (nor some of his other suggestions, including changes to election timing and term limits). That said, the committee hasn't yet taken too strongly to any specific scenario. While the Hustle encourages your attendance at the revision committee meeting tonight (Thursday, Dec. 1), he's beginning to wonder if that lack of an "open dialogue" Cole lamented isn't for a lack of trying. (Of course, the easiest way to encourage greater participation – moving city elections to November – was handed to council on a silver platter, only to be rejected, Cole's nay among the four.)

Hopes for a fiery mayoral election are similarly dwindling, almost locked in a counterintuitive death embrace with the charter deliberation: With geographic representation on the horizon, but decidedly unsettled, some City Hall observers are wondering if most viable candidates will simply sit this one out, forgoing the trouble and expense of an election that, the switch to geographic representation permitting, would only see them on the dais for a year and a half.

But who knows. On hand at Cole's kickoff was former Council Member **Brigid Shea**, one of the post-Cole-announcement names banded about for a potential mayoral run. "A number of people have urged me to think about it," said Shea, "and what I've said is I'm willing to think about it. I'm definitely at the inquiry stage."

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CIVICS 101

THURSDAY 01

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE is gaining steam as more people chime in on geographic representation (single-member district) scenarios for City Council. What do you think? 6pm, Carver Library, 1161 Angelina.

WORLD AIDS DAY Texas Freedom Network Student Chapter hosts events at UT, including free HIV testing. 9:30am-4:30pm. West Mall, UT campus.

FRIDAY 02

MASS DIE-IN to recall the 27th anniversary of the Bhopal, India, disaster and call on the London Olympics to drop its Dow Chemical sponsorship. 11am-2pm. West Mall, UT campus.

SATURDAY 03

OCUPY AUSTIN Student bank action rally at the Texas Capitol; march to the Drag. 11am, Texas Capitol.

ART FROM THE STREETS

The annual offering of art from homeless artists, with proceeds benefiting the artists. Buy generously! 11am-4pm, Trinity Center, 304 E. Seventh. Also Sunday, Dec. 4.

MONDAY 05

LIVEABLE CITY HOLIDAY BASH Join Austin's partying policy wonks for seasonal schmoozing. 5:30-7:30pm. Málaga Tapas & Bar, 440 W. Second.

AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL HOLIDAY PARTY

6:30-9pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd.

TUESDAY 06

PEOPLE AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME joins the Travis County Sheriff's Office in presenting the annual Tree of Angels to recall those affected by violent crime. 6:30pm. Central Christian Church, 1110 Guadalupe.

HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT Area transportation agencies are tak-

ing Project Connect to the community to gather feedback on implementing high-capacity transit components. Learn more; ask questions. 5-8pm. Bowie High School, 4103 W. Slaughter.

WEDNESDAY 07

'IT ALL STARTS IN AUSTIN'S PARKS!' The Austin Parks and Recreation Department's kickoff to celebrate all things "park." 6:30pm. Zilker Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr.

THURSDAY 08

HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT See Tuesday's listing. 5-8pm, Anderson High School, 8403 Mesa.

ONGOING

IMAGINE AUSTIN INPUT EXTENDED Public input for the draft version of the city's Comprehensive Plan is extended until Dec. 15. You can review the document, comment on the plan, or take a priorities survey online at www.imagineaustin.net.

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Pease Out

PARD MOVES TO LIMIT PARK USE FOR FITNESS CLASSES

At a Nov. 18 public meeting, the **Austin Parks and Recreation Department** rolled out a City Council-approved program to regulate and collect fees from fitness instructors, dog trainers, and yoga teachers who use city parks for group classes. According to criticism voiced at the meeting, the program itself needs to shape up.

Audience members hurled numerous complaints at PARD staff during the meeting, attended by about 25 instructors and trainers subject to the program. Chief among their concerns was the list of 21 parks where commercial use is to be allowed. It represents a fraction of the city's 251 parks and omits a number of parks regularly used for commercial fitness activities. Butler and Pease parks were the most notable omissions.

Fitness instructors complained that banning them from their regularly used parks could put them out of business. They also objected to concentrating fitness groups within a small number of parks, pointing out that it could accelerate wear and tear on those parks and crowd out other users. Moreover, instructors and their customers balked at being excluded from spaces funded by their tax dollars. "As a taxpayer, I'm kind of appalled at you handing out a list restricting use of these parks," **Louise Pincoffs**, a group fitness customer, told PARD staff. "We should be able to use any park we want. I just can't imagine being told that we can't go to one of our public parks to exercise."

Currently, instructors and trainers can teach classes in any city park without a permit. As of Jan. 2, 2012, that will change. Instructors who conduct group classes in city parks with four or more students at a time and charge for those classes must obtain a permit from PARD and pay a fee of 45 cents per student per session to the city, with a cap

of \$1,500 per six months. The permitting program covers fitness boot camps, exercise classes, yoga, dog training, and martial arts sessions. Mobile fitness activities, such as running and walking groups, are not required to obtain a permit or pay fees.

At the Nov. 18 meeting, **Gilbert Hernandez**, a PARD project manager, said that the list represented parks that PARD staff had deemed appropriate for commercial use. He conceded that the program was not perfect but said, "We have to start somewhere." He asked attendees to email PARD with parks that they want added to the list. Staff will consider those parks, he said, and issue a revised list this month. On the other hand, he noted, "We didn't do this in a vacuum." A 16-member task force helped PARD draft the permitting program last fall. Half of the task force represented businesses subject to the program.

But task force member **Cody Butler** of High Energy and Agility Training Boot Camp doesn't recall compiling or voting on a list of parks. Neither does task force member **Bridgette Beinecke**, who represented residents. "We never saw a list that said, 'Here are the parks that we are going to be confined to,'" Butler says. "No, we did not vote on a list of parks," Beinecke confirms.

The exclusion of Pease Park in particular had some fitness instructors wondering if pressure from park activists has knocked it off the list. However, **Richard Craig**, chair of the **Pease Park Conservancy**, says he has



As of Jan. 2, fitness instructors, yoga teachers, and dog trainers who conduct group classes in city parks must obtain a permit, pay a fee, and hold classes in a city-approved park. Zilker Park, where this donation-based class is under way, will still be available for use.

never discussed fitness groups with city staff and the conservancy does not oppose them. "The usual women's groups that have boot camps in the morning and afternoon ... that's certainly fine with us," Craig says. "We don't have a problem with it."

In a phone interview after the meeting, Hernandez said that Pease didn't make the list because of planned construction there – a fact that had slipped his mind during the Nov. 18 meeting, he says. A restoration project to mitigate erosion along Shoal Creek in Pease Park is scheduled for next year, but the park is not expected to be closed to the public during the project.

Butler Park is also slated for improvements, but Hernandez said PARD staff was seeking out areas within the park where fitness groups could conduct classes.

PARD staff say they began working on the permitting program two years ago in response to complaints from park users about group fitness classes obstructing sidewalks and stairways, blocking basketball and tennis courts, and using equipment, such as tires and elastic bands, that could damage park flora. PARD has not released the number of complaints against fitness groups it has received.

Fees collected from the program are slated for park maintenance and improvements. Hernandez estimates that between \$10,000 and \$20,000 will be collected the first year. He also noted that other vendors that use park space, such as businesses that rent kayaks and canoes on Lady Bird Lake, already pay a fee under existing city code regulating parks concessions. – *Laurel Chesky*

Open House Meeting for Town Lake Park Master Plan

Austin's **Parks and Recreation Department** will hold a public open house meeting this Saturday on a proposed master plan update for Town Lake Park – Auditorium Shores/Butler Park. Some parks advocates, meanwhile, are wondering why PARD is reopening the planning process instead of funding the master plan that's already in place. They've long contended that PARD has been taking bond and car rental tax money that's supposed to be dedicated to park improvements and instead using it for Palmer Events Center maintenance and operations. Also controversial is the design team selected to develop the master plan – **TBG**, whose last proposal for the area was for the ill-fated, privately funded **Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza**.

Should make for an interesting meeting at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-4pm, with a "brief presentation on the project history, goals and opportunities" at 2pm. See www.austintexas.gov/parks/auditoriumshores.htm for more info. – *Nick Barbaro*

These are the 21 parks which would still be available for commercial fitness use under the new Commercial Use of Dedicated Parkland permitting process. For more info, see www.austintexas.gov/parks/commercialuse.htm.



Auditorium Shores at Town Lake Metropolitan Park
Balcones District Park
Bartholomew District Park
Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park
Bull Creek District Park
Circle C Ranch Metropolitan Park
Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park
Davis-White Northeast District Park
Dick Nichols District Park
Dove Springs District Park
Garrison District Park
Givens District Park
Mabel Davis District Park
Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park
Onion Creek Metropolitan Park
Sir Svante Palm Neighborhood Park
Town Lake Metropolitan Park: Festival Beach
Town Lake Metropolitan Park: Lakeshore
Town Lake Metropolitan Park: Longhorn Shores
Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park
Zilker Metropolitan Park



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Carstarphen's Black Box

Austin Independent School District parents and stakeholders have had their last chance to comment on Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen's** still-unseen annual facility recommendations. On Nov. 28, Carstarphen gave residents two hours for public comment. Previous meetings, including those on campuses, have been attended by hundreds of people, but this last time only roughly two dozen citizens could beat the Downtown traffic before the 6:30pm cutoff to sign up to talk.

The majority expressed great concern about many of the district's pending proposals, like handing three East Austin campuses over to the IDEA Public Schools charter group and creating two single-sex schools. The strongest resistance was against the proposal to turn **Webb Middle School** into a prekindergarten-through-eighth-grade center. Longtime Webb activist **Allen Weeks** told Carstarphen: "It just will not work. There's not room in a school that has increased 200 students in the last two years." This last blast of feedback now disappears into the same black box where Carstarphen has kept all her planning thus far. She will release her recommendations to the board and the community on Dec. 9, allowing all of 72 hours' public review before the board votes on them on Dec. 12.

- R.W.

'More Inclusive' at the Exclusion of Teachers?

In recent years, **Austin Independent School District** staff have seen their workload soar, their wages and benefits stagnate, and their contract lengths slashed. Now teachers are wondering why the district is engaging in what looks like union busting.

On Nov. 21, the AISD board of trustees was scheduled to pass an automatic recertification of its "consultation representative," which would reaffirm **Education Austin** as the sole negotiator for employee relations. With no warning, the item was pulled from the agenda. When asked by the *Chronicle* for clarification, the district said that it was done at the request of the administration just before the meeting. When asked why, administrative staff said they are examining "more inclusive" models of negotiations. Education Austin's leadership was initially only told by the administration that the item had been removed by an 8-0 board vote and were not informed until their scheduled consultation meeting on Nov. 29 that it was at the request of Superintendent **Meria Carstarphen**.

Chief Human Capital Officer **Michael Houser** called himself "the architect" of the last-minute decision to pull the item, and said that he wanted an opportunity to "stop, look, and listen before we recommit for another four years." He noted that, out of

AISD's 12,000 staff, Education Austin "represents only about 25 percent of our employees, and I have to answer for 100 percent."

Carstarphen told the *Chronicle* that it was not uncommon to pull board items, and said that she was not proposing ending all relations with Education Austin. Instead, she plans to bring the item back for board discussion on Dec. 12, and that she will propose a short-term extension with Education Austin so her staff can examine alternatives. She said, "If it's good enough for Ed Austin and others to say we need more community engagement, I need more employee engagement as well."

Reshaping this key deal with employees is not just a bureaucratic nicety: If the board does change the current structure, it would be overturning a 45-year-old district policy. Union co-President **Rae Nwosu** said that since there are only four other Texas ISDs with consultation agreements as part of board policy - San Antonio, Corpus Christi, El Paso, and Dallas - it should not take the district long to evaluate any options, and noted that Houser had recently praised the current system. She said, "We've been able to get great things done in the last 12 years as the consultation agent."

Other unions have previously examined taking over for Education Austin as consultation representative. In fact, this year the



JANA BIRCHUM

Education Austin co-President Rae Nwosu questions why AISD spiked an agenda item that would have renewed her group's position as sole negotiator for employee relations.

Association of Texas Professional Educators investigated making its own application but withdrew from the process after the district informed the association that the unions would have to shoulder the cost of an election. That should, by default, mean that Education Austin retains the deal, and that is what the original consent item reflected. AISD board President **Mark Williams** said that "the administration just said that they wanted a little more time before they took action," and noted that there had been discussions about reshaping the consultation deal in prior years. However, he said he was unaware that the union had not been informed of Carstarphen's decision to pull the item.

- Richard Whittaker

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the hightower report

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE GINGRICH THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

O joy – the generous gods of political commentary love me!

They have delivered a magnificent gift for me: Newt, yes, **Newt Gingrich** is back! Just three months ago, the presidential campaign of this corrupt, superbloated ego on legs had imploded, and commentators like me lost a surefire source of goofy material. Lo and behold, though, as Rick Perry stumbled over his own brain and as Herman Cain fumbled with Libya and several women, the Newt has been ascendant, now topping some polls in the GOP contest.

Explaining this exalted status, the former House Speaker was typically modest. "I don't think there's anybody else in the race with [my] background," he bloated. "I have a Ph.D. in European history, I've written 24 books, made seven documentary films." Yes, and he's also been fined \$300,000 by his own House Ethics Committee for official corruption.

Speaking of which, after an inglorious exit from Congress, Gingrich parlayed his legislative connections into the lucrative life of a Washington influence peddler, carrying water for such corporate favor-seekers as IBM and Microsoft. Now we learn that he also quietly did chores for mortgage giant Freddie Mac – a firm he had blasted publicly. He even condemned Barack Obama in 2008 for taking campaign donations from the corporation's executives.

He recently tried to dismiss his own involvement with Freddie Mac, saying his role there was short and minor. Really? No. It turns out he worked with the company for six years and was paid at least \$1.6 million. Nonetheless, filled with his own wondrousness, Newt insists that voters will actually appreciate his work as a hired huckster for corporate interests. "It reminds people that I know a great deal about Washington," he said cluelessly.

Thank you, political gods – this is going to be fun!

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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But so much of the feedback we've received is from urban dwellers who pine for comprehensive mass transit service – so we decided to switch our focus to real cities with legitimate fantasies. Austin is an awesome city filled with rail-starved commuters and is known as an epicenter for exceptional contemporary design; it seemed the obvious choice.

Also, a very tall, strong, tattooed woman once told us emphatically "You need to do Austin." – Nick Barbaro

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Are you gnashing your teeth over how to talk to your teenager about sexuality and **safe sex**? Worry no more! The answer is simple: Don't talk to them at all. Simply buy a \$12 I Heart Pants T-shirt from the folks at Austin LifeGuard – the abstinence-only education arm of Austin LifeCare crisis pregnancy center. The T-shirt's message is simple: Keep your pants on and your legs closed and all your worries about unplanned pregnancy and sexually-transmitted infections will disappear. As an added bonus, you can write down the group's URL (www.iheartpants.org) on a gift tag to give your teen the link to a quick-hit video on how this whole keepin' your pants on thing works, further eliminating any need to engage with your teen on this important topic.



– Jordan Smith

AHS 2012 Alumni Calendar

The folks at the **Austin Humane Society** have operated as a no-kill shelter finding forever families for dogs and cats since 1952, and each year they produce a calendar featuring shelter "alumni" as a fundraiser for the shelter. Each calendar is a gift that gives life to countless animals in need of love and shelter. Buy at the shelter for \$10 or online (www.austinhumanesociety.org) for \$15, shipping included.

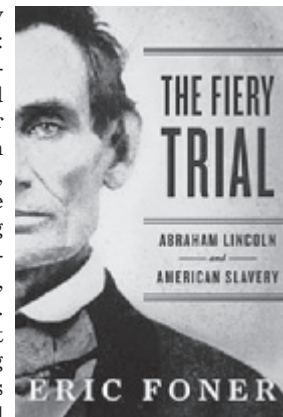


– J.S.

A Henry Rollins Book Reco

The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery by Eric Foner (448 pp., W.W. Norton & Company, \$29.95)

Here's something you may not know about Henry Rollins: Aside from being a Grammy-winning and self-described aging punk icon, the former Black Flag frontman is also an Abraham Lincoln obsessive, with at least one book on the 16th president in his travel bag at all times. So when he recommends a book on Honest Abe, that's good enough for us. Here's what he told us about Eric Foner's groundbreaking work: "It specifically addresses his relationship, politically and philosophically, with slavery. The guy has taken a single hair off the camel and put it under the microscope. It's a hell of a read." The Pulitzer Prize committee agreed, giving it their 2011 history award and calling it "a well orchestrated examination of Lincoln's changing views of slavery." Well, if it's good enough for Hank and the Pulitzer guys, it's good enough for us.



– Richard Whittaker

Wish List: An Independent Redistricting Commission

Every 10 years, Texas goes through the trauma of political redistricting. On a good year, that means lawmakers come to a pleasant agreement about how every incumbent can keep their jobs without a general election fight. In a bad year – and they seem to be more regular – the party in power tries to gerrymander the whole state to its advantage. Hell, pretty much the only thing we reliably agree with our Republican state Sen. Jeff Wentworth about is that the redistricting process is too precious and too open to abuse by greedy and vindictive legislators. His solution and the one we back? A truly independent redistricting body, like the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, to draw new, fair lines that comply with all laws and give everyone a fair shot at representation and election. Create it with enough legal safeguards, as they did in Arizona, and even the most heavy-handed and bullying of governors cannot derail this underpinning of the democratic system. – R.W.

Molly on Fun T-Shirt

"We have to have fun while trying to stave off the forces of darkness because we hardly ever win, so it's the only fun we get to have." – Molly Ivins, *The Nation*, Nov. 17, 2003

If there's a writer, a reader, a feminist, or an Austinite on your list – that is, everybody reading this – you can't go wrong with a Molly Ivins T-shirt from *The Nation* magazine. And if you need more shirts to go around, there's Kurt Vonnegut, James Baldwin, or W.E.B. Dubois. All are available through the Nationmart (www.upgnation.com), along with a whole slew of other stuff designed to get your solidarity burning and your marching shoes ready to rock. As Ivins used to say about fighting the good fight, "Tell 'em how much fun it was!" And you can do so with these gifts that keep on giving 'em hell!

– Michael King



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Before their relationship unraveled, F1 project co-founder Tavo Hellmund (l) and financial backers Red McCombs and Bobby Epstein joined in the April unveiling of the track name Circuit of the Americas.

JOHN ANDERSON

F1 Friction = Squealing Brakes

Will Austin's first **Formula One** race take place in 2012? That remains a mystery, as the developers of the **Circuit of the Americas** and the heads of Formula One trade increasingly terse and cryptic public statements.

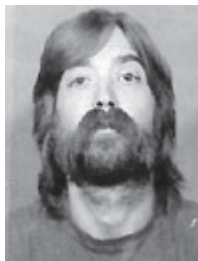
The bone of contention remains the \$25 million sanctioning fee that the promoters must pay to Formula One for each race. On Nov. 24, the COTA management made a public offer: Not only would they immediately pay that cash, but they would also create an advance schedule for payment of the rest of the 10-year contract. Founding partner **Bobby Epstein** said the fee had been ready "for some time now," but they had held it back because Formula One management's contract "contained unrealistic and unfeasible demands." Rather than sign that, he and his partners had come up with "a contract similar to what we anticipated receiving." So far, there are no details on the points of disagreement, but F1 CEO **Bernie Ecclestone** seemed unimpressed with the new offer. Taking a break from a complex tax avoidance trial in Germany, Ecclestone told *AutoWeek* that he wants not just the first year's money but also letters of credit for all future races. Complicating that is the collapse of the track's handshake agreement with Comptroller **Susan Combs** to tap the state's **Major Events Trust Fund** for the fee.

Project co-founder **Tavo Hellmund** has remained silent on the negotiations, with his last public statement being that he and the other investors were trading offers to buy one another out. Ecclestone was less diplomatic, accusing the investors of "trying to steal from [Hellmund]," and adding that "we're changing the calendar a lot to accommodate these people, and if suddenly they're not there, we're in trouble." The warring parties have little time to resolve this: Ecclestone has set a Nov. 30 deadline so the calendar can be finalized before the FIA World Motor Sports Council's Dec. 7 meeting in New Delhi.

If they fail to reach an agreement in that time, Ecclestone and COTA have spoken about the possibility of moving the first Austin race to 2013. However, in recent days the F1 supremo has hinted at radical changes in future calendars. Europe, which currently hosts eight races, could go down to five, and he has already penciled in New Jersey for 2013. He even suggested to Agence France-Presse that a **Mexican Grand Prix** could be in the cards. That could have a far greater impact on the Austin event than a street race by the Hudson: The track was named Circuit of the Americas in part to represent its role as the nearest Grand Prix facility for much of South and Central America. Hellmund had even described Austin as the virtual home race for Mexican driver **Sergio Perez**. — *Richard Whittaker*

A Possible Tip for Tips in Murder Case

Do you know **Mark Alan Norwood** – or, more importantly, did you know him or come into contact with him in the late Eighties? In particular, the Austin Police Department is looking for anyone with information about his possible involvement in the bludgeoning death of 34-year-old Austin mother **Debra Masters Baker**, who was murdered in her home on Justin Lane in 1988, just blocks from where Norwood lived until early that year. Police say Norwood was convicted of theft in the spring of 1988 in connection with two home burglaries in that area. He has also been charged with the 1986 capital murder of **Christine Morton**, whose husband, Michael, was recently released from prison after 25 years, after Norwood's DNA was found mingled with Christine's on a bloody bandana found near the couple's home. Norwood's DNA has also been found in a hair recovered from the Baker crime scene. Police are asking anyone with knowledge of the Baker murder; any friends, neighbors, co-workers, or acquaintances of Norwood's; and anyone who might have bought or received stolen property from Norwood around this time to call the APD's homicide tip line at 477-3588, contact Crime Stoppers at 472-TIPS, or text "Tip 103" plus a message to CRIMES (274637). A cash reward of up to \$1,000 is available for tips that lead to an arrest or charges being filed in the case. (For more on Norwood and Morton, see "Morton Prosecutor Wrote the Book on Crime," Nov. 18.) — *Jordan Smith*



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Doggett, Travis Returned to Normalcy

The Republican gerrymander of Texas' state House, Senate, and congressional seats was designed to set Democrats at one another's throats in vicious primary fights. Now federal courts have overturned all three maps, ending a political conflict between Austin Congressman **Lloyd Doggett** and San Antonio state Rep. **Joaquin Castro**. The new districts have already produced their first victim: an incumbent Republican.

A three-judge federal panel released new maps for the state Legislature on Nov. 18 (see "New Map Tweaks Local House Seats," Nov. 25) and five days later reached a consensus on new congressional districts. All three use the 2001 maps as a baseline, rather than the Legislature's 2011 districts, to ensure compliance with the **Voting Rights Act**. As such, the three maps reflect growth in minority populations, which coincidentally creates significant new opportunities for Democrats. The GOP response was predictable grandstanding: On Nov. 26, Attorney General **Greg Abbott** announced he would ask the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay on the new House and Senate maps. Echoing Judge **Jerry Smith's** dissenting opinion on the House battle lines, Abbott argued that the new maps are "far reaching and extreme."

Yet when filing for the 2012 primaries opened Nov. 28, candidates from both parties were already treating Abbott's efforts like a last-ditch and doomed effort. The electoral consequences are enormous but are summed up in the Travis County congressional fights. The GOP plan would have split the county five ways, and the insane Congressional District 35 plan – seemingly named because it stretched along I-35 – put local incumbent Doggett in a pitched primary battle with San Antonio's Castro. The court's interim map not only dissolved that plan in favor of a three-way split for Travis but also created districts that could well see both men in Congress. Doggett's new-look CD 25 is more compact and Travis-based than ever, while Castro announced Nov. 28 that he would run to replace retiring veteran Democrat Charlie Gonzalez in San Antonio's restored CD 20. More troublesome for Republicans, Democrats are even eying the previously unwinnable CD 10, which has lost much of its GOP-

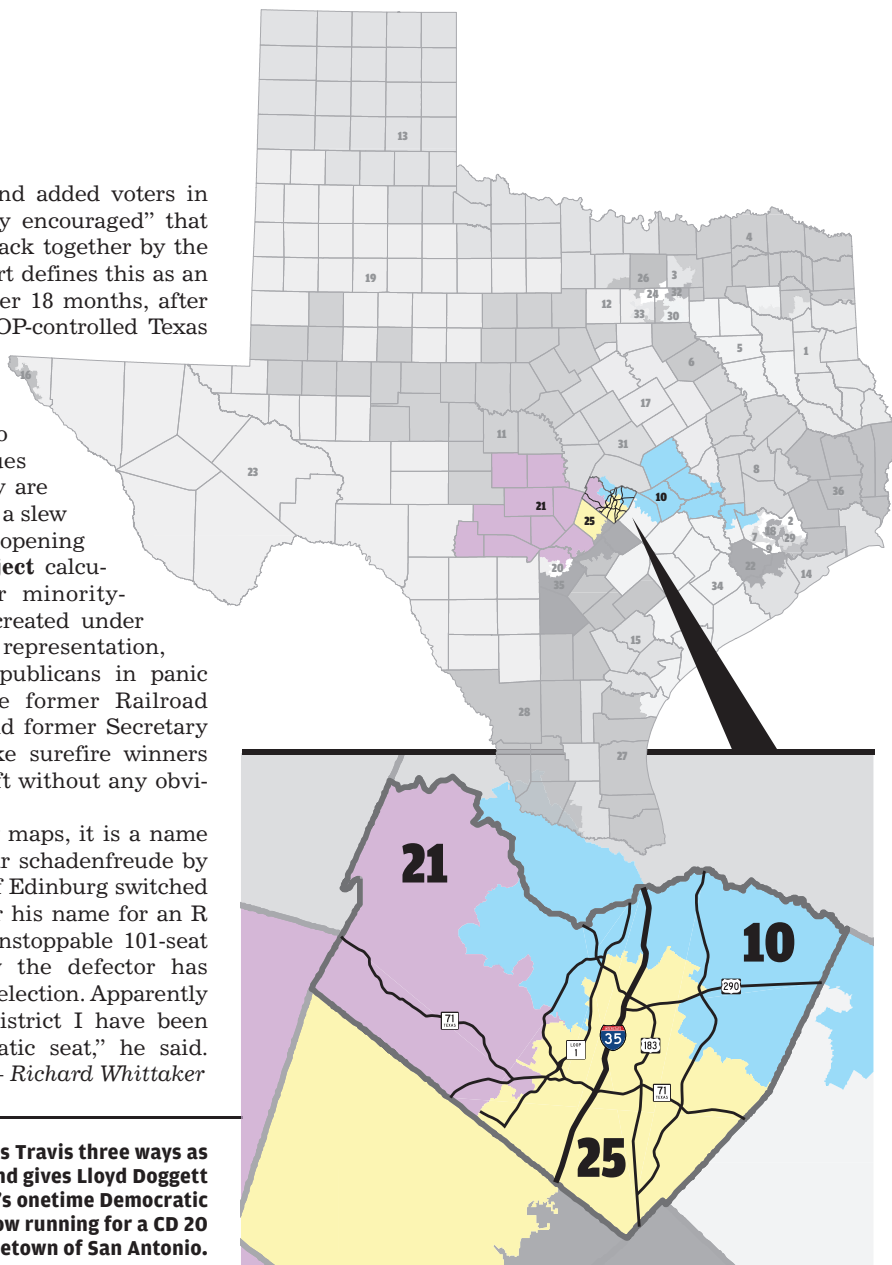
friendly anchor in Harris County and added voters in Travis. Doggett said he was "greatly encouraged" that Austin was at least partially glued back together by the courts but noted that "since the Court defines this as an 'interim' plan, I know that in another 18 months, after this election, Gov. Perry and the GOP-controlled Texas Legislature may yet again scheme to oust me through redistricting."

That reversal of fortunes is being felt across the state. House Dems who had been paired with their colleagues in primary battles find that not only are their current seats safe, but there are a slew of new congressional opportunities opening up. The Democratic **Lone Star Project** calculated that three new minority or minority-coalition opportunity districts are created under the court map. By restoring fairer representation, the courts have left ambitious Republicans in panic mode. Congressional hopefuls like former Railroad Commissioner **Michael Williams** and former Secretary of State **Roger Williams** looked like surefire winners under the old map; now both are left without any obvious district in which to run.

As for that first victim of the new maps, it is a name that has been greeted with particular schadenfreude by Democrats. State Rep. **Aaron Peña** of Edinburg switched parties in 2010, dumping the D after his name for an R and giving the GOP a seemingly unstoppable 101-seat supermajority in the House. Now the defector has announced that he will not run for re-election. Apparently under the new fairer maps, "the district I have been placed in is a 75 percent Democratic seat," he said.

– Richard Whittaker

The new interim congressional map splits Travis three ways as opposed to the GOP's five-way split and gives Lloyd Doggett a more Travis-based CD 25. Doggett's onetime Democratic opponent state Rep. Joaquin Castro is now running for a CD 20 seat based in his hometown of San Antonio.



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The Xtreme Solution

APD squad cars will now have 'no-idle' battery packs sufficient to run new video hardware – but did city officials fall for a system too expensive to buy and too impractical to use?

BY JORDAN SMITH

The night Nathaniel Sanders II was shot by Austin Police Officer Leonardo Quintana, in May 2009, three officers were on-scene. Each had driven a patrol car to the parking lot of the Walnut Creek apartments where the deadly shooting took place, and each of those cars was equipped with an in-car video recorder. Unfortunately, only one of the three officers actually activated that equipment – meaning that key information about the shooting was lost, not only to police investigators tasked with reviewing the incident, but also to a public skeptical of the official narrative of the night.

In addition to the tragic outcome, it was another in a string of frustrations related to the Austin Police Department's years-long – and up to that time, unsuccessful – ambition to have the city purchase a new digital video system. The system the department had been using was obsolete almost from the day it was purchased. The secondhand VHS recording system, bought from the Texas Department of Public Safety nearly a decade ago, has become increasingly difficult to operate, in part because VHS tapes have become scarce and expensive. Moreover, because it was necessary for officers to activate the system, stops and other incidents were often missing – either because officers thought they'd hit the recording switch but hadn't or because they neglected to hit the switch altogether.

The Sanders shooting – although certainly not the first critical incident in which an officer failed to activate the video system – was the final straw; in April of this year, the city appropriated the final installment for the \$15.5 million project to re-equip more than 500 APD patrol cars with a new, largely self-operating digital video system and to create a system for storing the thousands of hours of video it will generate. The system can be manually activated – remotely, even – but also triggers itself to record in a variety of circumstances, including when the doors are opened, when the car reaches a certain speed, and whenever the car strikes something.

The project is an ambitious one, not only because of the mandate to outfit every car with a camera (expected to be completed by this spring), but also because of the remote system the city has created for officers to

upload the video into department archives from inside the patrol car at the end of a shift, instead of storing it on a memory card and transporting it by hand to employees tasked with uploading all of those hours of video. The remote system – possibly the most extensive project of its kind in the country, officials say – adds another layer of security and transparency, says Lt. Pat Cochran, who oversees the APD's technology and data control unit. "We are pretty much on the cutting edge with wireless upload," he said.

Wireless upload wasn't initially in the plan for the new system – the plan was to use memory cards, until officials realized the amount of additional labor (and potential for mistakes and lost video) it would create. But the sheer amount of material that officials anticipate – with all the different triggers, a staggering prospect – made that plan seem awkward at best, and in turn spawned the idea for the remote upload.

But that solution presented its own set of challenges, including the question of how to facilitate the video upload without creating additional emissions via hours of added vehicle idling/upload time. "I think we were cognizant that was an issue ... that we didn't want to spew out emissions over that period

of time" that it would take to upload the video, says Jeff Knodel, the city's deputy chief financial officer. "From an environmental

standpoint, we're aware that any vehicle that idles ... [creates] environmental concerns." Uploads that could, officials estimated, take as many as six hours – from an idling, unoccupied vehicle – would be both a logistical and an environmental problem.

Extreme Energy

Uploading the video using the car's battery power was not an option. Police vehicles rely heavily on their primary cranking batteries; those batteries are responsible not only for starting the car, but also for running all manner of auxiliary systems – the over-



head lights and siren, the in-car computers, the LoJack, alternating low- and high-beam headlights (known as the "wig-wag"), and, eventually, the digital video system. In short, adding to that high load a potentially hours-long upload process would not work – especially considering that police vehicles definitely need to start every time the key is turned. Indeed, APD exhausts an extraordi-

nary number of batteries: On average, a patrol car battery is replaced roughly every year (in contrast to the three- to five-year battery life of a passenger car). An engineering team was assembled in spring 2010 to consider whether it would be possible to facilitate remote upload while the car is turned off. The group – including employees of the city's Fleet Services Division, Wireless Communications Services Division, APD, and purchasing – put together a request for proposals as part of the city's standard procurement process. After a year's work, city officials this spring signed off on a nearly \$1.82 million contract to purchase at least 567 self-contained battery backup units designed and sold as the Independence Package by local company Energy Xtreme. The units are installed in the trunk, and


cables connect the encased auxiliary battery to the car's starter and to the alternator for charging; when the car is off, the secondary unit can power electronics for at least four hours. As a consequence, officials say, the Energy Xtreme unit can (in theory) do more than just facilitate uploading video. They believe it can also help APD to reduce its emissions by reducing all manner of idling time; for example, officers would be able to shut off the car while at crime scenes, working traffic, or writing reports on their in-car computers – and still have their emergency lights flashing and their cameras rolling. In short, officials say, it is a system well suited to the city's "green fleet" ambitions. While he doesn't disagree that the Energy Xtreme solution is, in fact, a good product and certainly powerful enough to handle the video uploads and more, Daniel Lomas, former manager of the garage that services APD vehicles and a member of the city's assembled RFP team, says that he believes the city staff became so enamored of the Energy Xtreme solution that they essentially stacked the deck in order to purchase the company's product. In doing so, Lomas believes they overlooked a cheaper but equally effective in-house solution he designed, and instead massaged the "must-have" requirements written into the RFP so that they would match what Energy Xtreme had to offer.

Lomas says he does not believe that the Energy Xtreme company played any part in what he considers an abuse of city procedures, but he adds that this was not the first time he's seen city employees decide what

continued on p.32




Daniel Lomas, former manager of the garage that services APD vehicles, believes city staff became so enamored of the Energy Xtreme solution that they stacked the deck to purchase the company's product.



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A police cruiser outfitted with the new digital video system

JANA BIRCHUM

product they'd like to buy and then use the purchasing process – by law intended to level the playing field and encourage competition – to get the specific outcome they want.

Lomas has since left city employment, and this is not the first time he's publicly criticized city of Austin procedures, most notably the waste tire disposal system that the city eventually had to completely reform. (See "Kicking the Tires at Fleet," July 2, 2010.) But he insists neither that history nor his job change has anything to do with his opinions on the battery procurement process.

City officials – including Purchasing Officer Byron Johnson, APD Cmdr. Troy Gay, and Deputy Chief Information Officer Paul Hopingardner, each responsible for oversight of various aspects of the project – insist Lomas' accusations are mistaken. "For a long time, [the members of the RFP team] were looking at: What is the need? What is the power [needed]? How long does [the

solution] have to run?" says Johnson. "So it wasn't just a case of: 'Gee, here's a solution. Let's go out and buy that one.'" In fact, says Johnson, the city sent out more than 200 notices to potential bidders, but in the end received only one response: Energy Xtreme. Anti-idle auxiliary power is simply a "niche" market, officials say, and there isn't anyone else out there doing exactly what Energy Xtreme is doing – and what Austin's increasingly urban police force needs.

Offices on Wheels

Space is at a premium inside a modern police cruiser. There are computers, radios, guns, and digital video equipment, all fitted into the narrow space between the driver's and passenger's seats and the dash and the divider separating the front of the car from the back, where suspects ride. It's a tight fit for officers loaded down with their own equipment, including a gun, a Taser, and a set of handcuffs. And the car functions as

the beat cop's office; it's where calls are taken and often where reports are written. It is now also where video information from two cameras (one in front, pointing outward, and one in back, pointing into the car) is recorded and where it is uploaded, wirelessly, for storage by the city. In all, each Crown Victoria cruiser is worth roughly \$53,000 – almost half of which is in the form of added-on electronic equipment, says Gay.

This is something that Lomas knows well. For just over three years, he served as the manager of the city's service station across the street from APD's main building on East Eighth Street. So when he was asked to serve as a representative of Fleet on the team assigned to facilitate the wireless video upload, he thought he already had an answer: add a backup power source, a secondary battery installed in the car's trunk to be charged by the vehicle's heavy-duty alternator while the car was on, which would store sufficient energy to handle the video upload with the vehicle powered off.

Lomas says he believes that acquiring a secondary heavy-duty battery would have been the most cost-efficient solution, but some members of the RFP team had a different idea. What started as a simple backup battery system became a more elaborate "anti-idle" system – still essentially a system driven by a secondary battery, but one wired so that it could take over running virtually all of the car's electronics while the car is turned off. In theory, he says, this is a great idea – and one that has many uses across the city's varied fleet. But in police cruisers in particular, he doesn't believe it can actually work as a true anti-idle system – at least not in a place as hot as Austin, where police need to use air conditioning most of the year. Air conditioning runs off the car's motor (as does the heat), so the car must be running for it to work. During the very first meeting of the RFP group, Lomas said he suggested solving the backup power need by wiring up a second battery; he said the members of the group

seemed to agree. "My understanding was that [the group] was asking me," he recently recalled, "to come up with a solution."

Lomas began work on an in-house solution – a battery isolated from the car's main battery and wired through the car's starter to run the camera's wireless upload – to meet the digital video project's auxiliary power needs. But as the committee continued to meet (generally once a week), the focus of the project grew in scale. After each meeting, he took the group's decisions about project needs and reworked his design to accommodate them – eventually coming up with a system that could in principle operate as an anti-idle solution to power all of the vehicle's electronic accessories. Still, that didn't seem to be enough; instead, Lomas says he began to suspect that someone within the group (he doesn't know who) had already decided that the city should purchase the Energy Xtreme product and that the specifications for the RFP were being written to target that particular product.

Heat Waiver

On July 3, 2010, Lomas wrote an email to the group and to a number of APD supervisors to express his concerns. "I must warn everyone that these requirements sure look like if someone is trying to isolate only one [vendor] ... and this could be considered illegal," he wrote. "I'm not sure where these added requirements are coming from, but I think we need to meet again to discuss what it is we are really trying to achieve." If the group were to "insist on continuing in this manner," he concluded, he would have to request that he and another Fleet employee, Gary Ettles, be "withdrawn from this committee." In a written response, Deputy CIO Hopingardner assured Lomas that "whatever we do, it will be legal and follow the purchasing process. In addition, the requirements will not be written to eliminate competition – they will be based

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on actual need.” Indeed, Hoppingardner and other supervisors insist that the RFP was crafted only to address project needs and to further the city’s commitment to green operations by encouraging APD to turn off its vehicles whenever possible.

The RFP finally went out for bids in August 2010; by the time the proposal period closed in early October, there was only a single bidder, Energy Xtreme. Lomas, who continued to work on an in-house solution, sat with the committee to evaluate the sole bidder’s proposal. According to Lomas, Energy Xtreme’s solution did not meet the RFP in several key areas – including that the battery be tested for operation in temperatures up to 175 degrees, that the company offer at a minimum a no-fault three-year warranty, and that the company have a secure city of Austin location for installation of the units. In each case (as with several additional features, he says) the evaluation committee agreed that the bid did not satisfy the RFP. “[T]here was a vote ... on every requirement,” he says, “and at that point there were at least four different requirements ... they didn’t meet at all. There were some where maybe they met, and there were some [that the city] was going to go back to them on [for more information],” he continued. “But there were at least four that they didn’t meet at all.”

City Purchasing Officer Johnson says there was never any “vote” among the members as Lomas describes. Instead, he says that the committee came away from that meeting with a list of questions for the company about items on which they felt they needed additional information – and that later, when they got that information, it was clear that Energy Xtreme met or exceeded all the city’s specifications. “That is incorrect,” Johnson says of Lomas’ recollection.

“There was never a meeting where they took a vote and said, ‘Don’t award this.’ There was a meeting where they said, ‘OK, we don’t know what this is, [and] here are the questions we need to ask.’”

Nevertheless, Lomas says he continued to raise concerns that the city was skirt-ing purchasing law by ignoring parts of the Energy Xtreme bid that didn’t meet the RFP. To Lomas, those compromises fundamentally changed what the city was asking for; under state law, if material changes are made to the RFP, the project must be rebid. Lomas says he told city officials he believed that should happen here. “I couldn’t do nothing,” he says. “I basically expressed my concerns.”

Johnson, an affable expert on purchasing who teaches the topic at Austin

continued on p.34

A modern police cruiser functions as the beat cop’s office.

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Community College, said he believes the changes were minor and did not affect the scope of the project – meaning the city behaved in accordance with the law. “Is it a judgment call as to what is major and minor [in terms of changes]? Yeah, but ... there is flexibility; there’s not a hard-and-fast rule,” says Johnson. “The answer is, you can’t materially change the concept” of the project. And in this case, he says, “nothing changed that was material.” Ultimately, the city decided to accept the Energy Xtreme bid.

Blame the Messenger

Nonetheless, Lomas said he was called to a meeting on Dec. 12, 2010, with Johnson and other city supervisors to discuss his concerns about the process. The next day, APD Lt. Pat Cochran sent an email to the committee and project supervisors saying that a decision had been made to put aside the Energy Xtreme bid and to instead use the in-house solution. “There was a high level meeting yesterday,” he wrote. “After a lengthy discussion and a lot of questions [Johnson and other supervisors] agreed that [Lomas’] solution would be the way to go.” From there, Lomas said he was given a list of cars that would be the first to have his backup power solution installed. According to Lomas, the first tests went well, and the system operated as it should. City officials—including Gay, Hopingardner,

and Johnson – disagree. They say that Lomas’ system had numerous problems maintaining power during the video upload period. Lomas, however, says that the supposed problems with his system were in effect imposed by members of the project, who made specifications for his solution that they had not required for Energy Xtreme, including the installation on his design of a manually set electronic timer to shut off the backup battery after a given period of time. The Energy Xtreme product, he said, relied on a low-volt cutoff feature, which automatically disengages the battery once its juice drops to a certain level. That’s how Lomas initially designed his battery, he says – but was later told by project officials that he should add the secondary timer, which induced failures in his system.

City officials deny that they required anything more or different of Lomas’ system than they did of the Energy Xtreme equipment. “To my knowledge, we’ve never asked anything of either solution that was different,” says Hopingardner. “It may just be that [Lomas’ system] had to be engineered differently because one [Energy Xtreme’s] is self-contained and the other was something that had to be engineered and was engineered on the fly.” In sum, Johnson suggests that the problem may be simply that the engineering required to devise a solution is beyond Lomas’ skill



The battery backup units are installed in the trunks of squad cars.

JANA BIRCHUM

set. “I think part of [it] was that he may not understand some of the technical pieces of it. He’s a fleet person; he’s a mechanic type of person; he’s not a wireless communications, electrical engineer type of person, and I think maybe he didn’t understand that,” he says.

Lomas calls that nonsense; the city asked him to serve on the team and to work on an

in-house solution precisely because of his expertise in vehicle electronics, which he teaches at ACC as aspiring mechanics. “This is what I do,” he says. “This is what I teach: electronics. And because of my expertise, I was asked to join this committee. Why else would they bring me in? Why have me build this whole thing if they didn’t think I was qualified?”

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City officials believe they have secured the most efficient and cost-effective solution.

Other city sources have suggested that Lomas is upset because he was not able to sell his solution to the city after he left its employment in February to take a full-time teaching job. Lomas denies any profit motive, adding that he offered to help the city complete the installation process for free, even after he'd left his job with Fleet Services. He insists he has been motivated primarily by a desire to help the city achieve its goals – both with the digital video project and more broadly with its green initiatives – in the most cost-effective way.

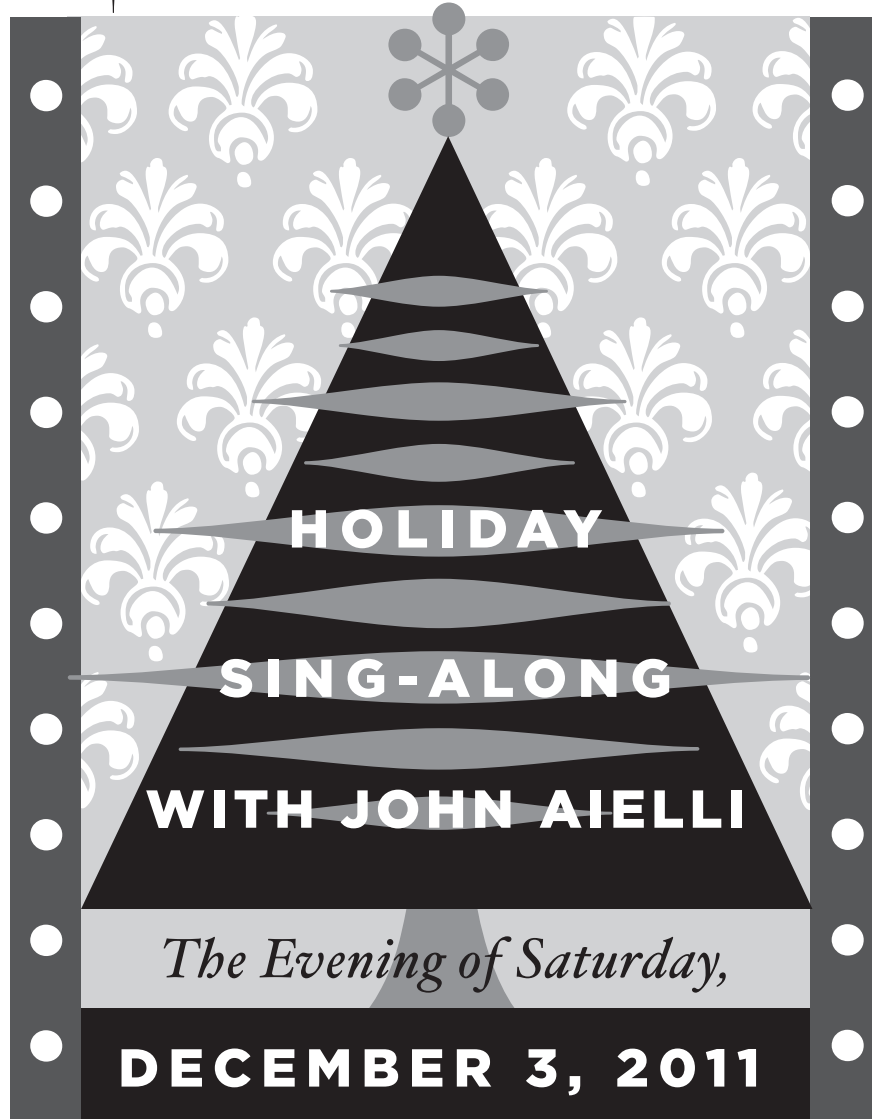
In the end, Lomas' system would have cost the city roughly half of what it has committed to Energy Xtreme – a total, to outfit every police car, of roughly \$912,000. "This isn't about my battery pack," he says. "And if the city wants to use a battery pack like Energy Xtreme's, I think that's perfectly OK. But I think somebody somewhere has to be accountable for that; someone has to say, 'Hey, this is why we chose this.' There are purchasing regulations that must be followed. ... Those regulations have safeguards." If project specifications are mutable, then those regulations are not being adhered to, he says. "Why put [a requirement in the RFP] if it isn't important? Why put it there as a 'must-have'?"

City officials remain adamant not only that nothing improper occurred in the purchasing process, including modifying the RFP to expedite that purchase, but also that in purchasing the Energy Xtreme unit, they have secured the most efficient and cost-effective solution. None of the 125-pound Energy Xtreme units has yet had any problems, and the units have been installed on most of the cars used in Central East Austin, says Hopingardner.

There is at least a chance that the units will save the city money. According to documents provided to the city by Energy Xtreme, its anti-idle unit can save as much as \$3,600 in fuel costs per car, per year, and reduce carbon-dioxide emissions in excess of 26,800 pounds per vehicle per year – that's presuming, of course, that officers can indeed forgo idling in all Austin weather while the electronics are operating. Whether the units have actually reduced emissions or incurred fuel savings so far is unknown because the units haven't been installed long enough to gauge that difference, officials say. "It's just a process where we need to collect more data," says Deputy CFO Knodel. "We have the underlying assumptions; we just need actual information." And it could be a while before that data is ready. "Maybe [after we] get some weather where you don't have to run the air conditioning or the heater," speculates Johnson. ■



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Flash Mob Dance Revolution: Part 3

My draft of a workers' manifesto:

Labor is essential to your enterprises, but labor is paid the least and granted few, if any, rights. In your so-called free market, workers have few, if any, alternatives; most have to accept that the game is fixed and go to work regardless. That is oppression. That is theft. Yet if we were to call you thieves, you would be mightily offended, and rightly so. Most of you are honest, by your lights,

and hardworking. You participate in theft, yet you are not criminals. Rather, you passively accepted participation in a massive crime – a criminal activity sanctioned and enthusiastically promoted by every authority you've trusted. You didn't want to see that, and you don't want to change, not because you're evil, but because you're comfortable – and you're afraid. It must be admitted that we don't care how nice you

are or what good works you do; your equity is based on stealing the fruits of our labor; your affluence costs too much. We do not say you're bad. We do say that you failed to think things through and that this failure to look clearly at *how your money is actually produced* has consequences. But we do not wish the terror of those consequences to overwhelm you. That is why it is important for you to think now. We wish you no harm. We have no desire to burn your houses or rob your safes. But the economic terror and theft that you've participated in ends now. We do not demand all the power, only the power that is ours by right. Investment, invention, and labor – these are the three essentials of commerce. Justice, and the stability that justice generates, requires that these three elements benefit equally.

It is crucial to dispense with the term “unskilled labor.” That term is a device to divide the work force against itself. *Labor must be valued according to its necessity, not its skill.* If fruit pickers, busboys, cashiers, or receptionists are essential to an enterprise, then they are essential, and that's that. Their essentialness, not their skills, must determine their value. They merit a third of the profits and a third of the say.

Yes, everyone will have to learn a lot and must learn it as they go, and many mistakes will be painfully made and painfully corrected; it will take years to work out protocols that are mutually understood, but that is a small price to pay for justice.

Yes, unforeseen difficulties and unintended consequences will sprout everywhere while we learn to apply a value other than money to human beings and to life itself. But to say it cannot be done is to deny the incredible variety of all we have already done in the ongoing experiment that is the human journey.

So how might this work in practice?

Let's consider a small business. In a restaurant, say, the employer is often a primary laborer, an inventor (inventing the concept,

the menu), and an investor. In a fair system, that employer would retain a large measure of profit and authority, because he or she would participate in the laborer's, the inventor's, and the investor's share. But other employees would be paid according to the necessity of their labor and merit a share of the profits and a one-third vote in decisions that affect the entire enterprise. Investors, too, would share in no more than one-third of the profit and decision power.

Using this model, a larger business would be run like a republic. A work force of 10,000, say, would elect representatives who would form one-third of the board of directors; the work force would share one-third of the profits (over and above wages, which are an operating expense), while the remaining two-thirds of boardroom votes would be divided among investors and inventors. All essential elements would be represented equally.

It gets trickier in an enterprise like a school. Maintenance crews, teachers, and administrators are the school's laborers. Yet teachers are also inventors, composing lesson plans and upholding standards of learning. Maintenance is an essential function, but a janitor should not make education decisions – that's common sense. However, in decisions that affect the future of the

enterprise that is the school, maintenance deserves a seat at the table.

It's not about every person voting on every decision. It's about each contributor – labor, investor, and inventor – having equal equity and equal say. It's not a consensus. It's a republic. Conflict and good old-fashioned horse-trading are givens. It's messier than militaristic, top-down hierarchy, but it affords the possibility of justice and liberty.

Some people, and some enterprises, will be richer than others because some are more creative, some are smarter, some are luckier, and some work harder. But everyone will have a stake and a say. And, most importantly, no one will steal anyone else's labor. For labor is time. And time is life. No amount



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of investment confers the right to steal life.

This will be truly *free* enterprise: each enterprise competing in a truly free market. Private property respected. Private liberty protected. Nobody owning anybody else. Nobody with arbitrary power over anybody else. Everybody taking their chances in a fluid system that depends, ultimately, on every individual effort (and, of course, the vicissitudes of Providence). The ideal of the present system – that those with the best ideas and those who work the hardest reap the most rewards – will be retained. What will be added is a just return for the investment of one's time. For "time" is only another word for "life."

There is a way to live without stealing from one another – and without the frantic efforts to control one another that lead, ultimately, to oppression. There is a way to live in which the present is flexible enough to open organically to the future without costly dislocations. There is a way to create a system that puts a check on its own power. There is a way to live – risky, as all existence is, but fair – in which time and life are not wasted nor exploited.

We see a world in which a worker in any business – large or small, manufacturing, agriculture, or service – gets a piece of the action. A fair piece because labor is valued equally with invention and investment, and no element is potent without the others. We see a workplace where workers are integral to the decision-making process of all company policies. Where we don't just have "input," we have power. A world with no fetters on expression, organization, or nonviolent action. We see a world in which businesses that affect an entire community (utilities, communications) or affect the environment must have major decisions ratified by the community affected. We see a world where, under these conditions, businesses compete freely with no centralized control.

Yes, there will be inequalities. That's life. But they will be inequalities of talent and luck, not inequalities of opportunity and authority. Yes, there will be conflict. That's life, too. But it will be conflict among people with equal access, equal voice. We see a world where "free enterprise" doesn't mean freedom to be ruthless but freedom to go as far as creativity and courage allow – a freedom limited only by its constant give-and-take with the freedoms of others. A world of cooperation and conflict but not domination, where no one is silenced by the fear of losing his or her livelihood.

"All men are created equal," "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people" – these are ideals that often fall short in practice, yet these are ideals that have freed millions. "Commerce of the people, by the people, and for the people" will also often fall short in practice, but it is an ideal with the power to extend and evolve our freedoms.

We cannot achieve a better world without aspiring to the best of worlds. ■

A longer version of this essay will appear in Six Memes for the New Millennium (ZgPress, January 2012), edited by Rosetta Brooks. My thanks to Rosetta for allowing this essay, written last July at her request, to debut in the Chronicle.

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Music by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky
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This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's Future and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Visit AustinAtNowPlayingAustin.com



Quetta
Carpenter and
Mark Barnes
in *360 (round
dance)*

different from you and me.” Given all that’s been said about the Wall Street elite at the heart of the financial collapse – their irresponsible behavior, unwillingness to take responsibility for the crisis, and continued padding of their own bank accounts in the face of widespread layoffs, bankruptcies, and foreclosures – connecting the well-heeled heels onstage with those off wasn’t a huge leap.

It’s just that when I went to see *360* and *Guest*, I wasn’t any more looking to make that connection than I think Steven Dietz or Hannah Kenah were looking to Zuccotti Park for inspiration when they wrote their respective plays. In both Dietz’s updated and Americanized take on Arthur Schnitzler’s *Reigen* and the Emily Post-inspired comedy of manners that Kenah conceived with co-star Jenny Larson, the class struggles seemed broader in scope, less grounded in the specifics of a set situation or time. But just because a work of art tackles universal questions doesn’t mean that it can’t be of the moment and relevant. In art, timeliness is not an either/or proposition. The world you live in can follow you into the theatre or gallery or concert hall and make its immediate concerns felt in even the most timeless of works. Which is what happened to me with these plays. As I watched them, the

issues raised by Occupy Wall Street, which are so prevalent now, surfaced and invited me to look at them through the lens of the plays. What I saw were relationships, in all their messiness and necessity, between those with the most and those with the least. I had a sense of these people being bound to each other inextricably, and for the first time since the protests began, I had the thought that we can never have 100% unless the 99% and the 1% are together. I’d grown so accustomed to the politics of Us vs. Them, of demonizing the opponent, that I’d lost sight of the idea that we are, as a nation, “indivisible,” and that our only way out of this morass is in union. As political insights go, it’s not John Locke, but it was gratifying to think of something that went beyond rote talking points.

It made me realize how valuable it can be to have the world follow me into the theatre. I’m thinking of inviting it along whenever I go now. So if you see an open seat beside me, don’t sit there. I’m saving it for the world.

BY ROBERT
ALL OVER
CREATION
FAIRES

Occupied World Seat

I’m reasonably certain that the terms “occupy” and “Wall Street” never appeared in either *360 (round dance)* or *Guest by Courtesy*, but that didn’t stop me from thinking about the movement with which they’re associated as I watched those plays the week before last. See, both scripts include characters who are, shall we say, privileged. If they don’t, strictly speaking, belong to the 1%, they’re within a ZIP code of the neighborhood. Now, nothing those characters did in either play directly evoked income inequality, investment malfea-

sance, or any of the related economic issues underlying the current protests. Still, the way these rich folk played the high status card with other characters, especially those far down the economic ladder, called to mind the notion among some in the moneyed class that when you’re sitting on enough wealth, the rules that the rest of society abides by don’t apply to you. Such people subscribe to F. Scott Fitzgerald’s observation about the very rich, that “they are

Julie Speed IT IS, IT IS A GLORIOUS THING TO BE A PIRATE QUEEN!

Johnny Depp’s Jack Sparrow has ruled the high seas for several years now, but there’s a new buccaneer a-sail who may just jack the briny deep out from under him. She’s *The Pirate Queen*, and though her three eyes give her face a curious tilt, she’s quite the comely corsair. A cataract of thick, curled tresses frames her face and the delicate lace at her throat, and the opulence of her outfit – full, flowing fabrics bedizened with bows, cords, and shiny sashes – bespeaks a regal nature. In each hand, she grips a fish with the familiarity of one born to the water. And those tattoos! – on face and hands, enough azure curlicues to turn Queequeg sea green with envy. Who

wouldn’t wish to pledge fealty to (or be abducted by) such a queen?

If the excess eyeballs weren’t clue enough, this fetching freebooter is the creation of artist Julie Speed, who has since childhood dreamed of sailing the bounding main under the Jolly Roger. Or so say our friends at Flatbed Press, and they should know since they’ve been working closely with the beloved visual artist on her latest project: seven engravings rooted in Speed’s penchant for creating collages with images pirated from antique engineering



Howlers by Julie Speed

and medical texts, architectural drawings, and classical illustrations. They offer eccentric combinations: the bust of a Greek goddess with howler monkeys crowding her head-

dress, a moth hovering above an odd valve, a bisected porpoise posed vertically against a background of sheet music. As the medium for Speed’s prints is the same as that of her pilfered antique images, they foster a sense that these new pieces are hundreds of years old – maybe the meticulous mash-ups of a mad prophet pal of Nostradamus or, better yet, the lost bounty of some secret museum. Certainly, Speed’s images are as rich as any treasure Blackbeard ever buried, and you don’t have to hunt for hers. Sometime during the next six weeks, just make your way to Flatbed where they’re being displayed, and the booty of the Pirate Queen is all yours. (A reception for the artist will take place Thursday, Dec. 1, 6-8pm.) – R.F.

“*The Pirate Queen: New Gravures by Julie Speed*” will be on display Dec. 1-Jan. 15 at Flatbed Galleries, 2832 E. MLK. For more information, call 477-9328 x30 or visit www.flatbedpress.com.

Digestible Feats THE SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

How’s about raising a glass to Digestible Feats, that glorious initiative of the Fusebox Festival that is about, at least in part, raising a glass? Since its debut earlier this year, the series has shown us how a tough-guy noir drama can be told in five cocktails, what we didn’t know about the history of the martini and its signature glass, and what a handful of the city’s top mixologists will shake, stir, and pour when challenged to create a rum cocktail on the spot. Now, with the seasonal swing fully under way this weekend, Digestible Feats is proving itself a two-fisted drinker, with a double shot of programming for Austin’s adult-beverage enthusiasts.

First up is the Holiday Stroll, coinciding with the annual Downtown celebration that follows the sing-along with KUT’s John Aielli at the Texas Capitol. With the aid of a scenic designer/visual artist and a sound designer, Fusebox will transform the vacant retail space in the old Reynolds-Penland Building into a pop-up bar with mixologists serving craft cocktails inspired by the idea of “gift.” *Saturday, Dec. 3, 7pm, 721 Congress. Free.*

The following night brings Spirit Salon #2: American Whiskey. In each installment of this ongoing series, the East Side Show Room’s crack bartenders provide a lively introduction to a particular spirit, complete with tastings. This month, the subject is American whiskey, with six types, including rye and bourbon, being sampled, plus a pair of classic cocktails. *Sunday, Dec. 4, 5pm, East Side Show Room, 1100 E. Sixth. \$35. Limited to 30 guests.*

For more information, call 800-3066 or visit www.fuseboxfestival.com. – R.F.



Alvin Rangel

Seizing the Day

Alvin Rangel's future may be uncertain, but for now he's making great dance

BY JONELLE SEITZ

I first saw Alvin Rangel dance in May 2010. A minute or two into the piece, "Mapping Desire" by Holly Williams, I felt the relief mixed with excitement that occurs when you realize that your experience as an audience member is in the hands of a proficient, capable performer, one who can take you places. Physically, he was muscular, powerful, and well-proportioned, with graceful lines. Technically, he could move: His training in ballet and jazz was the foundation for powerful contemporary movement. And as a person in space onstage, he was commanding yet a team player. And he was a he!

The context of my surprise was the Austin contemporary dance scene. To be clear, I'm not talking about Ballet Austin; the ballet's problems with attracting male dancers who are technically adequate as well as physically proportionate, strong, and charismatic warrant a separate discussion. And I'm not talking about Tapestry Dance Company, which seems to have a constant supply of fierce male hoofers. I'm also not talking about Latin dance, which has formidable leaders and, at times, passionate disciples.

I'm talking about contemporary dance. Local performances in this genre often lack men entirely or feature men with too little

training, maturity, zeal, or taste to be taken seriously. In my four years of watching local contemporary dance (not to say I haven't missed a few shows), only Steve Ochoa has caught my interest as a serious, recurring performer with technique, beauty, and depth. Choreographers from David Justin to Gina Patterson have imported talent to fill male roles in their work. Rangel himself is hiring an out-of-towner as his dance partner for his thesis concert in March 2012 – but more about that later. First things first: Who is Alvin Rangel?

A native Puerto Rican, Rangel grew up studying ballet and jazz. He joined the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, an unexpected Ohio haven for high-caliber dancers, especially those of color, and remained there for nearly a decade. After returning to Puerto Rico to complete a bachelor's degree in education, he was offered a job teaching middle school English as a second language and Spanish at a Houston public school. He was also offered a job in New York City, but he was afraid a teacher's salary wouldn't go far enough there, and he didn't want to share an apartment with 10 other people. In Houston, he bought a house.

He never left the dance world completely, though, and a few years after settling in Houston, Rangel's focus turned to Master of Fine Arts programs, with the ultimate goal of in-depth work on his pet subject, queer tango, and teaching at the college level. Now in his final year at the University of Texas, audiences may be just beginning to know him, but it's likely that he'll soon be leaving town to fill a faculty position elsewhere. So if you haven't found yourself in Rangel's audience yet, you may have just two chances left, and one of them is happening right now.

Rangel is currently rehearsing, as both a choreographer and a performer, for the Department of Theatre & Dance's fall showcase Dec. 2 and 3. He will dance a solo by faculty member David Justin, just one in a string of choreographers, including Alvin Ailey, who have been inspired by composer

Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Justin created the piece during his years at the Birmingham Royal Ballet and approached Rangel about reviving it, accompanied live by a string trio and piano playing a chamber version of the orchestral work. What's the dance about? "It's about ... I really don't care what the choreographer says it's about!" Rangel jests. But seriously: "For me, there's always the choreographer's story, and I try to honor that idea, but as a performer, I need to think of my own story." He says the solo suggests "a sense of wanting to be free, to soar," and into the solo's aspiring mood Rangel adds his feelings about being so close to accomplishing his degree requirements. But the euphoria is tinged with the fear of the unknown. After graduation, Rangel says, "I don't know where I will end up."

What to do when the future is uncertain? Seize the day! Which Rangel does in his choreographic contribution to the showcase, "Carpe Diem," set to a composition by Antonio Caldera. The sextet is inspired by all things Baroque, which became an obsession when he visited Italy last year. Fascinated with the period's culture and the uncanny sense of movement in the sculpture, Rangel strived to embody and play off the style. In Baroque music, he hears a subtext of parallel aspirations: Composers used commissions by the church as vehicles to make huge developments in tonality, instrumentation, and notation. "Carpe Diem" is a revised version of a piece he had planned to show – and dance in – a year ago but was thwarted by an ankle injury. In retrospect, he's thankful for the delay. Some of the original cast members graduated, causing him to rethink the groupings and eventually take himself out of the piece, which allowed him to make more effective revisions and edits.

However, when Rangel shows his thesis project in March, he will dance in his own work. The dance for two men, to live accompaniment by the Austin Piazzolla Quintet, will consider gender roles in traditional Argentinean tango and use contemporary dance to propagate tango steps. So how does the leading and following work? Does one person identify as the leader or is there a gray area? "I'm definitely going into the gray area," he says. Because tango requires maturity and power from both partners, regardless of gender – tango's intensity and drama is sometimes called a "three-minute relationship" – Rangel is flying in Ricardo Garcia, a former colleague at the Dayton company, to be his dance partner. Two fierce male dancers onstage at once? Mark your calendar. ■

Fall for Dance will be performed Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3, 8pm, at the B. Iden Payne Theatre, 23rd & San Jacinto, UT campus. For more information, visit www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad/productions.

Physically, Rangel was muscular, powerful, and well-proportioned, with graceful lines. Technically, he could move. Onstage, he was commanding yet a team player. And he was a he!

b scene

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The Lion in Winter

Austin Playhouse temporary facility, 1800½ Simond

www.austinplayhouse.com

Through Dec. 18

Running time: 2 hr., 30 min.

The folks at Austin Playhouse are madly in love with their art. Not only have they created a perfectly lovely production of James Goldman's hysterical historical drama *The Lion in Winter*, but they've also created a sleek, modern temporary space in which to stage it. A dedicated troupe of volunteers labored for a month to pitch this glowing white tent, an IKEA version of a theatre that sits next door to the site of the Playhouse's future home in the Mueller development.

Power generators added to the opening-night buzz. An infectious sense of achievement emanated from beaming Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Don Toner and his staff as they watched the well-seasoned and excellently directed cast, led by dream team Huck Huckaby and Babs George as estranged royal couple Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Then, just as King Henry raised his broadsword above his head to execute eldest son Richard (Ben Wolfe) in the play's dramatic climax, the generators' gentle hum faded ominously and the lights went out. All of them. Plunged into semidarkness, the lionhearted Huckaby led the cast to push through the play's final minutes. Someone pointed a few Maglites toward the stage just as George uttered the funniest line of the evening: "We're jungle creatures, Henry, and the dark is all around us." I joined the rest of the stunned audience in uproarious, cathartic laughter.

Before the generators failed, the cast had capered through Goldman's loosely historical take on an animalistic royal family, featuring a pack of rapacious, backstabbing princes (Brock England, Wolfe, and Jason Newman) whom the feisty Queen Eleanor pushes to the brink of a vicious war of succession when she shows up at Christmas court in 1183 from a decade-long imprisonment. Though the actors occasionally stumbled over lines, it was clear that they had rehearsed tirelessly to get Goldman's snappy, sitcomish dialogue up to a rapid-fire clip, which they have no doubt mastered since opening night. *The Lion in Winter's* dialogue may sound like a modern dysfunctional family comedy, but this production's technical elements converge to create a medieval wonderland, with luxurious period costumes by Diana Huckaby that stand out against

EXHIBITIONISM

When this dad wants his son cut out of the will, he means it: (l-r) Huck Huckaby, Ben Wolfe, Jason Newman, and Brock England.



COURTESY OF GRAY G. HADDOCK

a plain stone set, smooth lute interludes courtesy of the Gunn Brothers' sound design, and excellent (if short-lived) lighting by Don Day that recalls a castle's dim glow.

The Lion in Winter is lovingly produced, directed, and acted, and nothing proved that more to me than the deft handling

of an opening night crisis in Austin Playhouse's beautiful new tent. As Shakespeare's Silvius says, love is to be all made of sighs and tears, all faith and service and fantasy and passion and wishes. And so is Austin Playhouse for theatre.

— Jillian Owens



American Bear

The Hideout Backstage,

617 Congress, 522-4083

www.theatreinbloc.org

Through Dec. 17

Running time: 1 hr., 40 min.

The family reunited makes for one hearty staple of a situation on which to base a play. In every age, distanced kin return time and again

to their roots through the words of the canon's foremost playwrights. The recipes of these reunion dramas often call for similar fixings: long-held secrets revealed, unspeakable events from the past brought to the fore, and at least one instance of fight choreography. One can find each of these ingredients in Larry Mitchell's new play *American Bear*, presented by Theatre en Bloc. Unfortunately, though, they're a bit stale.

There's not much that one can say about the plot of *American Bear* sans a spoiler alert. The basic premise goes something like this: Following a two-year absence, trucker Eddie arrives at his parents' home in Kansas with new fiancée Lonnie at his side. We learn early on that Eddie's return is motivated by the news of his parents' death in a freak auto accident. Awaiting Eddie is his older brother, Jules, who hibernates on the couch amid countless crumpled beer cans that once inhabited a picnic cooler next to the TV remote. Secrets are revealed, unspeakable events are brought to the fore, and fight choreography ensues. The situation feels more like a tired spin on a timeless template than an innovative new take on things.

Due to the immense popularity of reunion plays (not to mention the abundance of masterfully written ones), the choice to create a new addition to the category is not without its burdens. To submit for membership in a genre bursting with powerhouses like *August: Osage County* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (to name just two hallmark examples) is to thrust oneself into the major leagues of drama. Unfortunately, *American Bear* just can't compete. The twists can be

spotted easily before they're revealed, and the dialogue moves at a plodding tempo. Though the company's website indicates that "there are tones of great playwrights like O'Neill or Shepard in the piece," *Bear* struggles mightily to live in the shadow of its older, more mature siblings Jenny Lavery (Lonnie), Derek Kolluri (Jules), and Deven Kolluri (Eddie) attempt valiantly to scale the script, but the footholds just aren't there to support them, and none of the characters ever reaches its summit.

To peruse the company's website and playbill does make for quite an intriguing read. Theatre all together: This is Theatre en Bloc's mission. With Lavery doubling as lighting designer, Derek Kolluri as set designer, and five directors credited (including playwright Mitchell, both Kolluris, Lavery, and Blake Addyson), many hats are clearly worn by all in this tight-knit theatre family. Its current production notwithstanding, Theatre en Bloc does seem to promote the riff on an old adage: "The family that plays together stays together." If that's true, I'm looking forward to watching this burgeoning company of artists grow, experiment, and discover its footing in future productions.

— Adam Roberts

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Buster Graybill, *Untitled Tush Hog Surveillance*, 2011, Archival Inkjet Print, 30 x 40 inches, Image courtesy of the artist

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THE UPDATE

It takes a village to take care of me these days. And not the kind of village with mud huts and cholera, either. Never one to play helpless, I've learned that getting in and out of my **Craftmatic Adjustable Bed** always takes a clear plan: whether I'll roll *this way* or *that way* and exactly *when* to start sitting up. If I'm nauseated or feeling pooppy (that word describes



my feelings most of the time), I'm never sure quite what to do. It's like being a baby. Sometimes I need help bathing, but unfortunately, I've outgrown a dishpan in the kitchen sink. And now my bath has a bench in it, plus rails and a handheld showerhead to make it easier to wash. I have grown immodest these last few weeks after being poked and prodded inside and out by doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, and benefits providers. I recall a hazy memory of the cashier at the coffee shop examining me as well, but that may have been a hallucination (I've been having those lately). I apologize to my mother and sister for making them look at things they haven't had to look at since I was an infant ... but that's what families do, right? Or more correctly, it's what families *will* do, but hope it won't be necessary. These are the little indignities that chip away at the person I was but with no hint as to what I'll be. Confession: I committed a truly disturbing incident, one that made me realize that I was deeply medicated or had simply crossed over to the *other side*. I wore pajamas and bedroom slippers to a restaurant. And it wasn't **Luby's**,

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

either. I'd spent the night at **Mark Erwin** and **Stephen Rice's** house, playing cards and accepting all the love and warmth they had to offer me. We were hungry, so I took Stephen to a new little Mexican place, **Mi Ranchito** in **Manchaca**. I realized I was wearing black-and-red plaid pajama pants, a T-shirt, a hoodie (yes, I do own a hoodie), a beret, and slip-ons. How could I possibly leave the car like that? I threw caution to the wind, hoping none of my really pissy friends would see me dressed like this in Bug Tussle. With Stephen's strength behind me, we entered. We love Mi Ranchito, and my mom, sister, and I have been there many times now, watching it expand and prosper. It got a great write-up in the **Chronicle**, and business is booming. Nonetheless, I was ill-dressed for a public outing. If the paparazzi had been there, my career would be *ovah*. Getting ready to go out is a mammoth undertaking. If I'm going out that night, it means getting ready when I wake up. Snug jeans and high-heels are out. Hours are spent finding something to wear that is comfortable but attractive. My stylist (or whoever is hanging around) gets the brunt of it. "No, I do not want to wear that. I can't even imagine owning it ..." (even if it came from my own closet). But with all the help I have, I'm incredi-



Zach Theatre's producing artistic director of 20 years, Dave Steakley, tours the Topfer Theatre construction site. The new theatre opens in September 2012. Zach's side-splitting new comedy, **God of Carnage**, opens this week, as does the 2011 edition of Zach favorite **The Santaland Diaries**.

bly grateful, especially to my mom and sister who have radically altered their own lives to help me live mine. The cards, letters, emails, texts, posts, and calls from so many of my friends have moved me deeply. And it reinforces my resolve to do something better with the rest of my life. I'll get to that as soon as I can walk without being bowlegged.

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FOOD

Man Bites Dog

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www.manbitesdogastin.com

Is there any doubt that the food trailer business is Austin's latest rags-to-riches industry? In May, Man Bites Dog, the 2-year-old hot dog trailer formerly on South Lamar, opened its first storefront at Burnet Road and North Loop. Already, owner **Jeremiah Allen** is opening a second location on South Lamar.

Man Bites Dog is not just the latest food trailer success story. It is also the latest entry in a line of successful eateries (think Torchy's Tacos, Roll On Sushi Diner, Gourdough's) that take a classic concept – in this case the hot dog – and glam it up with shiny bells and whistles. Consider the **Danger Dog** (\$5.59): an all-beef frank wrapped in bacon, fried, and topped with queso fresco, jalapeños, and hot sauce. It says “heartburn” in three different languages.

The menu here adheres to two primary principles: 1) that you can never have too much of a good thing and 2) that all good things taste better with a dog. Like buffalo wings? There's a hot dog for that. Man Bites Dog's **Buffalo Hottie** (\$5.29) is a Vienna sausage amply topped with bleu cheese and buffalo wing sauce. Like barbecue? Try the **Boss Dog** (\$5.79), a pork sausage topped with pulled pork, coleslaw, and mustard. Purists, don't despair: There's always the **Old School** (\$3.79): an all-beef frank, plain



JOHN ANDERSON

and simple. All hot dogs are served on spongy, soft, kolache-style buns whose sweetness contrasts nicely with the aggressive tastes inside.

Here you will find solid, meaty man food of many stripes (and, not surprisingly, the majority of Man Bites Dog's customers are male). But there's a little something for everyone at this accessible, retro-influenced storefront. If dogs aren't your thing, then consider an order of crisp **tater tots** (\$3.29 for a large) or briny **fried pickle slices** (\$3.59). Both are compulsively snackable. For the kid in all of us, there's even a **Frito pie** (\$2.99) and **macaroni and cheese topped with pulled pork** (\$3.99) – though to be perfectly honest, we found the watery macaroni and cheese singularly unappetizing in both look and taste.

Fundamentally, the franks are the attraction at Man Bites Dog, where edible pop art is built daily from the world's favorite snacks.

– Rachel Feit

It's Bubble Time!

The holidays are upon us, and it's time for our favorite bubbly wines. I have mixed feelings about recommending these delightful wines at the end of the year. Truth is, they should be in every wine lover's refrigerator year-round, ready for the slightest celebration. Sparkling wines are made all over the world, but Spain, Italy, France, and the U.S. all make quality wines that are easy to find. **Cava** is generally the best value. The most readily available producers are Codorníu, Freixenet, and Segura Viudas. They all make excellent wines for less than \$10, but the



Cava to go for is **Segura Viudas Reserva Heredad** (\$25), offered in a gorgeous bottle with a pewter base. It's one of Spain's best sparkling wines. Italy's

Proseccos are made all over the country, and there are the occasional duds on the market. One that's dependably good is **Adami's Prosecco Brut Garbèl** (\$14).

The U.S. market is dominated by Californian wines, and there are a number of great ones. I highly recommend the **Domaine Carneros Brut Rosé** (\$35), but other American wines are nearly as good for much less. Try **Domaine Ste. Michelle Blanc de Noirs** (\$13) or the pride of New Mexico, **Chateau Gruet Blanc de Noirs**

(\$14). The French invented Champagne, and they're still quite proud of the accomplishment. The term Champagne is the name of a place in France and is now protected, so Champagnes are supposedly from Champagne. Drinkable Champagnes usually start at \$35 and go from there to more than \$1,000 a bottle. Over the last decade, the hot type has been **grower Champagnes** – wines made by the person who grows the grapes. As opposed to most Champagne that's made by conglomerates that buy grapes from all over the region with the goal of producing a consistent wine year after year, growers prize their vintage-by-vintage differences. A good grower Champagne that's easy to find is **Gaston Chiquet Brut Blanc de Blancs** (\$60). My all-time favorite from a larger producer is **Bollinger's Special Cuvée** (\$50).

Meal Times Dec. 2-10

- ▶ Texas AgriLife Extension hosts a workshop on **commercial wine grape production** at its Gillespie County office (95 Fredericksburg Rd., Fredericksburg). \$150 per person, \$250 per couple; register at agriliferegister.tamu.edu. Friday, Dec. 2, 8:30am-3pm.
- ▶ **Slow Money Austin** hosts a benefit at the Barr Mansion (10463 Sprinkle) with a discussion about growing Austin's food economy followed by dinner, vendor booths, and live music. Minimum \$25 donation at the door. Friday, Dec. 2, 5pm.
- ▶ Teachers from the Sustainable Food Center's **Cocina Alegre** present a **tamale-making class** featuring healthy local ingredients at 5604 Manor Rd. \$55 at www.sustainablefoodcenter.org. Saturday, Dec. 3, 10am-1pm.
- ▶ **La Chaparrita** Peruvian restaurant (Highland Mall food court) celebrates its first anniversary with prizes, giveaways, and live music. Saturday, Dec. 3, 6-11pm.

- ▶ Fusebox Festival hosts the **Digestible Feats Spirit Salon** at the East Side Show Room (1100 E. Sixth) with six American whiskeys and two classic cocktails. A limited number of \$35 tickets are available at www.fuseboxfestival.com. Sunday, Dec. 4, 5pm.
- ▶ This year's **Wine Me Dine Me** series at Cafe Josie (1200-B W. Sixth) ends with a five-course **Sparkling Celebration** dinner. \$75 all-inclusive, at 322-9226. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6-9pm.
- ▶ Enjoy cocktails made from **local spirits** paired with **wild game** at Jack Allen's Kitchen (7720 Hwy. 71 W.) to benefit the Lone Star Paralysis Foundation. \$100 per person at 745-4713. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7pm.
- ▶ The Wine & Food Foundation of Texas hosts a **wine and chocolate dinner** at La Sombra Bar & Grill (4800 Burnet Rd.); \$55 for members, \$65 for nonmembers. Reserve at www.winefoodfoundation.org. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7pm.
- ▶ Gusto Tastings hosts a **sommelier-led wine tasting** at Westcave Cellars Winery (25711 Hamilton Pool Rd., Round Mountain). \$10 advance; \$20 at the door. Find registration information at www.gustotastings.com. Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7pm. – V.B.W.

food-o-file

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Like many female Austinites in the Seventies, I became enamored of **Joe Gracey's** voice and his voluminous musical knowledge listening to him on KOKE-FM. By the time I finally met him a few years back, cancer had robbed him of his voice, but his nimble mind and wicked wit were still as enchanting as ever. I met Joe and his wife, **Kimmie Rhodes**, when I was assigned to profile her for the *Chronicle* Music section (see “Rich from the Journey,” Music, Feb. 1, 2002). The three of us bonded over a shared love of music and good food. From then on, whether they were helping me determine wine and dessert pairings for a Valentine's presentation at Spicewood Vineyards, hosting a benefit dinner for Project Transitions, or entertaining visiting magazine editor Colman Andrews in their Briarcliff home, Joe and Kimmie generously shared discriminating palates, great humor, genuine friendship, and warm hospitality. I'm still proud of the fact that introducing them to Andrews played a part in Joe being invited to submit food articles to *Saveur* magazine and connecting the talented duo to Kelly Ann Hargrove had them teaching cooking classes as part of Central Market's Austin Music on the Menu series. I had a big crush on their marriage: a romance, a creative and business partnership, and a family all rolled into one. We should all be so lucky to have what Joe and Kimmie had in this life. The cancer returned recently and took Joe Gracey last month. Everyone who loved him feels that loss, and our hearts go out to Kimmie and their entire family.

Owners of **Noble Pig** (11815 RR 620 N. #4) threw a media party to launch a new deli space next door to the popular Northwest Austin sandwich shop where everything is made from scratch. From the deli case, we sampled excellent charcuterie, dynamic mustards and pickled items, and pastrami to die for, all served with house-made breads. The food here is well worth the long drive.

I've been busy checking out new **Sunday brunch** offerings. It came as no surprise that the brunch at **Contigo** (2027 Anchor) was busy as soon as it was announced. Go early if you don't want to wait for a table (10:30am-2:30pm), and be sure to try the beef tongue hash (\$12), the rabbit with dumplings (\$15), and the potentially addictive raspberry jelly doughnuts (\$3)... There was no wait for a table last Sunday when our party of 12 gathered at the new **Eleven Plates & Wine** (3801 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Ste. C-200). We enjoyed attentive service and excellent food. The eggs Benedict with jumbo lump crab cakes (\$18) and bananas Foster French toast (\$10) were the consensus stars of the table. The staff takes great care brewing the house signature iced teas, hot chai tea, and coffee drinks, and there's an extensive, eclectic wine selection. Go now (Sundays, 10am-3pm), before the folks of Davenport Ranch and Riverbend Church make this delightful gem their go-to neighborhood brunch spot.

The fabulous annual holiday light and music extravaganza at **Mozart's Coffee Roasters** (3826 Lake Austin Blvd.) is bigger and better than ever this year; enjoy it hourly from 6pm until midnight through New Year's Eve.

Be Merry

Eat Drink Local Week comes of age

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

When journalist and community activist **Marla Camp** entered into a trademark licensing agreement with **Edible Communities** to produce a magazine focusing on local food in 30 Central Texas counties in early 2007, the learning curve necessary to get up to speed on the subject was pretty steep. Camp turned out to be a quick study, however, and by early December of that same year, **Edible Austin** sponsored a small slate of events for the first Eat Local Week. A handful of restaurants agreed to feature a local dish on their menus for the week, but some area food writers demonstrated their complete lack of knowledge of Central Texas growing seasons by speculating about the wisdom of scheduling a celebration of local food for the first week in December. Camp, on the other hand, had done her homework. She was well aware that the late-fall growing season would deliver a bounty of crops: lettuces, cabbage, spinach, and other greens; beets; carrots; turnips; fennel; broccoli; cauliflower; hard squashes; and persimmons, plus citrus fruit from the Rio Grande Valley, dairy products, eggs, and grass-fed, hormone-and-antibiotic-free beef, lamb, pork, bison, goat, and poultry – plenty of food to warrant a seasonal celebration!

Since that humble beginning in 2007, Eat Local Week has grown every year, increasing restaurant participation and adding events that appeal to Austin's diverse community. As the area craft-brewing scene exploded and more Texas distilleries opened, events were added to showcase those products, and the title evolved into Eat Drink Local Week. (See "Eat Drink Local Event Schedule," right, for a schedule of events.) The crown jewel of this year's celebration is An Evening With

Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson, author-activists and influential architects of the modern sustainable-food movement. Tickets to the presentation were so coveted that both the originally scheduled evening event and an added matinee sold out quickly. For the first time this year, the festivities commence with an online Chef Auction (www.edibleaustin.com/auction), in which foodies can bid on personal dinners for eight guests, to be prepared in the winner's home or a private venue by renowned area chefs David Bull, Bryce Gilmore, Jesse Griffiths, Zack Northcutt, Will Packwood, Sibby Barrett, Terry Thompson-Anderson, and chefs from the Sustainable Food Center's Happy Kitchen/La Cocina Alegre.

Eat Drink Local Week activities provide a valuable spotlight for area restaurants, growers, food artisans, winemakers, craft brewers, and distillers while raising much-needed funds for two worthy food-related local nonprofits:

- The **Sustainable Food Center** operates three of Austin's busiest and most successful farmers' markets and increases access to healthy, local food through programs such as Grow Local, Farm Direct, Sprouting Healthy Kids, and healthy cooking classes at the Happy Kitchen.
- **Urban Roots** was created the same year as *Edible Austin* as a farm program for at-risk



Contigo's featured dish for Eat Drink Local Week

PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

high school kids under the auspices of the multidimensional YouthLaunch. The program has grown from one small plot to a 3.5-acre urban farm that provides annual paid internships for area high school students as they learn to cultivate, grow, market, and distribute organic produce for themselves and the local community. Urban Roots recently celebrated its transition from being one of several programs under the YouthLaunch umbrella to being an independent nonprofit entity. Donations generated during Eat Drink Local Week will support worthwhile programs of both SFC and Urban Roots as they give back to the entire community – everybody wins.

As Eat Drink Local Week has grown, the indefatigable Camp has tweaked the schedule and ironed out kinks. For example, when area farmers complained that staff at some of the restaurants listed in the EDLW promotional materials couldn't name or describe the local dishes offered, Camp developed a plan to solve the problem. She made a diligent effort to pair newly recruited restaurants with area growers and required that each participating restaurant submit a description of its featured dish along with source information before Thanksgiving. Now, when Austinites dine out during EDLW, participating restaurants will present special printed menus describing their local offering and its sources. Refer to the handy list of restaurants and local dishes on the *Edible Austin* website when making plans to dine out during the coming week. Support the local economy and our vibrant local food scene by eating and drinking local Dec. 3-10 – you'll be glad you did. ■

EAT DRINK LOCAL EVENT SCHEDULE

Buy tickets for the following events online (www.edibleaustin.com) or at the events. Visit the same website for a list of 40-plus restaurants that will feature a locally sourced special entrée on their menus during the week.

Urban Farm Bike Tour Saturday, Dec. 3, 9am; multiple locations

This family-friendly outing has been expanded this year, with optional longer rides and stops at urban farms and school and community gardens. Tours will depart from three separate locations: Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar (9am); the Downtown Farmers' Market (10am); and the Triangle (9am). \$30; kids under 16, free.

Pig Roast and Harvest Dinner Saturday, Dec. 3, 4-7pm; Springdale Farm, 755 Springdale Rd.

Work up an appetite for this party during the bike ride, then feast on local pork and seasonal side dishes with the added bonus of live music and tours of Austin's newest urban farm. \$30.

Coffee and Chocolate Festival Sunday, Dec. 4, 11am-3pm; Texas Coffee Traders, 1400 E. Fourth

Several area coffee roasters will present coffees and coffee drinks to complement the delectable sweets from new, local chocolatiers such as Edis' Chocolates, Delysia Chocolatier, and Sip, as well as perennial favorites Miles of Chocolate and Cocoa Puro. \$25.

BeneFeast: 'Moonstruck' Monday, Dec. 5, 7pm; Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar

Alamo Executive Chef John Bullington has designed an Italian-immigrant-inspired New York menu with wine pairings to enhance this delightful romantic comedy. \$70; purchase tickets online at www.drafthouse.com.

Better Bites of Austin's Holiday Gift Fair

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 4-9pm; the Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace

More than two dozen local food and beverage artisans will present samples of their wares at this free event that offers excellent holiday shopping opportunities.

Drink Local Night Thursday, Dec. 8, 6:30-9:30pm; AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave.

Be on hand in the grand ballroom as River City's best mixologists compete to have their local libation designated as the Official Drink of Austin for 2012. Enjoy appetizers from Swift's Attic, BC Tavern, the Carillon, and Lick Ice Creams. \$35.

Local Brew Fest Saturday, Dec. 10, 1-5pm; Black Star Co-op, 7020 Easy Wind #100

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David Alan of Tippy Texan will be featured at Drink Local Night

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Before long, we'll all be tired of Christmas cookies and bored with eggnog. And don't even mention that annual culinary punch line, fruitcake. Still, **food makes a great gift.** So take our advice on some slightly more original choices. *Newsweek* (Nov. 17, 2003)

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For fans of Reggie's, which was located on Chicon for four years, these are happy times. **Reggie Welton**, the big chef with the bigger smile, has returned. He's now on the Southwest corner of Airport and Manor Road; you can't miss the red trailer surrounded by red and yellow pennants. Welton learned to cook back in Beaumont from his father, Pastor George Nobles. "He taught me how to make homemade barbecue links, boudin, gumbo, wild game, a true chili, you name it," says Welton. For church fundraisers, they would first catch all of the fish before they filleted and fried them. "When I would see the smiles of joy and hear the praises from the people about how good

that fish really was and the freshness of it, it made all the hard work worth it."

With a culinary pedigree like that, it's no wonder Welton makes the best **catfish** in town (\$7): fresh, crunchy, moist, and steaming, with a thin, spicy cornmeal crust. His lighter-than-air green-onion hush puppies are the stuff of legend, and his side dish of Cajun rice is perhaps the best dirty rice we have ever eaten. It's dirtier than most, loaded with meats and chicken giblets, and seasoned with cayenne, chicken fat, and the Creole holy trinity (celery, bell pepper, and onion, as well as garlic). His plump, spicy, rich homemade **boudin** (\$3.75) is excellent as well, almost a meal in itself.

Welton serves **deep-fried pork ribs** (\$8); the light, golden crust seals in all that pork flavor; ditto for the **fried pork chops** (\$7). His mastery of frying also carries over to the **chicken wings** (\$7). We shouldn't have been surprised by the taste and quality of the huge, juicy **cheeseburger** (\$6), but this is no throwaway menu option. There are no

losers on Welton's menu, and we can't wait for him to start making his homemade barbecue links. Through December, he'll be coaching youth football on Saturdays, and the 7pm-3am shift on Fridays will come later, but if you, like us, wondered where Welton went, wonder no more.

— Mick Vann

La Fruta Feliz
3124 Manor Rd., 961-5013
Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm; Saturday,
6:30am-7pm; Sunday, 6:30am-6pm

What began as a small, unassuming *aguas frescas* and *licuados* joint one block east of Airport has gobbled up the space next door, expanded the menu, and blossomed into one of the premier taquerias in Austin, producing fresh, delicious, handmade, authentic foods of Mexico, created with care and attention.

We started the initial visit with a **shrimp cocktail** (\$7.99/9.99) served in a massive goblet, packed with shrimp in a Mexico City-style sauce (made with a little Jarritos mandarin soda) and wearing an avocado sombrero. Then we couldn't pass up some **chilaquiles** (\$4.99), made with Fruta's fresh, handmade corn tortillas: a good choice smothered in a very spicy green sauce and served with some rich, lardy beans. **Tacos** (\$1.50-1.99; plates, \$7.99-9.99) steal the show, however. **Pork al pastor** is wonderful: spicy and slightly sweet with caramelized onions and a fruity finish. The **barbacoa** is top notch, with a very rich, beefy flavor, while the **picadillo** is mind-numbingly good, made from minced — not ground — beef. What sucked us in originally was the promise of *chivo* (goat barbacoa), which melts in your mouth with intensely good flavor and isn't too gamey. The **carne guisada** is tender and bathing in a rich, beefy, *comino*-kissed sauce, while the **pork carnitas** are tender and unctuous. Fruta Feliz also has *chicharrón*, *lengua*, and *tripas*, which I can only assume are as good as all the rest.



PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

You can get any of the meats in **tostada**, *sope*, or **gordita** form (\$2.50), topped with lettuce, onion, tomato, and *crema fresca*, but why pass up those amazing corn tortillas? We had a really intensely flavored **pineapple agua fresca** (\$2.50-2.99), and topped that off with a **Sidral Mundet apple soda** for some burps (\$1.50). There's a section of seafood soups and a *parrillada* mixed grill with my name on it for the next visit, and the menu also offers a daily special (\$5.99-7.99). When it all settles out, La Fruta Feliz has vaulted into rarified territory as one of the best taquerias in town, right up there with El Taco Rico and Mi Ranchito.

— M.V.

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This is the place for traditional Interior Mexican cuisine, including several gluten-free choices. Much of the produce comes from its own garden or local farms. Eggs and chickens come to the table from Vital Farms. Try the Angels on Horseback, or just show up for the famous Sunday brunch. 2330 W. North Loop, 459-4121. www.fondasanmiguel.com.



'BEST OF AUSTIN' AWARDS

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1994: Nationally Famous Mexican Sunday Brunch
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RESTAURANT POLL AWARDS

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Readers Mexican (non-Tex-Mex) (16 times, 1995-98, 2000-11)
Readers Sunday Brunch (11 times, 1995-98, 2000-06)
Readers Decor (eight times, 1998, 2001-06, 2008)
Readers Enchiladas (2011)
Readers Buffet (2001)
Critics Enchiladas (2004)
Critics Mexican (non-Tex-Mex) (2004)
Critics Service/Waitstaff (2004)
Critics Wine List (2004)
Critics Decor (twice, 2003-2004)
Critics Sunday Brunch (twice, 2003-04)
Critics Original Recipe (2000)
Critics Best Chef (1998)
Critics Best Chicken Dish (1997)
Critics Best Restaurant Ice Creams (twice, 1995 & 1997)
Critics Best Chile Pepper Dish (1995)

From the Chronicle Restaurant Guide

austinchronicle.com/restaurant

FARM TO TABLE: FRESH PICKS

Eastside Cafe This well-established place has been serving some of the healthiest food on the Eastside for quite a long time. The large herb and vegetable garden in back makes for fantastic fresh plates, and a dedicated gluten-free menu makes it fun for everyone. 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858.

Barley Swine This gastro-pub offers small plates of skillfully prepared seasonal and local foods. Long waits are typical, but for a chance to sample the work of Bryce Gilmore - one of *Food & Wine's* Best New Chefs 2011 - well worth it. 2024 S. Lamar, 394-8150.

34th Street Cafe This place has enjoyed neighborhood success and beyond for 16 years now. New chef Jason Tallent has revitalized the dinner menu but continues the tradition of exquisite food presented simply. Among the standards are some delicious jewels, such as Strube Ranch Wagyu flatiron steak and baby greens with shaved persimmon. 1005 W. 34th, 371-3400.

The HighBall With a dynamite view of Downtown, this eclectic pleasure palace from the masterminds of the Alamo Drafthouse offers appetizers, comfort food entrées, and desserts for dinner and late-night dining. Plus, how can you go wrong with bowling, karaoke, and Skee-ball? 1142 S. Lamar, 383-8309.

Cipollina When chef Daniel Hunt took the helm here in 2010, the emphasis shifted to a seasonal menu composed of locally sourced ingredients. Mediterranean-inspired dishes abound, such as frittatas at lunchtime, as well as *panzanella* and signature pizzas all the time. For dinner, try the tagliatelle or wood-fired quail. 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211.

Asti Local greens from Boggy Creek Farm are a standard, as are many other locally found ingredients. For varied Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park neighborhood stalwart. 408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218.

Gumbo's This decade-old seafood emporium, located in the historic Brown Building, keeps both regulars and newcomers coming back for fresh fruit-of-the-sea preparations like Redfish Francine. It can brag about plenty of gluten-free choices and local ingredients, as well. 710 Colorado #100, 480-8053.

wink If you enjoy exemplary meals crafted with local, fresh ingredients in a loud, friendly atmosphere, this is your kind of place. The menu changes frequently, featuring adventuresome dishes like the foie gras BLT. 1014-E N. Lamar, 482-8868.

The Inn at Dos Brisas Ranch It's quite a drive for dinner, but the Inn at Dos Brisas, near Brenham, not only boasts one of the largest wine lists in Texas, but is also a full-service resort. Why go home after enjoying a locally sourced, Forbes five-star-rated menu? 10000 Champion Dr., Washington, 979/277-7750.

parkside boasts simple surf and turf in a bistro setting with a full oyster and raw bar, amazing mac and cheese, and local ingredients, as well as great desserts. Stop by for dinner and the late-night scene or a quick prowl through the half-price bar menu at happy hour. 301 E. Sixth, 474-9898.

Olivia Excellent American regional cuisine is based on what's fresh from local farmers and ranchers and paired with a full bar. For dessert, try the duck egg creme caramel with ginger-pear crisp. 2043 S. Lamar, 804-2700.

La Condesa Chef Rene Ortiz and pastry chef Laura Sawicki whip up neo-Mexican cuisine as well as gluten-free options at this 2nd Street District anchor and winner of the 2011 Restaurant Poll. It was also a 2010 semifinalist for a James Beard Foundation Award for Best New Restaurant. 400-A W. Second, 499-0300.

24 Diner This "chef-inspired comfort food" includes stuffed Swiss chard, beer cheese, and a fancy twist on fried jalapeños, plus burgers, breakfast, and meat loaf. Don't forget about the milkshakes. 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400.

Jack Allen's Kitchen This elegantly casual interior, rich with reclaimed wood, earth tones, and natural light, has a separate lounge and bar area. Locally sourced dishes make this a rare South Austin delight. Wheelchair accessible. 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 852-8558.

Kerby Lane Cafe Quaint West Austin cottages give this original location the old-Austin charm of a well-loved institution. Those big salads are grown just for you on its own 30-acre farm. 3704 Kerby, 451-1436.



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| * Sun. Dec. 4 | Coffee and Chocolate Festival |
| Sun. Dec. 4 | A Conversation with Wendell Berry and Wes Jackson (sold out) |
| Mon. Dec. 5 | Alamo Benefeast: Moonstruck |
| * Wed. Dec. 7 | Better Bites Holiday Gift Fair |
| * Thurs. Dec. 8 | Drink Local Night |

* Sat. Dec. 10

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SCREENS



Santa, Baby

IF WISHES WERE KISSES, WE'D TOTALLY FRENCH KRINGLE FOR A CRACK AT THESE GOODIES

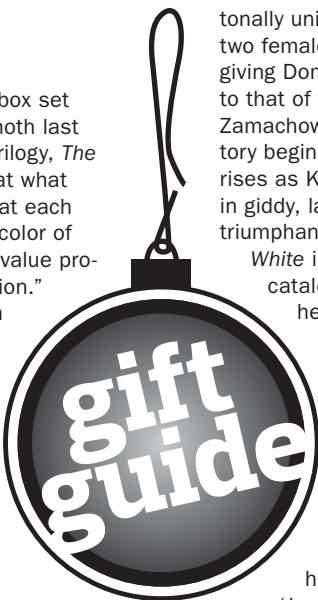
Three Colors: Blue White Red Criterion Collection, \$79.95

In an essay included in this box set of Krzysztof Kieślowski's mammoth last undertaking, the Three Colors trilogy, *The Nation's* Stuart Klawans sniffs at what he calls the "elaborate claim that each part of the trilogy represents a color of the French flag and a universal value promulgated by the French Revolution." Kieślowski admitted that French funding as much as anything inspired the idea to parcel out the themes of liberty, equality, and fraternity per film, and the trilogy doesn't slavishly stay on message but rather obliquely flits at these ideas. *Blue* is about a widowed wife and mother trying to free herself from all vestiges of the past; *White* charts an important Pole's attempts to even the playing field with his scornful French ex-wife, in an unlabored allegory of post-Communist Poland's attempts to catch up to the EU; and *Red* follows the unlikely bond between a young model and an aging judge. Still, Klawans continues, "It might be just as well to match the titles to the lead actresses' hair color and call the films *Brunette, Blonde, Redhead*."

He's referring to the stunning triumvirate of Juliette Binoche, Julie Delpy, and Irene Jacob, who headline these thematically and

tonally unique films. Unlike the other two female-led pictures, Delpy's unforgiving Dominique is secondary in *White* to that of the hero Karol (Zbigniew Zamachowski), whose storybook trajectory begins with limp-dick mortification; rises as Karol becomes an entrepreneur in giddy, lawless Warsaw; and ends in triumphant revenge against his ex.

White is a rare comedy in Kieślowski's catalog – "you won't laugh your head off," he warns of the film's droll charms. Equality is *White*'s assigned ideal, but it could just as easily be swapped out for another: What else but fraternity unites Karol, broke and stranded in a Paris metro station and playing a mournful Polish folk song on his comb kazoo, with Mikolaj (Janusz Gajos), another Pole out of sorts and hungry for human connection, who is crucial to ferreting Karol out of France and back to his native Poland in time for that astronomical rise? Or what of the notion of liberty? Later, Mikolaj will ask Karol to kill him – to free him of his misery. "We all know pain," Karol assures him. "Yes, but I wanted less of it," Mikolaj shrugs back. Nope, you won't laugh your head off, but are a wry smile, the ache of understanding, and that peculiar pleasure of Eastern European gallows humor any less worthy? – Kimberley Jones



More foreign finds: **Jean-Luc Godard's *Histoire(s) du Cinéma*** (Olive Films, \$49.95); ***The Rules of the Game*** (Criterion, \$29.95); ***Great Italian Directors Collection*** (Lorber Films, \$49.95); ***Landmarks of Early Soviet Cinema*** (Flicker Alley, \$69.95)

Saul Bass: A Life in Film & Design by Jennifer Bass and Pat Kirkham Laurence King Publishing, 440 pp., \$75



Film laypeople may not know Saul Bass' name, but they can recognize his work in an instant: The Lissajous spirals of *Vertigo's* uneasy opening sequence. The fractured corpse of *Anatomy of a Murder's* poster art. The jagged appendage that telegraphed *The Man With the Golden Arm's* theme of addiction. Prior to inhaling the doorstopper *Saul Bass: A Life in Film & Design*, I did know his name and certainly his reputation as the most celebrated title-sequence designer in film history, but I didn't have a clue of the staggering breadth of his accomplishments. Four hundred pages and 1,484 illustrations later, I think I got the picture.

Designed by Bass' daughter Jennifer, written by design historian Pat Kirkham, and leaning heavily on first-person materials Bass assembled himself for a memoir that was never to be, *Saul Bass: A Life in Film & Design* is a gorgeous monument to the man. It catalogs in full color his lesser-known work on corporate identity campaigns; indeed, some of the most indelible brand imagery of the mid-20th century – logos for Lawry's seasoning, Alcoa, Continental Airlines, Quaker Oats, and Girl Scouts of America, to name but a few – can be traced back to his shop.

But it's film where his legacy was forged, and the book engagingly traces Bass' introduction to "title backgrounds," as they were first known, and explains how he foregrounded the format to revolutionary effect. Bass is best known for his close, collaborative relationships with three dynamos – Otto Preminger, Alfred Hitchcock, and Martin Scorsese (who supplies the foreword) – and the book digs deep into those partnerships to show how instrumental Bass' influence was. (The book also pays tender tribute to another partnership: the one with his wife and collaborator, Elaine, whose essential contributions to Bass' work from 1960 on are often overlooked.) Kirkham details how Bass took Hitch's directive to "do something" with *Psycho's* shower scene and conceptualized himself one of the most iconic scenes in the whole of Hitchcock's filmography, from storyboards to a rough draft shot with Janet Leigh's body double that mimicked the fast cuts and montage style Bass had refined to the actual direction of the scene. Afterward, Hitchcock was cagey about publicly giving him credit, but Bass was still generous, calling the experience of working with him "the graduate course in film theory I never took." – K.J.

More from masters of the craft: ***The Age of Movies: Selected Writings of Pauline Kael*** by Pauline Kael (Library of America, \$40); ***Pauline Kael: A Life in the Dark*** by Brian Kellow (Viking Adult, \$27.95); ***Chuck Jones: The Dream That Never Was*** edited by Dean Mullaney and Kurtis Findlay (IDW Publishing, \$49.99)

The Adventures of Tintin: Season One Shout! Factory, \$16.98

It should come as no surprise that I still own the 44-year-old copies of *Children's Digest* in which I discovered Tintin. As the intrigue-chasing young reporter would surely concur, once you've found a treasure, you don't let it go. At age 9, I saw in those black-and-white serialized installments of his globe-trotting escapades a king's ransom of mysteries, thrills, and exotic locales, and for tales of adventure, I still consider the Tintin comics priceless.

And clearly, I'm not alone, since Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson have put their mammoth Hollywood muscle (and about a bazillion bucks) behind a trilogy of 3-D CGI blockbuster films about Tintin, the first of which hits cinemas stateside Dec. 21. Unfortunately, our cartoon hero's, um, fleshed-out look in these computerized adaptations has some fans fearing they'll be sitting through *Tintin and the Curse of the Uncanny Valley*. Well, thundering typhoons, here comes Shout! Factory to the rescue, re-releasing an animated series of Tintin tales in which the lad is flat as the good lord – and Hergé, Tintin's Belgian creator – intended.

A joint effort from French animation studio Ellipse and Canadian counterpart Nelvana, the 1991-1992 series adapted 21 Tintin tales over three 13-episode seasons. Though

they squeeze each book into one or two half-hours, these streamlined versions maintain a surprising fidelity to the originals, with dialogue lifted directly from the English translations and animation that hews to Hergé's pristine, elegant designs. The animators faithfully reproduce the look of the characters, the international settings, and the vintage planes, trains, and automobiles that the artist rendered so meticulously. They even transfer some of his panels wholesale to the screen. Though the results are rarely as dramatic as when limned by Hergé, they still communicate the flavor of his action, and the cartoons' charcoal lines and vibrant watercolor hues add richness to the visuals.

Tintinophiles will no doubt have their individual nits to pick – for me, the comedic appeal of the Clouseau-like Thompson twins never makes it off the page, and I'd have liked more vocal variety in Snowy's barking – but with what all the cartoons get right, I can bear the rest. After all, they let me face dangers in distant lands in the company of an intrepid, resourceful young man; his band of loyal if somewhat daffy comrades; and his plucky, wacky pooch. The animated *Adventures of Tintin* hits me squarely in the 9-year-old. – Robert Faires

More animated antics: ***Mr. Magoo: The Television Collection, 1960-1977*** (Shout! Factory, \$59.99); ***Winnie the Pooh*** (Disney, \$44.99); ***Jem and the Holograms: The Truly Outrageous Complete Series*** (Shout! Factory, \$59.99)



**Steve McQueen:
The Actor and His Films**
by Andrew Antoniadis and Mike Siegel
Dalton Watson Fine Books, 492 pp., \$69

He is the "king of cool," one of cinema's great rebel outsiders. He looks sensational in Western chaps and military uniforms, racing helmets and well-tailored suits. He might be bare-chested or wearing tattered prison garb or a fire chief's heavy jacket. He is Steve McQueen, and though he died in 1980, he remains an enduring icon of raw, American masculinity.

Can more than 1,000 pictures do an icon justice? That's the fond hope of the publisher of this handsomely designed, oversized volume that catalogs the movie star's film career. Dalton Watson Fine Books is a British publisher of art books about automotive-related subjects, though *Steve McQueen: The Actor and His Films* is a product of the company's Icons division, an offshoot of its Motoring division. And, certainly,

the most iconic image of McQueen's acting career is the picture of the prisoner of war he played in *The Great Escape* soaring to freedom over a barbed-wire fence on a Triumph motorcycle. Add McQueen's famous love of motor-bikes to his passion and skill as a race-car driver (and the films *Bullitt* and *Le Mans* that serve as testaments to his fanaticism), and it's understandable why Dalton Watson views him as an icon. Looking over its catalog, however, it's instantly noticeable that this is not the first but rather the third book on McQueen from this publisher. At this rate, Dalton Watson will soon have to open an Obsessions division.

Joking aside, *Steve McQueen: The Actor and His Films* does the screen idol justice. The book's 790 photographs are supplemented by another 230 illustrations taken from posters and lobby cards, all reproduced with immaculate care. The text, by avowed McQueen fans Andrew Antoniadis and Mike Siegel, is knowledgeable and thorough. The material repeats information culled from other biographical sources but arranges it in a film-by-film chronology. (Apart from *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, McQueen's television career is overlooked by this volume – but maybe that's being held in abeyance for a fourth McQueen bio from Dalton Watson.) Chapters at the beginning and end offer a biographical overview and reflections on the star's legacy, but these chapters serve mostly as refreshers. They won't provide any new insights for McQueen loyalists, who will nevertheless luxuriate in this marvelous collection of images. – Marjorie Baumgarten

**Barney Miller:
The Complete Series**
Shout! Factory,
\$159.99

If you fondly recall that television sitcom from the end of the 1970s, the one about a diverse group of detectives working for the 12th



Precinct in big, bad New York City, don't be alarmed by the pilot (and opening episodes) included to make this box set of *Barney Miller* complete. You've simply forgotten, as a perp might confuse his or her long-held alibi, that the series started out as half domestic comedy and half cop-shop antics before quickly evolving into the exclusively-at-the-precinct-house classic most of us recall.

There, I went and said "classic," didn't I? Guilty as charged, and I stand by the word. The show, featuring Hal Linden as the beleaguered but chill police captain and showcasing a wonderful ensemble of actors as the concrete-jungle dicks, is a fine TV snapshot of the culture of its time and often genuinely funny – thanks mostly to the character relationships, the vicissitudes of law enforcement serving the same galvanizing effect that surrealism affords the similarly character-driven Web comic *Achewood*.

By the time you get to the end of the series, all eight seasons' worth, you'll likely be wanting to check the "extras" of this box set. The interviews with the actors and the writers will be just what those things usually are, except that it's nothing but a pure delight to see more of Abe Vigoda – in character or out – which is why the inclusion of the brief spin-off series *Fish*'s first season is a real bonus. – Wayne Alan Brenner

More workplace shenanigans: **Law & Order: The Complete Series** (Universal Studios, \$699.99); **The Office: 10th Anniversary Edition** (BBC Warner, \$39.98); **Mission: Impossible – Extreme DVD Trilogy** (Paramount, \$26.99)

More to feed your celebrity fetish: **Then Again** by Diane Keaton (Random House, \$26); **The Garner Files: A Memoir** by James Garner and Jon Winokur (Simon & Schuster, \$25.99); **Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)** by Mindy Kaling (Crown Archetype, \$25); **God, If You're Not Up There, I'm F*cked: Tales of Stand-Up, Saturday Night Live, and Other Mind-Altering Mayhem** by Darrell Hammond (HarperCollins, \$25.99)

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MUSIC

The drive-thru liquor store attached to the Jerry Lee Lewis Museum will soon be reopened, sister Frankie Jean Lewis assured the *Chronicle*.



I Love Rock & Roll

1, 2,
TRES,
CUATRO

BY MARGARET
MOSER

Shreveport, La., would like you to think of it as the birthplace of rockabilly.

I listened to this upstart suggestion during a recent music tour of the state's northern parishes. Like Texas, its corners sound as different from one another as possible. The Cajun and zydeco-dominated southwest contrasts with the jazz and blues of New Orleans, while both are complemented by the pure country, Delta blues, and nascent rock & roll from the north of the state.

Shreveport makes a good case for itself simply by keeping its Municipal Auditorium as it was, so that when you walk in, the endless nights of the *Louisiana Hayride* show echo high in its dome. Looking at the slim dressing room where **Elvis Presley** spent 18 months waiting every weekend to play in front of increasingly enthusiastic audiences is a stark freeze-frame of the hard, transient life musi-

cians lead, required at every performance to be at the top of their game, this and every night, damn those torpedoes. When **Hank Williams** played there, he was so confident he lounged outside in his car until minutes before he went onstage. Presley goofed in the dressing room, tuning up, hanging out, flirting, playing the young man's game. The building holds many secrets and tells only a few.

Keeping the auditorium historically pristine comes with a price – good luck getting around if you're in a wheelchair. Yet the payback is the very real sense that little has changed since the stage featured Presley, Williams, **Jerry Lee Lewis**, **Johnny Horton**, **Johnny Cash**, and the countless other names that made Shreveport's *Louisiana Hayride* as important to American music as **Nashville, Tenn.'s Grand Ole Opry**. Seeing **James Burton's** studio underscores the significance of north Louisiana's musicians, including Burton, Horton, the mighty **Leadbelly**, former **Gov. Jimmie Davis**, and the inimitable Jerry Lee Lewis.

This sort of regionalism runs feverishly in my blood, so when I hold the weighty **2011 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation Inc.** official ballot in my hands (note the full spelling of "and," no ampersand, plus sign, or idiotic 'n') and look at the nominees, it turns me into a South Austin, postmenopausal version of **Andy Rooney**.

It's not objections to the individual nominees, though I arbitrarily instituted rules for *Chronicle* RRHOF group votes over the years. The first rule is that we won't support any more Texans until they at least nominate the **13th Floor Elevators** and **Doug Sahm**. **Buddy Holly**, **ZZ Top**, and **Janis Joplin** went in, and after that, the Lone Star State's lengthy rock history offers rich veins of talent

to mine: past nominees included **Joe Tex**, and **Freddie King's** on the list this year. **Bob Wills** has been inducted, too, but the Texas showing is piss-poor overall when the architects of psychedelia and a true pioneer of roots rock languish outside the Hall.

To be sure, balloting is a murky business. Critical polling, popular votes, nominating boards, voting committees – there is an astonishing amount of shades of gray in numbers. To tally the *Chronicle's* Hall of Fame votes, we pick the top votes from group nominees and from individual nominees within.

Counting ballots for the *Chronicle* poll requires a wide knowledge of current releases and lobbying bands, as well as the ability to take a crash course in the ones I don't know to understand the difference between enthusiastic fans and outright stuffing.

There must be some vote-jostling that occurs in the RRHOF boardroom when the names are chosen, and again when the numbers come in. Even rock & roll survivors like **Danny Fields**, who served on the RRHOF nominating committee and famously blasted the process (blog.wfmu.org/freeform/2006/11/danny_fields_on.html), laughed when I told him of the *Chronicle's* imposed sanctions on voting.

"You think your vote counts?"

Another former member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Nominating Committee, **Jim Bessman**, wasted no words questioning the high degree of artists from the Atlantic Records label (www.jimbessman.com/blog/?cat=15).

I started to chart and diagram the current list of 2012 nominees, but **Charles Crossley Jr.** already did, exhaustively (www.futurerocklegends.com/blog_files/Charles_Crossley_Jr_breaks_down_2012.html). Now, it's silly to compare the talents of this year's nominees. It's their impact that counts, and for that, there are few pioneering names. Moreover, as estimable as some of these talents are – the **Faces**, **Freddie King** – they're generally lazy choices that overlook the force that brought them together: **rock & roll**. The RRHOF should endeavor to include the significant forces of rock & roll with an eye toward the regionalism that allowed it to develop so colorfully.

Lack of regionality and a process that excludes the one-hit wonders, whose ranks are legion, limit these choices in an area that depended on them. Although every passing year will reveal someone worthy of inclusion by virtue of the 25-years-of-career rule (and doncha know they are springing woodies to get **Green Day** and **Radiohead** in), by the year 2031, the RRHOF will be scraping the bucket for artists besides **Lady Gaga** and **Rihanna** to install. And with any luck, they'll have inducted the 13th Floor Elevators and Doug Sahm.

P.S.: I agree, Shreveport can call itself the birthplace of rockabilly and wait for some other place to challenge it.

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Foundation, Inc.

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Twenty-Seventh Annual Election: Nominees

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011
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ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME VOTE 2011

IN (FIVE NOMINEES IN ORDER)

Laura Nyro: One of the chairwomen of the board of singer-songwriters, she made everyone sound soulful and joyous.

Joan Jett & the Blackhearts: A genuine rock & roll force, pioneer female musician, and guitarist.

The **Small Faces/the Faces:** They earned their stripes before, during, and after **Rod Stewart**, and even rolled a **Stone**.

Freddie King: We suspend the rule of not voting for Texans because of "Hideaway," which, like Bill Doggett's "Honky Tonk," is required in order to call yourself a Texas guitarist.

War: Its multi-ethnic, authentic street roots remain a politically satisfying fusion of black funk and Chicano rhythm.

OUT

Beastie Boys: We're not fighting for their right to party yet.

The **Cure:** Not until the Elevators go in.

Donovan: Too-limited period of influence (while acknowledging hits and talent).

Eric B. & Rakim: **Gil Scott-Heron** should go in before any more rappers.

Guns n' Roses: No Joan Jett, no G'N'R.

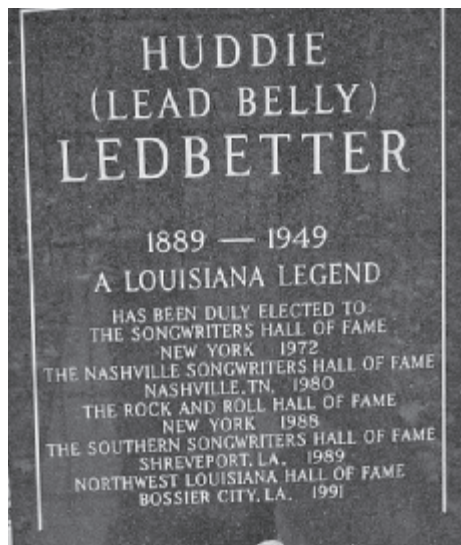
Heart: This was a tough call – the toughest – but Joan first. Next time.

Red Hot Chili Peppers: See Donovan.

Rufus: See Donovan.

The Spinners: See Donovan.

Donna Summer: See Donovan.



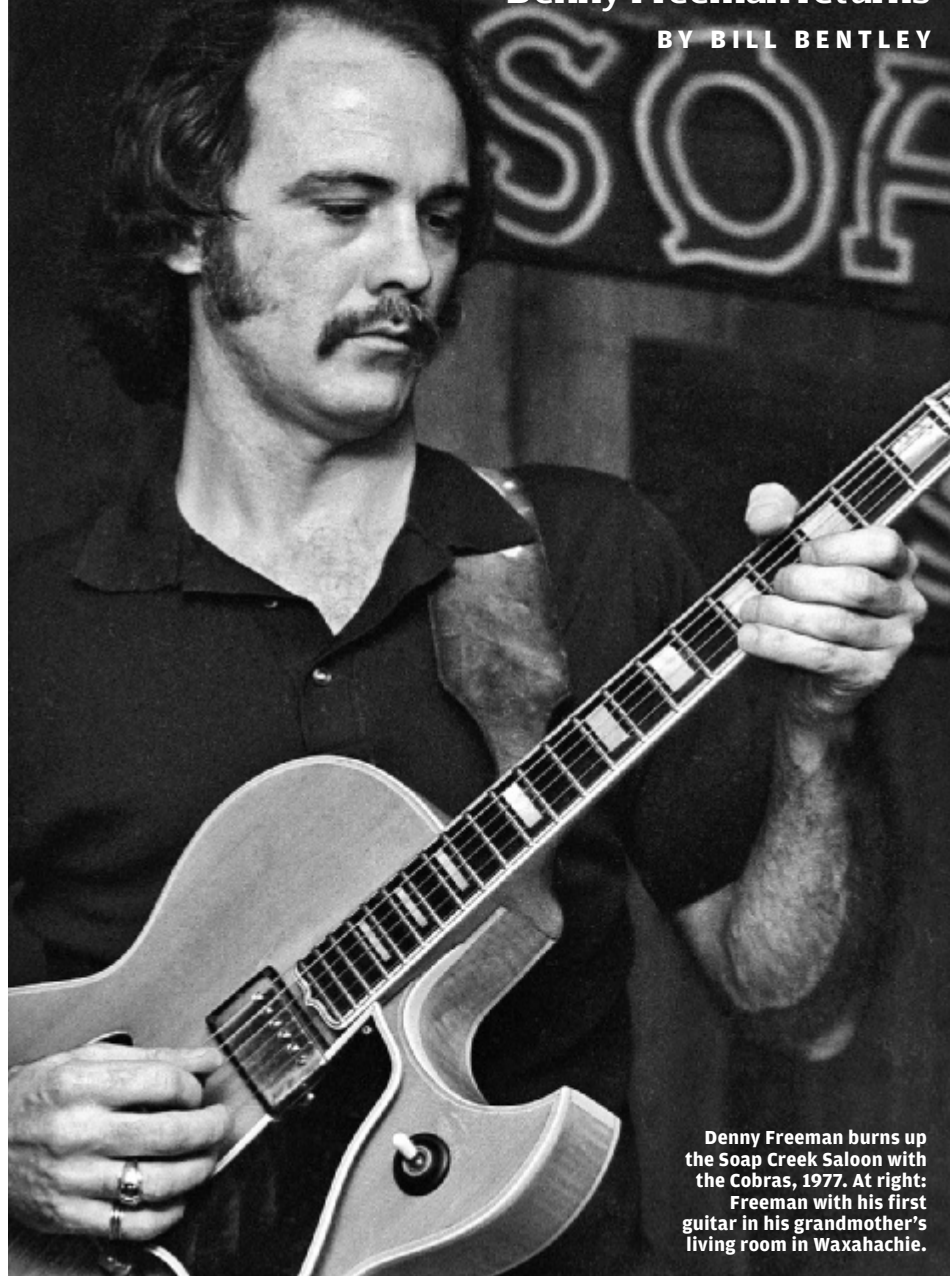
PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOUISIANA NORTH



Ten Fingers

Denny Freeman returns

BY BILL BENTLEY



Denny Freeman burns up the Soap Creek Saloon with the Cobras, 1977. At right: Freeman with his first guitar in his grandmother's living room in Waxahachie.

KEN HOGUE

For 32 years this story has been pounding inside me, begging to come out.

It started simply enough, in 1979, when I decided to write a feature for the *Austin Sun* called "Fifty Fingers." I'd chosen five local guitarists who flew somewhat under the radar, but always managed to paint the sky red whenever they took the bandstand.

Denny Freeman, Ike Ritter, Bill Campbell, Johnny Richardson, and John Reed never failed to reach that summit. They were hardwired to mesmerize us by the power of what two hands can do with just a piece of wood and six metal strings.

I began by interviewing Freeman at the bar of Abel Moses on 24th Street and Rio Grande. The site had been the home of Bevo's Westside Tap Room, a strange blend

of fraternity bar on one side and total bohemian enclave on the other. Out back was a biergarten where singers and bands were beginning to carve out a space for themselves in the shadow of the University of Texas Tower.

At that juncture, the city was crawling with guitar players, and several were already starting to make major-league names. Still, my five were always the ones who were never less than thrilling for me, no matter what planet they were playing on during any given night. Each held a secret treasure, and the way they'd share it with listeners felt like they were passing on something that couldn't stay bottled up inside them. There were moments of mind-jolting revelations that continually poured from those

players, and it made life a constant source of discovery following them around town.

The first time I heard Denny Freeman glows as bright inside me today as the night it happened. He was playing with Chuck and Julie Joyce, a married couple who also performed with country roots pioneer Kenneth Threadgill. This night they were on their own at the One Knite, ground zero for Austin clubs. The small room was located Downtown only a couple of blocks from police headquarters. It was around 1972, and the city was yet to discover its future destiny as the live music capital of the world. This night, the streets were sleepy and the dozen people sitting in the rickety chairs felt like a small cult of the deeply devoted.

Julie Joyce, sitting behind a beautiful mahogany kit, started singing "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," one of the great Southern anthems Robbie Robertson had written for the Band. This version belonged to Joyce. You could feel the pain of someone who had not only lost a relative or two, but also a war. When it came time for Freeman to solo, he first looked at the audience to see if anyone was there. The guitarist had a tentative feeling, like he wasn't sure if this was the proper time or place to do what was coming next.

Turning the treble knob on his instrument, Freeman started slow, building a few gorgeous chords that sounded like the wind blowing through a deserted cemetery. At the point where the music was settling in, the guitarist began hitting stinging single notes that were rifle shots mowing down a row of soldiers. Anger took over the tone, and it looked like Freeman himself had worked up a fever. Minutes later he switched to the orchestral and a denouement to all that fury. A gorgeous sonic cloud hung over the One Knite. Two people started screaming. Freeman gave off a sheepish look of surprise at what had just happened.

Bo Diddley's From Mars

There are moments in life that become crystallized inside us. If we're lucky, they grow into a series of stepping stones that move life forward. Music has given me so many of those moments they've become an unending soundtrack.

On "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," Freeman created something that lives forever there. I got sidetracked on the "Fifty Fingers" story and moved to Los Angeles instead, but for me there's an aura surrounding Freeman to this day. He went on to become a foundation of Austin music,

playing in Storm with Jimmie Vaughan, forming the Cobras with Paul Ray (an early vehicle for Stevie Ray Vaughan), and being featured in groups with Angela Strehli and Lou Ann Barton before moving to California to work with Taj Mahal's Phantom Blues Band and then five years playing lead guitar in Bob Dylan's group. He's lived a life that mostly eluded the big spotlight, but made no mistake: Denny Freeman has earned himself a place among the greats.

Freeman was born in an Army hospital in Florida, but his family moved to Hillsboro, Texas, almost right away. From there they relocated to Dallas when he was 8. Rock & roll hadn't found its way out of deep pockets in the South quite yet, but all that would change when the young boy heard the Don Hosenk Trio in the community room of a shopping center in Dallas.

"We'd go listen to the music and watch the folks dance the Lowlife, which was something unique to our part of town," recalls Freeman. "The guitar player in the band didn't sing. He just stood there looking like Elvis — playing a Fender Stratocaster. It was such a powerful image. I turned to my friend and said, 'We have to learn how to do that!'"

All previous bets were off as the teenager turned to the guitar. His mother took him to Elm Street, where the pawnshops were, and he walked out with a Stratocaster.

"Unbelievable," Freeman laughs today. "The coolest guitar ever made, and I had one, even if it was beat up a little and missing a couple of knobs. It must have been a sacrifice. We didn't have much money, so it's hard to believe she would do that."

His die was cast. As rock & roll grew, so did the

blues in a young man's heart.

"In Dallas, blues was part of the landscape. It was on the radio," says Freeman. "I could tell the difference between blues and rock & roll, but it was all mixed up. I'll never forget the first time I heard Bo Diddley and Jimmy Reed in the record store. Bo Diddley sounded like he was from Mars, and Jimmy Reed. I thought, 'Wait a minute, is that a harmonica, like at a campfire?' I thought, 'This is magical.'"

"I saw Elvis Presley at the Cotton Bowl in 1956 and a big show at the Sportatorium when I was in seventh grade, where all I remember is Smiley Lewis. We were kids, barely 12 years old."

American music was making mountains from all these incredible artists, and for young players like Freeman the call was

continued on p.58



COURTESY OF DENNY FREEMAN

"He just stood there looking like Elvis — playing a Fender Stratocaster. I turned to my friend and said, 'We have to learn how to do that!'"

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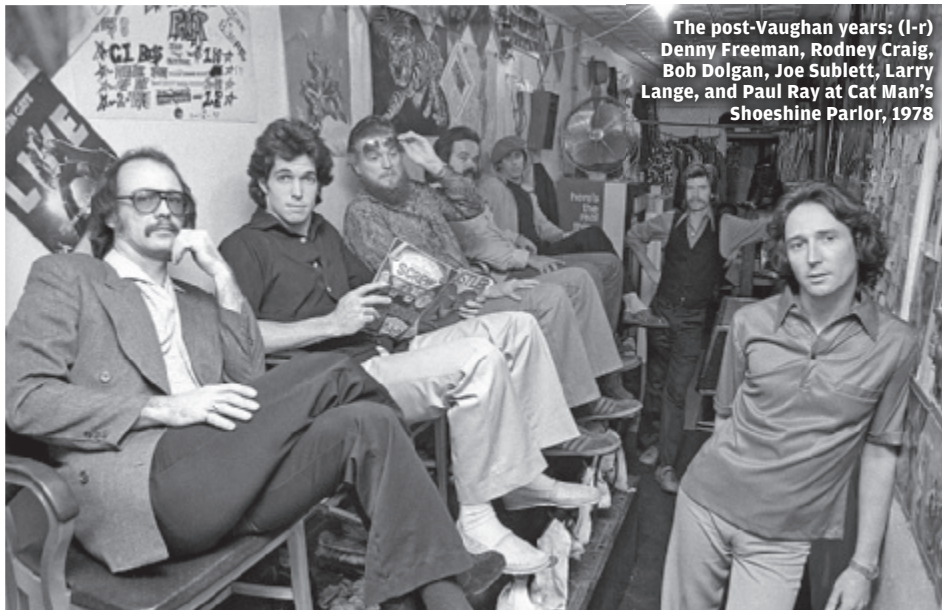
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The post-Vaughan years: (l-r) Denny Freeman, Rodney Craig, Bob Dolgan, Joe Sublett, Larry Lange, and Paul Ray at Cat Man's Shoeshine Parlor, 1978

KEN HOGUE

undeniable. There would be detours through college and trying not to be drafted into the Army, but once he discovered Austin in 1969, the plot was set. Austin was an embryo of what it was to become, but it was an embryo with a huge heart and an open door. Ask any musician within 1,000 miles in any direction in 1970 where the sound was growing, and they'd answer in a heartbeat: Austin.

"The first day I was here I knew I had to live here," he says. "It seemed to offer everything I was looking for. The main things, anyway; it was such a nice, beautiful place, with lots of long-haired folks, in a quiet little college town with people living in funky old houses and beautiful girls everywhere. There was music, fun, parties, and a sense of community in the air that was for real."

Strange Pleasures & Phantom Blues

Denny Freeman and Paul Ray had always wanted to start a band together, and in the Cobras both found their calling. On any given night, the group's energy and excitement level could have turned the county morgue into a dance hall. Slowly their reputation filtered through the city limits and beyond. With a set list that knew few boundaries, an

incendiary rhythm section, and blasting horns, Paul Ray & the Cobras rose fast.

"We finally had our band," Freeman says. "It was a blues band of sorts, but we covered a lot of ground. It was school for us, and I think we learned a lot. We were fearless musically."

Walking into Soap Creek Saloon for a Cobra Club Tuesday night celebration around 1975 was to feel the power of rhythm & blues straight from the source. The low-ceilinged music room had a bandstand barely removed from the crowd, and the loose-hipped dancers often looked like they were going to crash into the players.

Denny Freeman and Stevie Ray Vaughan would be pushing the guitarstrionics past the human limit, while saxophonist Joe Sublett stayed busy inventing a new chapter for Texas tenors. Singer Paul Ray had clearly listened to Bobby Bland and Johnnie Taylor for inspiration, but had a unique style of his own. And drummer Rodney Craig maintained the momentum like an inspired athlete, joining in on vocals with the sure hand of a designated hitter. When they won the *Austin Sun* Band of the Year award in 1976, no one blinked.

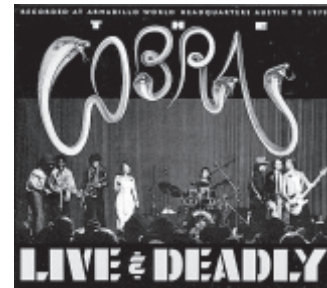
On the November night in 1979 when the Cobras recorded a live album at Armadillo

The Cobras *Live & Deadly* (Armadillo Records)

Consider *Live & Deadly* a snapshot of the moment in Austin music: It's November 1979; the decade is turning. Here's the mighty Cobras, the band of mostly-Dallas refugees that picked up old-school blues in Austin in the early 1970s and set the standard followed by the Fabulous Thunderbirds and Double Trouble. The band's legacy as a mixed-race R&B outfit spins full-tilt on the Armadillo stage, in effect an aural history of the band (minus its most famous alumnus, Stevie Ray Vaughan) and its greatest hits. Cobras founder Paul Ray comes on smooth and creamy on "Cryin' Towel," "Further on up the Road," and soul singer Larry Williams' brief tenure in the band shimmers on "Heartbreak" and "House Party." That's also where Denny Freeman, the once and future lead Cobra, steps up and wraps his guitar muscle around the big blues band sound of the brass and rhythm sections, featured on "Can Opener" and "Theme From Peter Gunn." The addition of Angela Strehli ("Boogie Like You Wanna") gives the recording a classic – and classy – big-band-revue feel. The only thing wrong with this disc? It came out 30 years late.

★★★

– Margaret Moser



World Headquarters, all indications looked like it was time for the band to go national. They'd done sporadic touring throughout America, but an actual recording for sale would move them up a notch. When the release got shelved, Freeman felt somewhat defeated.

"It was sad to leave the band, but I'd given it eight years," he explains. "Lou Ann Barton asked me to join her touring band to support her new album *Old Enough* in '82. But the joke was on me, because after we had all quit our bands, [her] tour support was yanked."

The 1980s would wind around in a lot of different directions, including some family commitments in Dallas caring for his ailing mother. Freeman played with Doyle Bramhall some and his son Doyle II, but by 1992 he moved to Los Angeles and stayed 13 years.

"Everybody wants to get something going there. That's why you go there. And even though I didn't have a real plan, I thought I'd be okay," he says. "I played locally, went to Europe a few times with friends on club tours, and though I'm not really a songwriter except for instrumentals, I got with some folks to write hoping someone would record one.

"Not much luck with that, except for one I co-wrote with Deborah Harry and one for Percy Sledge. Then I played piano with Jimmie Vaughan on his *Strange Pleasure* tour in the mid-1990s, so that was good. From there I went to Taj Mahal and played with his band, the Phantom Blues Band, for about seven years."

California had been good to Denny Freeman, but he always knew it wasn't home. Los Angeles has a sense of impermanence that can be unsettling, especially for someone who always puts the music first.

"The music business was never easy for me, but with all the technical changes that were coming in the last several years I was there, things got even harder," Freeman

explains. "The business was confused and seemed like it couldn't keep up with what was happening. Some of my friends have continued to do well, but things have gotten harder for many. Plus my dad needed me, so I came home in '04.

"When he died in December, I moved to Austin. I don't know of any other place I should be. I lived here for nearly 20 years, and then left for about 20, now I'm back."

Modern Times

Being one of the least self-promoting people on the planet keeps Denny Freeman from mentioning one of his most notable resumé entries: five years in Bob Dylan's band.

Some of the best guitarists ever have filled that slot, from Michael Bloomfield and Robbie Robertson on up to Charlie Sexton.

The ease with which Freeman stepped into the role says a lot about his ability and self-awareness.

"We'd rehearse, have set lists, have arrangements for songs, but each song would have its own dynamic," says Freeman. "Some were usually the same each time, but most weren't within the arrangement.

Being one of the least self-promoting people on the planet keeps Denny Freeman from mentioning one of his most notable resumé entries: five years in Bob Dylan's band.



Freeman (l) and Dylan at Reading, 2006

COURTESY OF DENNY FREEMAN

There was much room to react to his singing, and to whatever he was playing on the keyboard. Things were always changing, except when they weren't. It was really exciting when it all worked, but also dangerous and completely unpredictable.

"That's how excitement can occur."

Freeman played more than 500 shows with Dylan, and it's the intensity that stays with him.

"I'd be playing 'The Times They Are A-Changin'' or 'Highway 61' or 'Masters of War' or any of the others, and I'd look over and think, 'Gosh, that's Bob Dylan over there singing.' That was really something.

"Recording *Modern Times* with him was very hard and intense, but when it was all over with me still on it, that was very heavy."

The guitarist is living in Austin full time again and recording an album of Bob Dylan songs as instrumentals, plus another LP of new things he's written, and generally getting his life back. Like so many endeavors, it feels like a full circle but also one that's constantly being reinvented.

"In the late Sixties and all through the Seventies, some of my friends and I were in sort of a purist place regarding blues. At least what we wanted to play and learn about. But back in the Eighties sometime, I decided that I was really just a guitar player."

The Cobras - Paul Ray, Denny Freeman, Rodney Craig, and Larry Lange - celebrate the long-overdue release Live & Deadly at Antone's Records on Saturday, Dec. 3, 3pm.

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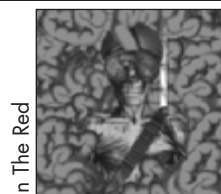
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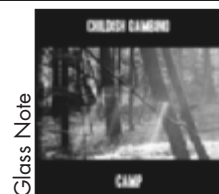
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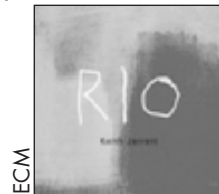
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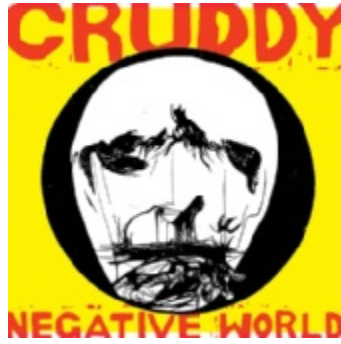
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Cruddy
Negative World (12XU)

"There's nothing left – there's nothing," rants guitarist Drew Schmitz in closer "History's Remains," with a compelling mix of horror, intrigue, and disgust. Cruddy, a local trio featuring members of Total Abuse and Serious Tracers, thrives in this nihilistic realm. Following a 7-inch and *Casual Victim Pile II* contribution, the band's debut LP, *Negative World*, comes produced by the Young's Hans Zimmerman, pressed by Matador Records co-founder Gerard Cosloy's revived 12XU imprint, and packs 14 terror alerts into mostly minutelong manifestos. The post-punk grime of "Slow News Day" and the title track call for riot gear early, pushed by drummer Alison Goodman's big beat and echoed vocals. The seesawing "Moment of Fear" and gripping, No Wave velocity of "Deconstruction Workers" fuel the fire, while "Burn It Down" flees the scene with Big Black's kerosene in hand. *Negative World* makes the most of a dire situation, a dystopian soundtrack for the militarization of our police forces.



– Austin Powell

TEXAS PLATTERS

★★★★★ PERFECT ★★★★ GREAT ★★★ GOOD ★★ MEDIOCRE ★ COASTER

This One's for Him: A Tribute to Guy Clark
(Icehouse Music)

Tributes either enhance all involved or fail miserably. There's rarely a middle ground. This 2-CD set honors the dean of Texas songwriters' turning 70 by having contemporaries (Jerry Jeff, Willie), protégés (Steve Earle, Rodney Crowell, Lyle Lovett), and other Americana types (Kevin Welch, James McMurtry, Radney Foster) render his songs, 30 in all. Clark's worthy of the adulation, of course, but only a handful of cuts beg for more than that initial spin, and quite a few suck the life out of the song. At the end of the day, you'd rather hear the composer sing his lived-in songs and share his joy or pain. Surprisingly, some of the younger participants (Ron Sexsmith, John Townes Van Zandt II, the Trishas) are the most successful, interpreting instead of copying. This will be filed as an



earnest try, dusted every time you dig for *Old No. 1* or *Dublin Blues*.

★★ – Jim Caligiuri

Jean Synodinos
Girls, Good & Otherwise (Fortunate)

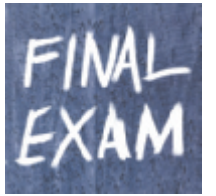
For women, every day is a tightrope walk of actions both micro and macro in scale, the mundane mingling gloriously with the transcendent. This delicious tension is at the root of local singer-songwriter Jean Synodinos' third album, *Girls, Good & Otherwise*. Take "Five Things To Do Today" as the beginning of the to-do list, then "Do the things on the list." Synodinos juxtaposes such day-to-day concerns with much larger ones of contentment, partnership, and home, assembling an impressive cadre of supporting local musicians to back up her musings on what it means to "Be a Good Girl," including her husband, guitarist Charles Rieser, as well



Youth Brigade BY DOUG FREEMAN

Final Exam

This 10-track eponymous debut from young locals Final Exam kicks with a nostalgic, indie guitar-driven sound that evokes 1990s Sub Pop, accentuated by the nasal clip of Taft Mashburn's vocals and aggressive cacophony that nonetheless reigns effectively on "5 6 7 8 9 10" and "In the Future." Added shades of Superchunk and Built To Spill make for a convincing first effort. ★★★



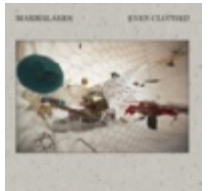
Oh Look Out Alright Alright Alright Alright Alright

JP Pfertner chronicled his 8-bit Devo fascinations with local quartet Built by Snow, and the self-recorded Casio calamities that mark his debut in Oh Look Out play on the same Nintendo levels, only as lo-fi variations. Lullaby-ish "Short Waves" shakes a cavalcade of bleeps, but as on "Analogatron," Pfertner's forte is still *Back to the Future Part III*. ★★



Marmalakes Even Clothed

Marmalakes' 2010 EP, *Wonder Winds*, proved an impressive debut behind the local trio's intricate exuberance, and their seven-song sophomore follows suit. The EP careens through "The Adventures of Jubilant John in Giggle City" and unhinges on "Colour of Defeat," but underlying charm and classical guitar tones prevail on the jumping "Geneva Hall," string-strewn "Red Metal Rescue," and beautifully sullen closer "Balmorhea." ★★★



7&7 Is

Super Secret Records' long and loyal run of local vinyl continues unabated on a second 7-inch by **Ichi Ni San Shi**. Named for a Kraftwerk uptick, Bill Jeffery's Casio keyboard caper unwinds Krautrock as a lithe fivepiece aiding the frontman's non-Auto-Tuned good humor ("Here Sometime Today"). The **Boxing Lesson** punches up four songs on two 7-inches for Detroit imprint New Fortune, Austin duo Paul Waclawsky and Jaylinn Davidson living up to the artwork: a Mayan temple among the moons of Saturn. "Darker Side of the Moog" sets a space pace – four songs totaling almost 24 minutes – ebbing more *Wish You Were Here* than *Dark Side of the Moon*. Drum machine aside, burnt flip side "Muerta" and sunspots on "Cassiopeia" arc tightly, closer "Drone To Sleep" floating a soulful machine beat alongside Waclawsky's David Gilmour-esque vox. Local quartet **La Snacks'** stenciled cardboard double A-side 45, "Christstakes and Milkshakes" b/w "My Little Sugary Friend," packages a tender morsel of 1990s Southern indie, pronounced riffs and vocals with minimalist rhythm.



Robert Segovia's appealing pathos and his titular mantra on the second track leave a taste for next spring's LP. A pair of single-sided Monofonus Press 10-inchers leads with **Dikes of Holland** and **Daniel Francis Doyle** ponying up a pair of songs apiece, the former boy-girl gang revving its combustive garage élan on "Servant Girl Annihilator," then ramping down into the spidery crumble-and-run of "My Baby's Kinda Mean." One-man wild man DFD unleashes a fiery clamor of punk giddyup, though it's the extended Ray Davies-like schizoid ramble of "You're Nowhere" that bags the whole endeavor. Chicago's **Flower Man**, the Chris Bush half of Chicago-via-Kentucky electro-glitch duo Caboladies, rewires a clock, a dripping faucet, and a garden waterfall on *Inversion Fortuite*. Consider its antidote the hardcore beatdown of **Cutting Losses'** eight-song *Endless EP* on Austin's Metastasis Records, a camouflage-colored slab of beefy hate and circle-jerk mayhem. An "Island" of rage, this "Anvil" reminds one of what "Choices II" spews: "Never ... ever ... give a fuck." – Raoul Hernandez

fashion, and *Daydream Western* reflects that wanderlust at every turn. The album serves as soundtrack to rolling westward: barren highways and open horizons, leading with restless purpose on "Something Reckless" and carrying through both lighter revelries ("Wrinkles") and thoughtful reflections ("Visions of Yesterday" and "Sparrow Horse"). Russell and McMeans operate as opposite yet complementary poles, the former more grounded in voice and vision, the latter providing an airier twang trained on finely woven narratives. They're at their best when combined in harmony, as with Gary Newcomb's "One of the Wild Ones" or closing favorite "Don't Play To Lose."

★★★ – Doug Freeman

Whiskey Shivers
Batholith

Whiskey Shivers resembles a real-life version of *O Brother Where Art Thou?* – reckless, on the run, and playing for its collective supper. The local hill-billies' raucous rendering of old-time bluegrass packs a wicked sense of humor, a trait that landed the controversial video for standout single "Gimme All Your Lovin" on the front page of social news site Reddit. The quintet, with upright bass and washboard no less, picks and grins with plenty of dirt under its nails, tackling the reality series *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* ("XHM Blues"), "Wookie Boogers," and the type of girl preferred for a "Drunk Dial." Clearly, Whiskey Shivers isn't interested in that same ol' song. When playing it relatively straight, as on opener "Old Home Place" and the fiery instrumental "Salt Creek," the band does so with commanding, almost damning authority. With *Batholith*, the Shivers prove ready for the new folk revival.



★★★★ – Austin Powell

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepherd



An Illinois appeals court finally threw out a lawsuit in August, but not before the two-year battle had created a foot-high pile of legal filings on whether two children (now ages 23 and 20) could sue their mother for bad parenting while they were growing up. Among the claims were the mother's failure to send birthday cards or care packages during the kids' college years and calling her daughter at midnight to ask that she return home from a party (and once failing to take the girl to a car show).

LEAD STORY

Enterprising reporters get stories by earning the trust of their sources, which Simon Eroro of Port Moresby's *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier* obviously did. At a banquet in November, News Limited (Rupert Murdoch's empire) awarded Eroro its Scoop of the Year honor for reporting on militant tribal fighters of the Free West Papua movement – a scoop he had to earn by agreeing to undergo a ritual circumcision with bamboo sticks to prove his sincerity. (Some of the rebels still wear penis gourds whose size varies with the status of the wearer.)

THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY

Todd Remis, an unemployed stock-market research analyst, filed a lawsuit in 2009 against the photographer of his 2003 wedding, citing breach of contract because the 400 shots taken during the ceremony failed to cover several key moments, such as the "last dance." A November 2011 *New York Times* report pointed out that Remis is demanding not only the return of his \$4,100, but also for the photographer to pay for re-creating the missing scenes by covering travel expenses for all 40 guests to reconvene. (Remis and his wife have divorced; she has returned to her native Latvia, and Remis does not even know how to contact her.)

Consumer Rights: 1) Jonathan Rothstein of Encino, Calif., filed a lawsuit in September against Procter & Gamble for selling its Crest toothpaste in Neat Squeeze packages, which Rothstein said make it impossible to access the last 20% of the contents, thus forcing con-

sumers to buy more toothpaste prematurely. He wants Procter & Gamble to return 90 cents to everyone who bought Neat Squeeze packages. 2) Sarah Deming of Keego Harbor, Mich., filed a lawsuit in September against the distributor of the movie *Drive* (starring Ryan Gosling) because its trailers promised fast-driving scenes like those in *The Fast and the Furious*, but the film delivered mostly just drama.

FINE POINTS OF THE LAW

1) A recent vicious, unprovoked attack in Toronto by Sammy the cat on Molly the black Labrador (bloodying Molly's ear, paws, and eye) left Molly's owner without recourse to Ontario's or Toronto's "dangerous pet" laws. The owner told the *Toronto Star* in November that, apparently, only dangerous dogs are covered. 2) Maya the cat was central to a recent contentious British immigration case when a judge seemed to favor residence for a Bolivian national because of Maya. The judge had concluded that the Bolivian man and his British partner had established a close-knit family relationship because of the need to care for Maya.

IRONIES

Unclear on the Concept: 1) Licensed Texas physician Akili Graham, 34, who gives paid motivational speeches on healthy living (*How To Deal With Stress*), was arrested in October in Houston and accused of being the frontman of four pain clinics that allegedly dispense prescription drugs illegally. 2) A chief child-abuse investigator for the Catholic Church in Britain, Christopher Jarvis, 49, was sentenced in October following his guilty plea to possession

of over 4,000 child porn images on his computer. Jarvis had been hired in 2002 to protect against pedophiles' access to church groups.

Why People Love Washington: U.S. Rep. Tom Graves of Georgia told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in August that he and a partner had "settled" the lawsuit brought by the Bartow County Bank for failing to repay a \$2.2 million loan they had taken out in 2007. Graves has been a staunch advocate for governmental fiscal austerity and voted against raising the federal debt ceiling in August. However, he had balked at repaying the \$2.2 million (though he had signed a personal guarantee) because, he said, the bank should have known when it made the loan that Graves would be unable to pay it back.

Violinist Martin Stoner, 60, who lost his job after 25 years and who is suing the New York City Ballet for age discrimination, petitioned Federal Judge Robert Patterson to disqualify himself from the case because he is too old (88) and, according to Stoner, has vision and hearing problems.

PEOPLE WITH ISSUES

In November, Tommy Joe Kelley, unsuccessfully acting as his own lawyer, was convicted of slashing a stranger's tire by an Austin jury, despite his explanation. "OK, I'm going to tell you the truth on this one," he said from the witness stand. "It doesn't sound right, but it is. I ... had hemorrhoids at that time, super duper bad." There have been 391 tire slashings in Kelly's neighborhood over the last four years, but he was charged with only one count and sentenced to 10 years in jail.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Robbers Easily Subdued: 1) Dale Foughty, 56, was charged with robbing a convenience store in Jacksonville, N.C., in October, despite attempting to intimidate the clerk by dressing as Spider-Man. However, the clerk poked Foughty in the stomach with a broom, sending him away empty-handed. 2) Cody Smith, 18, was charged with snatching a woman's purse in Johnson City, Tenn., in November. The victim chased Smith into nearby shrubbery, entangling him long enough for her to recover the purse. 3) Two men, attempting a robbery of the Ace Smoke Shop in Altadena, Calif., in July, fled after grabbing only part of the store's cash. They were frightened off by the manager's barking Chihuahua.

A 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' CLASSIC (MARCH 2008)

The divorce of Anton Popazov and his wife, Nataliya, is about to go through (in 2008), but the couple are still contractually committed to the Moscow State Circus, where their act includes Nataliya's shooting an apple off of Anton's head with a crossbow. *The Times* of London asked Anton during a show in Sheffield, England, in February 2008 whether he was afraid. "I still trust her because Nataliya is very professional," he said. "[T]he show must go on."

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at www.news-of-the-weird.blogspot.com (or www.news-of-the-weird.com).

Send your weird news to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2011 Universal Press Syndicate

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GAY PLACE:
World AIDS Day



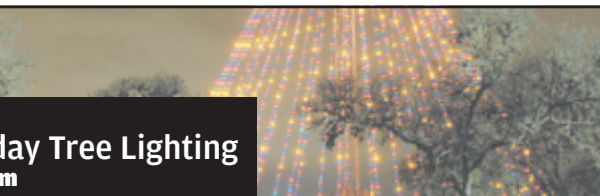
THEATRE:
John Waters' Christmas
Paramount Theatre, 7pm



MUSIC:
The Wood Brothers
The Parish, 8pm



COMMUNITY:
Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting
Zilker Park, 6pm



FILM:
Moving On
Cinetransformer, 7pm



FILM:
Phffft!
Alamo Lamar, 7pm



MUSIC:
Not in the Face
Antone's



MUSIC:
The Sea & Cake
Mohawk



THURSDAY

1

COMMUNITY: Whisky Festival Opal Divine's Penn Field, 7pm
FILM: The Falls Aviary Lounge, 7pm
FILM: Granito: How To Nail a Dictator Frances Auditorium, UT campus, 5pm
FILM: Life, Above All For the City Center, 3:30pm

FRIDAY

2

MUSIC: Rachael Yamagata The Parish
MUSIC: Mojo Nixon, Dash Rip Rock Continental Club
FILM: Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm
SPORTS: Lake Travis vs. Cedar Park Texas Memorial Stadium, 7:30pm
MEAL TIMES: Slow Money Austin Benefit Barr Mansion, 5pm
CLASSICAL MUSIC: Holiday Revel With Revel Ballet Austin, 7pm
COMEDY: Elf Employment: A Warm & Fuzzy Improvised Puppet Musical Salvage Vanguard Theater, 8pm

SATURDAY

3

CIVICS 101: Occupy Austin Bank Action Rally State Capitol, 11am
FILM: Groundhog Day Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 9pm
FILM: Master Pancake X-Mas Show Alamo Ritz, 7 & 10pm
COMMUNITY: Holiday Sing-Along & Downtown Stroll State Capitol, 6pm
YOUNG ONES: Homestyle Holiday Hoedown Pioneer Farms, 5:30pm
GAY PLACE: Holiday Swing Dell Jewish Community Center
COMEDY: Nancy Reed Velveeta Room, 9:30 & 11:30pm

SUNDAY

4

MUSIC: Mayhem Emo's Inside
MUSIC: Rita Coolidge One World Theatre, 7pm
FILM: Die Hard Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm
FILM: It's a Wonderful Life Republic Square Park, 6pm
LITERA: P. Kellach Waddle BookPeople, 7pm

MONDAY

5

FILM: Moonstruck Alamo Lamar, 7pm

TUESDAY

6

MUSIC: Cave Mohawk
FILM: Lioness Windsor Park Branch Library, 7pm
MEAL TIMES: Wine Me Dine Me Cafe Josie, 6-9pm
LITERA: A Conversation With Rick Moody Blanton Museum of Art, 6pm
THEATRE: RecordSetter Live State Theatre, 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY

7

SPORTS: Austin Toros Cedar Park Center, 8pm
MUSIC: The Trishas Cactus Cafe
FILM: Mitchell Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm
GAY PLACE: Last Mail Art With Dandy Bernadette's, 7-10pm
MEAL TIMES: Chocolate & Wine Dinner La Sombra Bar & Grill, 7pm
THEATRE: Dionysium: Comic Books Alamo Lamar, 7pm

THURSDAY

8

MUSIC: Charlie Mars Saxon Pub
FILM: Wild Things Alamo Ritz, 10pm
FILM: Paul Goodman Changed My Life MonkeyWrench Books, 8pm
LITERA: The Encyclopedia Show ND at 501 Studios, 8pm
LITERA: BedPost Confessions 29th Street Ballroom, 8pm

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The Dionysium: Comic Book Conflagration!

The monthly, alcohol-fueled celebration of intellectual glory goes all sequential-arty, True Believer, with the *Chronicle's* own Robert Faires and Brenner debating **Marvel vs. DC**, with maestro Graham Reynolds providing "A History of the Industry in 10 Comics," with P. Kellach Waddle bringing music to comic-book proportions, with a selection of fanboy letters-of-comment presented by the Alamo's Lars Nilsen, with a glimpse from the live-performance graphic novel *The Intergalactic Nemesis*, and even more, by Crom! By Tarim! By Odin! Buy tickets!

Wed., Dec. 7, 7pm. Alamo Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. www.dionysium.com.

THEATRE

OPENING

LA PASTORELA This contemporary musical comedy based on a yuletide play from American Indian and Latino communities, traditionally performed since the late 16th century is presented by the Austin Latino Theater Alliance under the direction of Alex Pedemonte. Dec. 1-17. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River. \$15 (\$10, students, seniors). www.lapastorela.org.

HOUSEBREAKING Poison Apple Initiative presents Jakob Holder's drama in which one disillusioned desk jockey invites a homeless man into his home and alters both of their lives. Directed by Bastion Carboni. Thu.-Sat., Dec. 1-17, 8pm. Location provided with ticket purchase. \$12-20 (pay what you can, Thursdays). www.poisonappleinitiative.com.

MEN OF TORTUGA Check out Jason Wells' dark comedy in which a group of powerful men formulate plans to assassinate a member of the opposition. (Cannonballs? Or missiles?) These good ol' boys behaving very badly get downright savage at the end, as directed by Andrea Summers for Street Corner Arts. Thu.-Sat., Dec. 1-17, 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 5111 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$15 (pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.hydeparktheatre.com.

BERNADETTE NASON: A CHRISTMAS CAROL This one-woman-show version of the Dickens classic, brought to you by City Theatre, will send shivers of goodness down your spine while it warms the cockles of your solstice heart. Recommended. Dec. 1-18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$15-20. www.citytheatreAustin.org.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS It's an Austin Cabaret Theatre homage to the classy TV specials of yesteryear, with a plethora of local stars gracing the stylish tune-and-croon stage. Thu.-Fri., Dec. 1-2, 7:30pm. 8611 MoPac N., 786-6121. \$39. www.austincabaret.org.

JOHN WATERS' CHRISTMAS

Oh my, yes, that creepily crushworthy filmmaking savant comes to the ATX's most storied venue to perform "a provocative and devious monologue that takes the audience on a misbehaved trip to the extremes." Provocative and devious, indeed, and highly recommended. Fri., Dec. 2, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$30-50. www.austintheatre.org.



THE EIGHT: REINDEER MONOLOGUES Jeff Goode's dark and twisted holiday comedy is brought to the stage by a dark and twisted ensemble under the direction of (possibly dark and twisted) Andy Berkowsky. Dec. 2-18. Fri.-Sat., 10pm; Sun., 8pm. No show: Dec. 11. City Theatre, 3823-D Airport, 524-2870. \$10. www.citytheatreAustin.org.

RECORDSETTER LIVE Well, what else could we call it but "theatre"? Because, that show, in New York City? Where new, usually ridiculous but compelling world records are set? Here it is, live in the ATX, presented by Dan Rollman and Corey Henderson, with local comedians Ramin Nazer, Ryan Cornie, Kerrie Lendo, and Cody Hustak – and magician Brian Brushwood. With live music from Foot Patrol! Tue., Dec. 6, 8pm. State Theatre, 719 Congress, 472-5470. \$10-18. www.austintheatre.org.

BURN THIS The 7 Towers Theatre Company's first full season begins with Lanford Wilson's classic about the aftermath of a tragic death. Directed by Aaron Black. Fri.-Sun., Dec. 2-18, 8pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third, 951/237-6210. \$15. www.facebook.com/7Towers.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE This is Joe Landry's live-radio-drama version of the Capra classic, directed by Nathan Jerkins for Penfold Theatre out Round Rock way. Dec. 2-27. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Friar Tuck's Pantry, 204 E. Main, Round Rock. Extra show: Sun., Dec. 4, 6pm. No show: Fri., Dec. 9. \$20-25 (\$18, students, seniors). www.penfoldtheatre.org.

CUENTO NAVIDEÑO: BAH HUMBUG IN THE BARRIO This bilingual and thoroughly modern holiday comedy, inspired by Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, is written and directed by Rupert Reyes. Dec. 8-18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Long Center, 701 W. Riverside, 413-6791. \$20 (\$15, students, seniors). www.teatrovivo.org.

CLOSING

THE TRANSITION OF DOODLE PEQUEÑO UT's Department of Theatre & Dance presents this "play for all ages," bringing staged life to universal themes of identity, friendship, and acceptance. Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Wed.-Sat., 7pm; Sun., 2pm. Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, Winship Drama Building, 23rd & San Jacinto, 471-1444. \$10. www.texasperformingarts.org.

WELL Lisa Kron's new comedy explores the dynamics of health, family, and community with the story of a mother's ability to heal a changing neighborhood, despite her inability to heal herself. Directed by Norman Blumensadt for Different Stages. Through Dec. 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Through Dec. 3. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30. www.vortexrep.org.

ONGOING

THE LION IN WINTER Austin Playhouse at Mueller presents this classic James Goldman drama about King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Starring Huck Huckaby and Babs George, directed by Don Toner. See review, p.42. Through Dec. 18. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. 1800½ Simond, 476-0084. www.austinplayhouse.com.

AMERICAN BEAR: A PLAY ABOUT HOME Theatre en Bloc presents Larry Mitchell's new drama about two brothers struggling to find themselves in the wake of their parents' untimely death. See review, p.42. Through Dec. 17. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 6pm. No show: Dec. 11. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 522-4083. \$15. www.theatreinbloc.org.

LOOK BACK IN ANGER Just when we need it: John Osborne's classic about a group of twentysomething roommates in 1950s London. Fierce, real, and sizzling with the self-righteous slackers of the time. Directed by Tyler King for Out of Context Productions. Through Dec. 14. Mon.-Wed., 7:30pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$10-25. www.ooplimited.com.

GOD OF CARNAGE Yasmina Reza's Tony-winning comedy about a play date between two boys that goes hysterically awry. (Parents behaving badly? Oh my, yes. Somebody looks like they need a little time out.) Starring Lauren Lane, Thomas Ward, Eugene Lee, and Angela Rawna; directed by Matt Lenz. Through Jan. 8. Tue.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$25-60. www.zachtheatre.org.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES It's David Sedaris' real-life story of his tour of duty at Macy's as Crumpet the Elf, starring Martin Burke as Crumpet. Directed by Dave Steakley and beautifully enhanced by chanteuse Meredith McCall. Dec. 1-4: Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Dec. 7-Jan. 8: Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zach Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$40-45. www.zachtheatre.org.

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COMEDY

IN THE CLUBS

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

Jackie Kashian This lady's been knocking 'em in the aisles, performance-wise, up in the Big Apple; now you can catch her here, with **John Ramsey** opening. *Dec. 7-10. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13.*



Norm MacDonald He's clearly Canadian and a hell a fierce poker player, but you likely know him best from his time on NBC and Fox and Comedy Central – if not his writing for SNL and *Roseanne* and so on. Because? He's funny. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 2-3, 8 & 10:30pm. \$25-28.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803-B Airport, 814-TOWN. www.coldtownetheater.com.

This Week in Coldness: Nice Astronaut brings the yuletide antics of "It's a Tolerable Existence." *Thu., 8:30pm. The Game Show Show* Challenges, prizes! *Thu., 10pm. Cage Match* Troupe vs. troupe, in full battletact splendor. *Fri., 8:30pm. Coldtowne Stand-up* *Fri., 10pm. Best of 2011* The Bad Boys will Sin. *Sat., 8:30pm. Stone Cold Improv* brings **Midnight Society** and the **Frank Mills**. *Sat., 10pm.* And now there's **Free Improv Shows on Wednesdays!** 7 & 8:30pm.

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

Esther's Follies The popular Esther's troupe brings a comedy show like none other in town, with topical sketches, song-and-dance numbers lambasting the high-and-mighty, and more, right there on Sixth Street. Esther's tracks the candidates in "GOP Superstar!" with Rick Perry hounded by presidential hopefuls Herman Cain and Mitt Romney. And there are **Ray Anderson's** nonpartisan spectacles of magic, too! Reservations recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20-27 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, military).*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

It's Hideoutrageous! Here's your one-stop emporium of laughter Downtown. The **Threefer** brings you three troupes in one night. *Thu., 8pm. \$5. Fancy-Pants Mashup* is so well dressed, it makes the baby Beau Brummell cry. *Fri., 8pm. \$12. The Spectacle*, featuring the **Escorts** and the **Knuckleball Now**. *Fri., 10pm. \$12. Charles Dickens Unleashed Orphans! Top hats! Love and squalor and finery! Oh my, not the Maharajah! *Sat., 6pm (family-friendly) & 8pm (oh, all sorts of debauchery). \$12. Maestro* It's improviser against improviser, a whole stage full of them, battling for victory. *Sat., 10pm. \$12. The Weekender* Student Showcase and the Foreign Legion. *Sun., 7pm. \$5.**

NEW MOVEMENT THEATER 1819 Rosewood.

The New Movement Here's the comedy-focused powerhouse that ate East Austin, generating new troupes like, what, every other week? Shows, workshops, classes, all of it. See the website for details, yes, but look: **Block Party** Anything – that's anything – goes. *Thu., 9:30pm. Lucy and Disco Box* *Fri., 9pm. Spirit Desire* *Fri., 10:30pm. The TNM Showcase: Best of the Movement* A sampler dish; a pu pu platter; recommended as the best first TNM show to see! *Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30-11:30pm.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.

Friday Night Fracas: It's Always Funny with **Brian Gaar** Of course it is – especially with **Bryan Gutmann**, **Howard Beecher**, **Jonathan Pace**, **David McQuary**, and **Kath Barbadoro** joining him tonight. *Fri., Dec. 2, 9:30pm. \$5. Dirty Laundry Local comics doing their nastiest, most offensive jokes? Oooh, yes, please. With **Kat Ramzinski**, **Howard Beecher**, **Ruby Collins**, **Cody Hustak**, and **Luke McClory**. *Fri., Dec. 2, 11:30pm. \$5.**

Nancy Reed Oh, jeez, this is like a *guarantee* for a night of comedy. Reed didn't win the Funniest Person in Austin contest back in the day due to her killer brussels sprout soufflé after all and this night **Clint Nohr** and friends will also rock the stage. *Sat., Dec. 3, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

FREE COMEDY CLASS This free class will give anyone a chance to try their stand-up material and get immediate feedback without being brutally butchered. See website for details. *Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 914-3985. www.comedygym.com.*

GNAP! THEATER LATENIGHTS: Saturday Night Special Merlin Works students bring you the **Amazing Improvised Race** and those tuneful fraills with the improv tales, **Girls Girls Girls**, make a beautiful improvised musical together. *Sat., Dec. 3, 10pm. \$10. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. www.gnaptheater.org.*

ELF EMPLOYMENT: A HOLIDAY PUPPET MUSICAL It's sparkly holiday improv cheer! It's soooooo warm and fuzzy! It's directed by **Sara Farr**, with music, puppets, and a special guest as Santa each week. This week: **Deano Jones**. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 2-17, 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$10. www.gnaptheater.org.*

IMPROV SUMMIT This is the third annual such summit, no less, featuring performances by the seasoned professionals of the Glamping Trip, the Frank Mills, and (sound it out with us, now) Parallelogramophonograph. *Sun., Dec. 4, 7pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$10. www.hydeparktheatre.com.*

DANCE

ACC CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE Twenty-eight students perform 12 new dance works by faculty members Darla Johnson and Catherine Solaas and student choreographers. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 2-3, 8pm. ACC Mainstage Theater, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3384. \$10 (\$5, students, seniors). www.austinncc.edu.*

UT'S FALL FOR DANCE New works-in-progress by UT Dance faculty and students. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 2-3, 8pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, 471-5793. Free. www.finearts.utexas.edu/tad.*

BALLET EAST: A NEW BEGINNING Choreography by Juan P Flores, Jessica Martinez-Zamarripa, Melissa Villarreal, and more. *Dec. 1-4. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 974-4000. \$12 (\$8, seniors, kids). www.balleteast.org.*

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER With dance choreographed by BA's Stephen Mills and musical accompaniment by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, this BA production brings all the delights and excitement of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic to sparkling life with more than 200 dancers. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 3-17, 7:30pm; Wed.-Thu., Dec. 21-22, 7:30pm; Sun., Dec. 4-18, 2pm. Also: Sat., Dec. 17 & Fri., Dec. 23, 2pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 457-5100. \$15 and up. www.balletaustin.org.*

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE: BORICUA BEISBOL This year's Sembrando Herencia features the story of Emilio, the choices he faces, and the inspiring and unexpected advisers he meets, while taking you on a journey through the history of baseball and the people of Puerto Rico. *Sun., Dec. 4, 3pm. Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 W. Riverside, 251-8122. \$7-14. www.prfdance.org.*

FLASHDANCE, BUT FLASHIER: 30 MORE DANCES IN 60 MINUTES Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company presents the return of this popular anthology show, featuring new works of whimsical choreography and impeccable performance. *Through Dec. 3. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. \$17 (\$12, students, seniors). www.kdhdance.com.*

CLASSICAL MUSIC

OPENING

HOLIDAY REVEL WITH REVEL Revel's co-founders, pianist Carla McElhaney and cellist Joel Becktell, will be joined by Brazilian violinist Cármeo de los Santos and Austin favorites in an eclectic concert featuring "Winter" from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*; "Cello Fan," "Valse Lente," and "Hora" from Claude Bolling's festive *Jazz Piano Trio Suites*; and the dramatic "Frates" for cello and piano by Arvo Pärt. *Fri., Dec. 2, 7pm. Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third, 476-9151. Free. www.revelmusic.org.*

ST. CECILIA BAROQUE FESTIVAL: FRENCH GRAND MOTETS Compositions by Henri Du Mont, Michel Richard Delalande, and Jean-Joseph Cassanéa de Mondonville. *Fri., Dec. 2, 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 345-8866. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students). www.stceciliamusicseries.org.*

ON OUR GAYDAR

ALL-DAY WORLD AIDS DAY Come visit more than 30 community group booths, AIDS Quilt sections, a photo show, and more – a local commemoration of all who have passed, suffered, survived, and thrived. *Thu., Dec. 1, 8:30am-6pm. For the City Center, 500 E. St. Johns, 961-5587. www.austinhiv.com/free-hiv-ceu.*

WORLD AIDS DAY PROVIDER EDUCATION DAY This gathering – nay, this citywide collaboration – brings together Central Texas' top HIV/AIDS care providers, strategists, feelers, and thinkers, and is open to the public. (Plenty of seating; registration for CEUs is full, but get on the waiting list.) *Free. Thu., Dec. 1, 8:30am-6pm. For the City Center, 500 E. St. Johns, 961-5587. www.austinhiv.com/free-hiv-ceu.*

COUNTRY DANCIN' MOVIE SHOOT Oh, you've always had a queer spot for *The Best Little Whorehouse*, haven't you? While this isn't exactly that, it's close, and close by in beautiful Bastrop! Erica Nix (of Workout! With Erica Nix fame) seeks dancers for a new vid. Come to the Dec. 1 practice or practice online (see websites). *Thu., Dec. 1, 4:30pm, practice: Upstart Upstart Media Arts Center, 1800 Linda St., Bastrop, 512/321-2496. Shoot: Sun., Dec. 4, 2-5pm, The Book Basket, 913 Main St., Bastrop, 512/332-0777. whosthatjess@gmail.com, www.youtube/15yQb3jPSQ, www.upstartbastrop.com, www.workoutwithericanix.com.*

EIGHTIES BREAKFAST FOR DINNER Come early for cartoons, the perfect lead-in to Ally Sheedy's dandruff snowstorm. (Yes, the night's movie is *The Breakfast Club*.) *Thu., Dec. 1, 6-10pm. The Q, 3408 West, 420-8557. Free. www.qboyz.org, www.facebook.com/theqaustin.*

INTERFAITH SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE Let your love ring out on the AIDS Bell banner and

gather in reflection for World AIDS Day. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7-9pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 301 E. Eighth, 610-3500. Free.*

MEG BARNHOUSE reads and sings from her repertoire, including her latest, *Broken Buddha*. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7pm. BookWoman, 5501 N. Lamar Ste. 105-A, 472-2785. Free. www.megbarnhouse.com.*

RECEPTION: AUSTIN FACES AIDS Food by Frank, plus wine and nonalcoholic drinks kick off Jo Ann Santangelo's new portrait show of people living with HIV/AIDS (through December, across the street at Falcon 5). *Fri., Dec. 2, 6-8pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos St., 493-0963. Free. www.joanasantangelo.com, www.asaustin.org/austinfacesaids.*

LIZZY CAROLOKE Hey, Don't forget to tip your KJ. And definitely tip your "Best of Austin"-winning proprietress of Austin's "Best Dive Bar Without a Sign" – which now has a sign. D'oh! *Fridays, 8pm-12mid. Bernadette's, 2039 Airport. Free.*

HOLIDAY SWINGIN' Polish up your Oscars and hoof it on down to the red carpet: HS is going vintage Hollywood. Contest for best-dressed movie stars, plus Sentimental Journey, Tapestry Dance, the Studebakers, Luna Tart, Best Best Friends, and belly dancer Michelle Manx. Come vump it up at Project Transitions' big fundraising gala. *Sat., Dec. 3, Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 454-8646. www.projecttransitions.org.*

BLUE SANTA PARTY Help Dino and crew pull together some treats and trinkets for the wee ones. *Sat., Dec. 3, 8pm. Lipstick24, 606 E. Seventh, 474-2950.*

ALIEN SHE 7 Alien She-Js (James Blonde + Young Creature) x guest DJs Fine & Dandy (with the Gay Place's Kate & Andy) = a cornucopia of alt/queer yum. *First Saturday of the month, 10pm. Bernadette's, 2039 Airport. Free.*



REMEMBER

Worldwide, an estimated 34 million people are living with HIV. Since the days of the first detected cases back in 1981, political opportunists have used fear of the epidemic to marginalize those affected directly, and queer folk in general. **World AIDS Day** is way more than a red ribbon. It's time to reflect on our priorities, our love for our fellow humans, and how best to thwart the hate still lobbed by the uninvolved, the cruel, the coldhearted, and the politically motivated. This is the time to forgive, but to never forget. This is the time to offer comfort and love to those who live and give care in this crisis. World AIDS Day will be served up good and proper this year in Austin. Join in. And this Wednesday, Dec. 7, join us at Bernadette's for the last arts & crafts night with your favorite unicorns, as **Mail Art With Dandy** provides the craft crappe and you provide the love to create one-of-a-kind holiday greetings for folks with HIV/AIDS.

Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com. See the full array of Gay Place listings at austinchronicle.com/gay.

SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH Bring it and sing it, holidaywise, with the 120-voice Austin Civic Chorus. Sun., Dec. 4, 4pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa, 719-3300. \$15. www.chorusaustin.org.

VISUAL ARTS

EVENTS

WEST END GALLERY NIGHT: FIRST THURSDAY Nine galleries within walking distance feature new works on this day each month: Art on 5th, F8 Gallery, Haven Gallery, Lotus Gallery, Russell Collection, Stephen L. Clark Gallery, Sterling Images, Wally Workman Gallery, B. Hollyman Gallery. See www.artaustin.org for gallery map. Thu., Dec. 1, 6-8pm. 478-4440.

MANIFESTATIONS ARTISTTIQUES: THE SKY LOUNGE SOIREE Here's a thing that's posh and a half, friends, and replete with fierce art, hot jazz, short films, tasty noms, the requisite vodka-based libations, and much Downtown rooftop mingling. Sat., Dec. 3, 7-11pm. The Gables' Rooftop, 300 West. www.manifestationsartistiques.wordpress.com.

ARC OF THE ARTS: HOLIDAY PARTY The Cool Family Gallery features work by artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Wed., Dec. 7, 6-8pm. 6717 Burnet Rd., 476-7044. www.arcofthearts.com.

AUSTIN ART GARAGE: HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW DJ Manny spins while you shop – and there's much to see here. Reception: Fri., Dec. 2, 6-9pm. 2200 S. Lamar. 585-6780. www.austinartgarage.com.

AVAA: 12 BUY 12 It's the Austin Visual Arts Association's seventh annual holiday sale. Thu., Dec. 1, 6-8pm. Austin Art Space, 7739 Northcross Ste. Q. www.austinartspace.com.

ART FROM THE STREETS! This 19th annual show and sale features more than 1,200 works of art from 50 artists from the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4, 11am-4pm. St. David's Trinity Center, 304 E. Seventh. \$3. www.artfromthestreets.org.

DARYL COLBURN'S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY SHOW Metal sculpture and jewelry and more. Dec. 2-3. Fri., 5-10pm; Sat., 10am-5pm. Studio L, 2309 Thornton, 577-3479.

LOMOGRAPHY GALLERY STORE OPENING PARTY Shake it like a hipsteroid. Tue., Dec. 6, 6-10pm. 912 Congress. www.lomography.com.

THE TRAVIS HEIGHTS ART TRAIL No, it's not just a smaller, more gentrified version of the East Austin Studio Tour! Bite your tongue – and enjoy the sculpture, ceramics, photography, woodwork, and fiber art in these home studios. Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4, 11am-5pm. 447-2150. Free. www.travisheightsart.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUEUM: MIX 'N' MASH Here's the museum's annual holiday show of 12-by-12-inch Gessobord panels, embellished by more than 200 artists from Austin and across the Lone Star State. Fri., Dec. 2, 7-10pm. 419 Congress, 480-9373. \$25. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

ORBIT SALON: A WINTER EDEN is a winter-themed group show. Reception: Sat., Dec. 3, 7-10pm. 1607 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0382. www.orbitsalon.net.

AUSTIN ART UNDERGROUND LAUNCH PARTY Thu., Dec. 1, 8pm. 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969. \$5. www.austinartunderground.org.

VISUAL ARTS CENTER: ARTIST TALK The UT faculty artists currently showing at the Visual Arts Center give you the lowdown on their newest works. Thu., Dec. 1, 6:30pm. 23rd & Trinity, 471-1108. www.utvac.org.

OPENING

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW Well, yes, it is another holiday show, with glorious works by Joseph Hammer, David Hefner, Sandra Langston, David Leonard, Susu Meyer, Caprice Pierucci,



Christopher St-Leger, among others. (Did we mention Randall Reid? Aaah! We want him to create the interiors of our immense biblio-industrial, retro-genius Fortress of Solitude & Laboratory!) Reception: Sat., Dec. 3, 7-9pm. Exhibition: Through Dec. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929. www.davisgalleryaustin.com.

FLATBED PRESS: THE PIRATE QUEEN Not just any pirate queen, me hearties: Julie Speed. See "Julie Speed," p.39, for more. Reception: Thu., Dec. 1, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Jan. 1. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. www.flatbedpress.com.

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: MADS LYNNERUP This solo exhibition of new Lynnerup works by the New York-based artist commences with a live performance by the artist: Sat., Dec. 3, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 4. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.



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Day Trips

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD



GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Ezekiel Airship** flew into Texas mythology, even if it didn't reach the record books. Promoters in Pittsburg, Texas, claim the self-propelled invention defied gravity 12 months before the Wright brothers did at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

A Baptist minister and amateur engineer, the Rev. Burrell Cannon said the Book of Ezekiel inspired his design. The airship had a three-part canvas wing covering eight large wheels with paddles driven by a four-cylinder gasoline engine with a pilot seated at the center.

The canvas and wood replica hanging from the ceiling of the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum was built by the Pittsburg Optimist Club in 1987. The original, built in 1902, was destroyed in a storm on the way to its unveiling at the St. Louis World's Fair.

Before it left town, machine-shop employees supposedly flew the airship for 160 feet at a height of 10-12 feet. Fearing the loss of their jobs, the conspirators took an oath of silence. No hard evidence survived to support the claim. Texans aren't going to let the facts get in the way of a good story.

The Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum has a wide variety of artifacts along with the Ezekiel Airship at 204 W. Marshall St. in Pittsburg. A block from the museum, the Pittsburg Hot Link Restaurant sells the unique little sausages that made Pittsburg famous.

OUT OF TOWN

EMILY ANN TRAIL OF LIGHTS Stroll along the path to see more than 100 lighted displays, and then gather around the Yule Log (depending on burn ban) for holiday entertainment. *Sun.-Sat., Dec. 1-31. Emily Ann Theatre, Wimberley, 512/847-2201. Free. www.emilyann.org.*

DICKENS ON THE STRAND Return to the days of Victorian England as hundreds of actors and entertainers provide parades, contests, food, and music. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4. Galveston, 409/765-7834. www.dickensonthestrand.org.*

MUSTANG MARE-Y CHRISTMAS BARN TOUR Visit five barns decorated for Christmas and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and music, meet the animals, and watch horse training exhibitions all to benefit the Mustang Rescue. *Sun., Dec. 4, 1-5pm. RR 12 Driftwood to Wimberley. \$30 (\$15, children). www.texas2oasis.org.*

1,063rd in a series. Collect them all. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips," is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

AUSTIN DETAILS ART + PHOTO: 24 HOURS IN AUSTIN A portrait of Austin as captured by 24 local photographers in one 24-hour day in October. See your city in your city Downtown. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 3, 6-9pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31. 106 E. Eighth, 391-0999. www.austindetailsart.com.*

CO-LAB: I PUT YOU ON A PEDESTAL Michael Abelman creates an intimate installation in which the viewer both strolls by and floats over a gathering of ancient and contemporary art forms. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 3, 7-11pm.* Closing reception: *Sat., Dec. 10, 7-11pm. 613 Allen, 300-8217. www.colabspace.org.*

JO ANN SANTANGELO: AUSTIN FACES AIDS Videos and photodocumentary of locals living with HIV and AIDS. Reception: *Fri., Dec. 2, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Jan. 2. East Side Drive-In, Sixth & San Marcos. www.joannasantangelo.com.*

PUMP PROJECT: MULTIPLE ORIGINALS XVI Multiple ... originals? Of course, it's the 16th exhibition from **Women Printmakers of Austin**, and it's a wonder to behold. *Dec. 3-30, Wed. & Sat., noon-5pm. 702 Shady. www.pumpproject.org.*

REAL GALLERY: TRES CUBANOS Work by Aldo Prado, Frank Iraola, and Esteban Machado. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 3, 6-9pm.* Exhibit: *Through Dec. 31. 1101 Navasota #3. 775-0458. www.realgalleryaustin.com.*

RUSSELL COLLECTION: RIMI YANG The artist's style bridges Eastern and Western culture. Reception: *Sat., Dec. 3, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 24. 1137 W. Sixth, 478-4440. www.russell-collection.com.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART: KARL MULLEN New paintings by the Irishman from Massachusetts, now heraled by the new Evan Voyles' store sign. Reception: *Thu., Dec. 1, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: AFTER DARK GROUP SHOW

The Workman's fierce stable of brilliant offers works embodying the show's nocturnal theme. With art by Ali Cavanaugh, Helmut Barnet, Margie Crisp, Angie Renfro, Anne Ashley, and others, who could pass this up? Reception: *Sat., Dec. 3, 6-8pm.* Exhibition: *Through Dec. 23. 1202 W. Sixth, 472-7428. www.wallyworkmangallery.com.*



CLOSING

D BERMAN GALLERY: LANDSCAPES Damn it, David Berman. You know we're gonna drive all the way out to Wimberley to see this one, because new works by **Katie Maratta** and **Randy Twaddle** are worth seeing no matter what. *Through Dec. 3. 111 Old Kyle Road #100, Wimberley.*

DOMY BOOKS: MONSTER SHOW 6 The gallery's taken over by such brilliant as Jamie Panzer, Lisa Hanawalt, Brian Ralph, Nick Derington, and more, more, more! *Through Dec. 8. 913 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-3669. www.domybooks.com.*

GALLERY SHOAL CREEK: MARC BURCKHARDT AND GUSTAVO TORRES Cast bronze and paint on canvas meet in an exhibition of work by these two acclaimed masters. Recommended. *Through Dec. 3. 2905 San Gabriel, 454-6671.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: BRADNEY EVANS The artist's "Still" comprises recent works on paper and a video, on display in the gallery's Project Room. Trompe-l'oeil so good as to make you go "WTF?" *Through Dec. 3. 360 Nueces #50, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

PALOMA BEAUTY: CAUTIOUSLY FERAL Group show of Texas-based artists Adrienne Butler, Erin Dooner, Laura Thoms, Brad Hodgson, and others. *Through Dec. 8. 4600 Mueller #1005. www.palomabeauty.com.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR ARTWORK: PEOPLE'S GALLERY 2012 The city of Austin seeks artwork from Austin artists for the 2012 "People's Gallery" exhibition. Deadline: *Dec. 5. 974-9313. www.austincreates.com.*

LITERA

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

FLOR DE NOPAL LITERARY FESTIVAL Free workshops on writing and creativity are facilitated by Scott Wiggerman, Jo Reyes-Boitel, and Moises S. L. Lara and ire'ne lara silva. Email to reserve a spot. *Thu., Dec. 1 7-9pm.* Poetry reading featuring Christopher Carmona, Sarah Shaney Reeves, Gloria Amescua, Ari Chagoya, Katie Pace, Jo reyes-boitel, Abe Louise Young, Trey Moore, Lauren Espinoza, Joe Jimenez, and Scott Wiggerman. *Fri., Dec. 2, 7-9pm.* Presentation by Trey Moore. *Sat., Dec. 3, 5pm.* Poets Panel. *Sat., Dec. 3, 6pm.* Poetry reading with Laurie Ann Guerrero, K. Denea Stewart Shaheed, Celeste Guzman Mendoza, Maria Miranda Maloney, Rachel Jennings, Jorge Antonio Renaud, Tammy Melody Gomez, Brenda Nettles Riojas, ire'ne lara silva, Erin Bad Hand, and Carmen Tafolla. *Sat., Dec. 3, 7-9pm.* Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 974-3772. Free. www.flordenopaliteraryfestival.wordpress.com.

CURATOR'S TOUR: "BANNED, BURNED, SEIZED, AND CENSORED" Danielle Brune Sigler leads a tour of the Ransom Center's exhibition of once-contentious materials. How did hundreds of thousands of books, pictures, plays, and magazines get banned, burned, seized, and censored in the span of less than 30 years right here in the USA? Find out here tonight. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7pm.* Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

BETH MCKINNEY The Brentwood Christian School student has just published her first novel, *Young Falcon*. *Sat., Dec. 3, 2pm.* Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.

TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR READING features Shuhb Schiesser, Barbara Gregg, Laura Peña, Christa Pandey, Ralph Hausser, Neil Meili, Gary Rosin, Jo Virgil, Carie Juettner, Nathan Brown, Kelsey Erin Shipman, Margie McCreeless Roe, Sarah Webb, Lyman Grant, Diane McGurren, Jill Wiggins, Stan Crawford, Robin Allen, Jeannie Gambill, Claire Camargo, Mary Margaret Carlisle, Ken Fontenot, and Katherine Oldmixon. Highly recommended. *Sat., Dec. 3, 4pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

KATHRYN GAYLE AND MICHAEL SCHNEIDER respectively present their books *Connected* and *Blind Faith, The Darkness of Perfection*. *Sat., Dec. 3, 11am.* Cafe Java, 11900-K Metric Blvd., 531-9237. www.kathryngayle.com/blog.

THE DREAM CATCHERS SHOWCASE cups your spoken word with Brently Caballero and "Good Ghost" Bill Moran. Jake Lloyd and DSII of Kicks & Khords blessed with music. Korim Sterling hosts. Plus DJ OG Sprocket. Short open mic opens. *Sat., Dec. 3, 6:30pm.* Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 825-9315. \$5. www.mitchie.com.

P. KELLACH WADDLE and the musicians of PKWproductions perform Waddle's new music inspired by three works of Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Highly recommended. *Sun., Dec. 4, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

RICK MOODY WITH EVAN SMITH Booksigning, cocktails, and appetizers before the screening of Moody's *The Ice Storm*, directed by Ang Lee. Q&A follows the film, a benefit for Austin Bat Cave. Highly recommended. *Tue., Dec. 6, 6pm.* Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress. \$50. www.austinbatcave.org.

poem of the issue

the road was cold
& clouded with time
you were warm
& filled with desire
but the sun
had turned me
pink & brittle
and I feared breaking
most.

— Kelsey Erin Shipman,
from her collection *cold days*

THE MOTH ON THE ROAD The best modern storytellers on the planet, pretty much, are on tour to illuminate you and chill you and make you laugh your ass off — maybe all at the same time. This is one swankyass event at the Paramount, and thoroughly lepidote recommended. *Tue., Dec. 6, 8pm.* Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$30-50. www.austintheatre.org.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

BOOK CLUBS? Where bookish folk gather — in a coffee shop, say, or a bookstore or a library — to discuss what they've been reading? Yes, we have a few of those listed online each week.

BOOKPEOPLE CLUBS 7% Solution rips *Veil of Lies* by Jeri Westerson. *Mon., Dec. 5, 7pm.* **Rewritten History** threads *Eye of the Needle* by Ken Follett. *Wed., Dec. 7, 7pm.* BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

YARBOROUGH LIBRARY WINTERFEST features all the groups that meet at the library, including APS Critique Group with Beth Kropf. Cookies and apple cider. *Sat., Dec. 3, 12:30-4pm.* Yarrowburgh Library, 2200 Hancock.

OPEN MICS

OPEN MICS Austin Poetry Slam *Tuesdays, 8pm.* 29th Street Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. **Multimedia Poetry** *Wednesdays, 6:30pm.* Thrive, 909 W. Mary, 447-9743. **Fair Bean Coffee** *Fridays, 5-7:30pm.* 22101 S. First, 444-BEAN. **Full English Tea Room** Thom hosts. *Saturdays, 6-9pm.* 2000 Southern Oaks, 240-2748. **Spoken & Heard** *Sundays, 7-10pm.* Kick Butt Coffee, 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425. **More listed online!**

ACC LITERARY COFFEEHOUSE features Lyman Grant reading from his latest book, *As Long as We Need*. Open mic follows, hosted by John Herndon. *Mon., Dec. 5, 7pm.* Java Lounge at Austin Java, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjava.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

B&N HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE FOR KIDS Throughout December, Barnes & Noble stores collect donations of new books (purchased at Barnes & Noble) for its holiday book drive benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center. www.dellchildrens.net.

RIC UP YER EARS *goose follows swan. (what is there to understand?) "you too are beautiful," the bride says to the dreamer. the swan alone, head tucked inside wing. the message carries its feather white-faced; a bride marries his all-empty. who is this couple? the uninvited waiting ever-present in the judgment of loss? Namaste. Dream further.*

COMMUNITY

ART WITH HEART HOLIDAY PARTY Local art, a silent auction, and more holiday partying, with the money going to art workshops for violence survivors and those at risk. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7-9pm.* 29th Street Ballroom, 2906 Fruth, 480-9562. \$25 (\$20, advance). www.empowerart.org.

DRISKILL HOTEL 125TH BIRTHDAY Help Austin's historic hotel celebrate 125 years in business with a tree illumination ceremony and live music in the lobby. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7pm.* The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911.

WHISKEY FESTIVAL Michael Parker's annual event is the best whiskey event of the year, according to our Food writer Wes Marshall. Sample more than 50 whiskeys from the British Isles complemented by a whiskey-friendly food buffet. *Thu., Dec. 1, 7pm.* Opal Divine's Penn Field, 3601-K S. Congress, 707-0237. \$45 (\$40, advance). www.opaldivines.com.

MOVEMBER WRAP PARTY It's time to show off those killer 'staches you've been growing to help raise money and awareness for prostate cancer. Don't forget to dress in a way that accentuates your facial hair. *Magnum, Pl. shorts? Check. Thu., Dec. 1, 8pm-2am.* The HighBall, 1142 S. Lamar, 543-1168. \$10. www.movember.com.

HOT SCIENCE COOL TALKS Dr. Christopher Kirk from UT's Department of Anthropology takes you on a voyage through the history of vision from endangered lemurs to humans. Activities and an exhibit start at 5:45pm, with the lecture following at 7pm. *Fri., Dec. 2. UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224, 471-5947. Free. www.esi.utexas.edu.*

CEDAR PARK TREE LIGHTING with enough wattage to get your holiday spirit jump-started. Take a free carriage ride or just say "hi" to Santa before the tree lights up at 8pm. *Fri., Dec. 2, 6-9pm.* Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Pkwy., Cedar Park, 512/512-4400. Free. www.cedarparkfun.com.

CAPITOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT The A Cappella Texas Chorus sings your holiday favorites and gets the crowd in on the harmonizing. *Sat., Dec. 3, noon-1pm.* State Capitol Rotunda, 11th & Congress. Free. www.acappellatexas.org.

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Holiday Bazaars



BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Need something Austin-y (art, jewelry, prints, clothing, etc., whatnot, and then some) for a loved one this year? More than 100 artists and artisans will help you with your gifting conundrums. Special events occur throughout the month of December, so shop

early and often. *Through Dec. 24, 10am-10pm. The Marchesa Hall & Theatre, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 454-2000. Free. www.bluegenieartbazaar.com.*

WHEATSVILLE ARTS FESTIVAL The north end of the Drag throws a party in style with live music, art exhibitions, and live music all day for two days. *Sat.-Sun., Dec. 3-4, 9am-5pm. 2915 Guadalupe. wheatstville.coop.*

WELLS BRANCH LIBRARY HOLIDAY BAZAAR *Sat., Dec. 3, 11am-5pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wbllibrary.org.*

CONGRESS COLLECTIVE POP-UP SHOP This group of artists and artisans show and sell their wares at this temporary storefront. Come on opening day for music, food, and drinks. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 1-3, 10am-7pm. 910 Congress. www.congresscollective.com.*

ART GARAGE HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW Give the gift of art and ensure that local struggling artists don't become starving artists. *Fri., Dec. 2, 6-9pm. Austin Art Garage, 2200-J S. Lamar, 585-6780. www.austinartgarage.com.*

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET Arts & crafts from local artisans steeped in the German tradition (e.g., hand-blown glass, embroidered linens, and more) will be available. Live Christmas music and a visit from St. Nikolaus keep the kids (and parents) entertained. *Sat., Dec. 3, 10am-4pm. German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. Free. www.germantexans.org.*

VIDEO GAME ART & CONSIGNMENT EXPO Everyone's a gamer these days, so you will probably need a unique piece of art for gifting purposes. Local artists present their gaming themed work for your purchasing convenience. *Sun., Dec. 4, 1-5pm. Game Over Videogames, 911 W. Anderson #106, 454-GAME. Free. www.gameovervideogames.com.*

WILDFLOWER CENTER SHOPPING EVENT Now in its 21st year, this collection of artists and artisans will hopefully supply you with the unique gift you've been looking for. *Dec. 2-4: Fri.-Sat., 9am-5:30pm; Sun., noon-5pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 232-0100. www.wildflower.org/holiday.*

URBAN FARM BICYCLE TOUR Edible Austin and the Bicycle Sport Shop invite families to jump on their bikes and take rider-friendly routes to farms and community gardens all over town. Four stops include children's hands-on gardening activities, hen-house tours, farm tours, and samplings. Tours leave from three spots: *Bicycle Sport Shop, 517 S. Lamar; SFC Farmers' Market, Fourth & Guadalupe; and Triangle Farmers' Market, 46th and Lamar.* Proceeds benefit the Urban Roots youth-development program. Buy tickets online. *Sat., Dec. 3, 9am. \$30. www.urbanfarmbicycletour.com.*

LEANDER CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING A parade, tree lighting, choral performances, hayrides, and photos, all in the name of that rotund, red bastard that seems to be everywhere these days. *Sat., Dec. 3, 5-8:30pm. Old Town Leander, 200 W. Willis, 512/528-9909. Free. www.leandertx.gov.*

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG & DOWNTOWN STROLL The Downtown Austin Alliance and KUT host this evening of seasonal spirit starting with carols on the South Steps of the state Capitol at 6pm. The Capitol tree is lit at 7pm, followed by an invitation to take a walk down Congress Avenue where stores and museums will be open late and lousy with specials. *Sat., Dec. 3, 6-9pm. 469-1766. Free. www.downtownaustin.com.*

ZILKER HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Come see the 155-foot-tall moonlight tower decked out in its 3,300 lights for the season, accompanied by the breathy tunes of the Austin Civic Wind Ensemble. The Trail of Lights might be defunct, but you can still spin yourself silly under the tree. *Sun., Dec. 4, 5:30-8pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. Free. www.acwe.org.*

DANCING WITH THE STARS Local celebs battle it out on the dance floor for mirror-ball supremacy. Smokin' hot Judge Sam Biscoe heads the funky, sultry charge, and all the proceeds from the raffles and auctions benefit the Center for Child Protection. *Sun., Dec. 4, 7pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 472-1164. \$300. www.centerforchildprotection.org.*

BEE TEAM CHALLENGE Get yourself and three of your most literate friends to this monthly spelling bee and literature trivia night hybrid. Money raised goes to Literacy Coalition of Central Texas. *First Tuesdays of the month, 6-8pm. Yellow Jacket Social Club, 1704 E. Fifth, 320-4505. \$10 per team. www.willread.org.*

SPORTS

THE MAIN EVENTS

LAKE TRAVIS (13-0) VS. CEDAR PARK (11-2) Lake Travis with 1,000-yard rusher Shaun Nixon has a slight edge over Cedar Park (led by senior QB Brian Hogan) going into this highly touted matchup. This 4A Division I Final at DKR should draw a large, raucous high school football crowd. *Fri., Dec. 2, 7:30pm. Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, 2100 San Jacinto, 471-3050.*

NCAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS No. 1-seeded Texas starts down the path to the national championship. Arizona vs. Michigan State: *Fri., Dec. 2, 4:30pm.* Texas vs. Texas State: *Fri., Dec. 2, 7pm.* Match 1 Winner vs. Match 2 Winner: *Sat., Dec. 3, 7pm. Gregory Gym, 2101 Speedway. www.texasports.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

TEXAS STATE Women's Basketball Vs. Huston-Tillotson: *Tue., Dec. 6, 3:30pm.* **Men's Basketball** Vs. Houston Baptist: *Sat., Dec. 3, 4pm.* Vs. Univ. of Houston: *Tue., Dec. 6, 6pm. www.txstatebobcats.com.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. UT-Arlington: *Tue., Dec. 6, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. \$8-40.* **Men's and Women's Swimming/Diving** Texas Invitational: *Thu. Dec. 1-3, all day. Texas Swim Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. www.texasports.com.*

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Jarvis Christian College: *Sat., Dec. 3, 7:30pm. www.htu.edu/athletics.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

LIGHTS OF LOVE 5K *Fri., Dec. 2, 5:30pm. Mueller Hangar, 4450 Mueller Blvd, 524-2953. \$35, 5K timed; \$30, 5K untimed; \$15, Fido/Kids K. www.rmhc-austin.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?event=491203.*

BOBCAT 5K REYNOLDS RUN *Sun., Dec. 4, 9:30am. Hill Country Galleria, 12700 Hill Country Blvd., Bee Cave, 512/784-9926. Donations accepted. www.bcepto.com/fundraiser/FunRun.html.*

DECEMBER DASH *Sat., Dec. 3, 8:30am. Cedar Creek Middle School, 125 Voss Pkwy., Cedar Creek, 512/417-9420. \$25, 5K run (18 and up); \$20, 5K run (up to age 17); \$10, kids' 1K run/walk. www.signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/78313.*

REINDEER RUN benefits the Play for All Abilities Park in Round Rock. *Sun., Dec. 4, 5pm. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. www.5r5k.org.*

JINGLE BELL 5K BENEFITING MADD *Sun., Dec. 4, 8am. The Domain, 11410 Century Oaks Terrace, 795-4230. \$30, timed adult 5K; \$25, untimed adult; \$15, under 21; \$10, kids' run. www.jinglbellrunformadd.org.*

RUN LIKE THE WIND This 5K benefits the Schrodri Memorial Training Fund, a "scholarship program with a 95% success rate in keeping dogs in their homes and out of shelters." *Sat., Dec. 3, 8am. The Canine Center for Training and Behavior, 6901 Old Bee Caves Rd., 512/721-8496. \$15, kids' K; \$315, 24-hour chip-timed ultra run. www.schrodrifund.org/RunLikeTheWind.htm.*

WILD CARDS

KLBJ & BDOE UT WATCH PARTY KLBJ and friend of the *Chronicle* Sports blog BDOe get the party cranking an hour before kickoff. *Sat., Dec. 3, 1:30pm. Little Woodrow's, 6301 Parmer, 918-2337. Free. www.littlewoodrows.com.*

RICKSHAW RIOT A fundraiser for local rickshaw riders who will be racing 2,000 miles across India to help build clean-water infrastructure there. Enjoy

Indian food, Henna tattoos, and much more. *Sat., Dec. 3, 5pm. The Scoot Inn, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. Donations welcome. www.lonestarrickshaw.com.*

KIDS

KIDS' CHARACTER DANCE Get into character and learn to move like them. *Fridays, 5-6pm. Butler Dance Education Center, 501 W. Third, 476-9051. \$75. www.balletaustin.org/community/courseofferings.php.*

WEEKLY STORY TIME FOR KIDS Stories, crafts, and even a free book just for coming out. *Saturdays, 1pm. Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar Ste. B-148, 323-6901. Free. www.mitchiesnewsletter.com.*

A VERY FAIRY CHRISTMAS CAROL Characters from kids' theatre productions past – including Penelope the Party-Pooping Fairy, Peter Pan, and others – come together to help Tiny Tim learn about sharing during the holiday season. Perfect for kids between the ages of 4 and 10. *Through Dec. 18, Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2pm. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-5436. \$10 (\$8, children). www.srct.org.*

STUDENT STORYTIMES Kindergarten through fifth graders read eight-page books that they wrote themselves. *Sat., Dec. 3, 11am. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

BEAUTY & THE BEAST PUPPET SHOW Children over the age of 4 get a story of kid-friendly bestiality as told by pseudo-Muppets. *Sat., Dec. 3, 1pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

MONSTER FAMILIES IMPROV These monsters don't believe in humans, even the ones in the audience. The young audience members will have to help, so be prepared to offer suggestions. *Sundays, 2pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 971-3311. \$7. www.flyingtheatremachine.com.*

GERMAN FAIRY TALE HOUR features a German-language telling of the Hansel & Gretel story, followed by crafts and activities. Recommended for anyone over the age of 4. Register by Dec. 5. *Tue., Dec. 6, 5pm. German Free School, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. \$15. www.germantexans.org.*

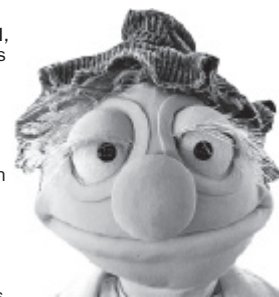
Soccer Watch

BY NICK BARBARO



Houston's **Brian Ching** was the biggest name selected in last week's **MLS** expansion draft, as the **Montreal Impact** become the league's 19th team, joining the Portland Timbers and Vancouver Whitecaps as former **Austin Aztex** foes now in the big leagues... Amid other postseason roster moves around the MLS, speculation swirls around the champion **LA Galaxy** and **David Beckham**, who's done with his five-year contract and may or may not want to extend his stay. If he goes, next up could be Chelsea star **Didier Drogba**, who wants out of Stamford Bridge, with his agent calling the Galaxy "a possibility"... The **European Champions League** group stage concludes this Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 6-7 (live on FSC, 1:45pm).

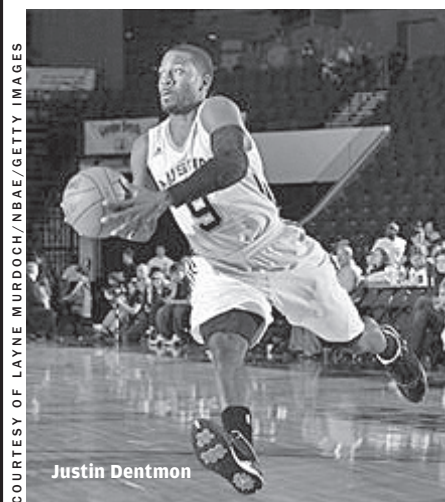
HOMESTYLE HOLIDAY HODOWN, aka Ho Ho Ho, finds this working farm all decked out for the holidays. Get the kids amped up for presents (like they need help) with crafts, activities, and live music, followed by storytime and a sing-along concert featuring the Biscuit Brothers and their band. *Sat., Dec. 3, 5:30pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$10. www.biscuitbrothers.com/calendar/ho3.*



YO GABBA GABBA! LIVE! Your kids already know the names of the blue cat-dragon character and the pink flower bubble thing, and with the help of DJ Lance Rock and Biz Markie the colorful cast will incite a singing and dancing riot before the afternoon is through. *Sun., Dec. 4, 2 & 5pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$30-45. www.yogabbagabballive.com.*

Toros 2011-12 Home Openers

BY MARK FAGAN



Justin Dentmon

With the NBA tentatively scheduled to return Christmas Day, pro hoops fans can satiate their round-ball jones until then with NBA D-League play at the Cedar Park Center. The **Austin Toros** start their home campaign with an unblemished 1-0 record, having defeated the Texas Legends 101-96 last Saturday on the road. Former Legend **Justin Dentmon**, recently acquired by the Toros in a trade, led Austin to the W with 28 points, seven assists, and two steals. Booyah Legends! Guard **Cardell "Squeaky" Johnson** and forward **Lance Thomas** both contributed 25 points in the season opener. The Toros host West Conference rivals the Tulsa 66ers for their Trifecta Friday (\$3 beers, \$2 sodas, \$1 hot dogs) and Winning Wednesday (if the Toros win, fans get a free ticket) promotions. Smartphone users should consider downloading the new (and free) **NBA D-League Center Court app**.

Vs. Tulsa: Fri., Dec. 2, 8pm; Wed., Dec. 7, 7:30pm. Cedar Park Center, 2100 Avenue of the Stars, Cedar Park, 512/600-5000. \$8-99 plus fees. www.austintoros.com.

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey

D: Constance Marks, Philip Shane;
narrated by Whoopi Goldberg. (PG, 76 min.)



Okay, I give up: Two Muppet movies that require grown men to carry hankies with them lest they exit the theatre with telltale snufflings and watery

eyes? As I noted in my review of the recent and successful reboot of the Muppets franchise, Jim Henson's magical puppetry skills defined a generation or two in terms of what was possible, not only on television but also in real life. As it turned out, many a youngster raised on *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show* went on to pursue their dreams with creativity and gusto that can be traced directly back to those early days spent staring goggle-eyed at the alleged idiot box. And *Being Elmo* is a charming, sweet, and altogether wonderful documentary example of the positive influence that PBS has had on youngsters – and their parents – since its inception in 1970. (Shame on those politicians who frequently threaten public broadcasting with budget-cut banishment!)

Being Elmo is something of a rags-to-better-quality-rags-to-riches tale, and a more heartwarming holiday-season documentary you are unlikely to find. It traces the evolution not of the titular Elmo so much as that of the young African-American puppeteer, Kevin Clash, who eventually ended up bringing life, and no small amount of love, to a

Muppet that was on the verge of being cast off the show entirely. (Elmo's original puppeteer, we discover, could never find the right mix of vocal style and physical attitude to make the little red guy come acceptably alive.) Marks and Shane's documentary is a twofold revelation: We see Clash at 10, living with his family in a Baltimore neighborhood that, with its somewhat grimy, urban appearance, oddly mirrors the dingy stoops and trash-can panache of *Sesame Street*. Smitten then with the joyous double punch of *Captain Kangaroo* and Jim Henson's celebrated hood, the young Clash begins – with some remarkable and frankly unexpected support from his mother and father – to build his own crude puppets and hold shows in his ratty backyard. This eventually leads to a gig with the local Baltimore television station, and from there to a meeting, at age 16, with legendary puppeteer Kermit Love, who takes the young Clash under his wing and proceeds to teach him everything he knows about puppeteering.

RECOMMENDED



Tinseltown South

It's not long before Clash meets his childhood idol, Henson, and is brought aboard *Sesame Street*, first puppeteering an owl character, and then given the chance to make something of the failing Elmo. A shy but genuinely talented puppeteer, Clash adds the high squeaky voice, the hugging, and all the characteristics that eventually spurred Elmo madness (so to speak). A star is born. Two stars, really, as this is as much Clash's story as it is Elmo's.

Despite its short running time, *Being Elmo* is an engrossingly layered documentary. It touches not only on what it means

to be a puppeteer but also on how the imaginary world of play can change young lives – over and over again – for the better. It tells us the dreams we have when we are young aren't just

phantoms to be banished along with all those other “childish things” once we begin to grow up. And it serves as an object lesson in the ultimate power of believing in oneself and persevering against long odds and ridicule from others. To paraphrase everyone's favorite amphibian, sometimes it's not easy being what you are or following your heart's desire, but given enough time, talent, and fleece, anything is possible.

BY MARC SAVLOV

The film opens in Paris in 1962, in the Joubert apartment. Jean-Louis (Luchini), a stockbroker, was born in the fifth-floor apartment of the building and expects to eventually die there. He will pass it on to his son, as did his father and grandfather before him. Jean-Louis' elegant but chilly wife, Suzanne (Kiberlain), is in the process of redecorating the apartment following the death of her mother-in-law, and the radical change causes the departure (it's hard to say whether she quits or is fired) of the family's longtime maid Germaine (Gleizer). Encouraged by her society friends that it's no longer chic to hire French maids, Suzanne hires the recently arrived young Spaniard María (Verbeke) to cook and clean for them – something the Jouberts are woefully inadequate at handling on their own.

As soon as the beautiful, young maid arrives in the Joubert home, the viewer senses exactly where this story is heading: toward the classic upstairs/downstairs affair between the boss and the domestic help. And, indeed, *The Women on the 6th Floor* heads in that direction, but not without an unusual twist. Infatuated though he is with María, Jean-Louis' obsession turns toward all things Spanish. A half-dozen Spanish maids, including María, occupy the shabby rooms on the building's sixth floor, and despite having lived there his entire life, Jean-Louis had no idea of their presence. Shortly after his discovery, he pays to get their shared toilet repaired and bestows other kindnesses. Following a spat with his wife, Jean-Louis moves into a room in this sixth-floor garret and discovers he loves having a room of his own for the first time in his life. Jean-Louis would be considered a real mack daddy were not the circumstances of his situation so sweet. His relationship with the women reeks of paternalism, but it is also infused with true friendship and mutual regard.

Luchini is wonderfully understated as Jean-Louis, while Verbeke's grace and smile indeed captivates. A coda set in 1965 seals the film's status as a bourgeois fantasy, but fear not: Paris' student and worker riots of 1968 are only a hair's breadth away.

★★

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Arbor

THE YELLOW SEA

D: Hong-jin Na; with Ha Jung-woo, Kim Yun-seok. (R, 167 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. Screened during Fantastic Fest, this violent crime drama from South Korea is set in the Chinese no-man's land between Russia and North Korea. A cabdriver makes a dirty deal to cover his gambling debts and is in for the chase of a lifetime. The film was not available to the press for review. – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lamar

NEW REVIEWS

DESI BOYZ

D: Rohit Dhawan; with Akshay Kumar, John Abraham, Deepika Padukone, Chitrangda Singh. (NR, 122 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Bollywood film set in London, two upscale young men find they must downsize with the economic depression. The friends become pole dancers and bitter rivals.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown South

PASTORELA

D: Emilio Portes; with Joaquín Cosío, Carlos Cobos, Eduardo España, Dagoberto Gama, Héctor Jiménez. (R, 95 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this Mexican comedy, a man who has always portrayed the devil in the town's annual nativity play is miffed when the new pastor recasts the role.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE WOMEN ON THE 6TH FLOOR

D: Philippe Le Guay; with Fabrice Luchini, Sandrine Kiberlain, Natalia Verbeke, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Berta Ojea, Nuria Solé, Concha Galán, Michèle Gleizer. (NR, 104 min., subtitled)

The Women on the 6th Floor is a light French comedy that is pure bourgeois fantasy, but a genial fantasy nevertheless. Charming performances and the naivete of the characters go a long way toward smoothing over the characters' perpetuation of class distinctions and patronizing attitudes. A labor revolution among immigrant workers is the furthest thing from anyone's mind in this film, and it would feel rude to impose this perspective on these Sixties characters.



The Women on the 6th Floor

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

FIRST RUNS

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ABDUCTION

D: John Singleton; with Taylor Lautner, Lily Collins, Alfred Molina, Sigourney Weaver, Maria Bello, Jason Isaacs, Denzel Whitaker. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Taylor Lautner, the lupine heartthrob from the *Twilight* movies, here takes a leading role in a bid for action-star status. Sadly, both the drama and action in *Abduction* are tepid, and Lautner's kickboxing skills markedly outshine his emotive chops. *Abduction* begins with a strong premise: While working on a high-school project, Nathan (Lautner) discovers a photo of himself as a child on a website for missing children. But when the teen confronts his mother (Bello) with the mystery, she and his father (Isaacs) are offered by unknown assassins. Nathan flees with his project partner Karen (Collins), continuing to evade the killers. Explanations come in the form of a CIA chief (Molina) and Nathan's psychiatrist, Dr. Bennett (Weaver). Director John Singleton seems to have merely checked off items on his director's to-do list — reveal Lautner's abs, explosion, kickboxing scene, make-out scene, and so on — rather than fashion a genuinely compelling story. (09/30/2011)

★★★ — Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

D: Sarah Smith; with the voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy, Jim Broadbent, Imelda Staunton, Ashley Jensen, Laura Linney, Michael Palin, Robbie Coltrane. (PG, 100 min.)

The worst thing I can say about this sweet little slice of holiday cheer is that it is preceded by evil incarnate: a Justin Bieber music video. Happily, once Bieber scuttles offscreen and the Aardman Animation (*Wallace & Gromit*, *Chicken Run*) titles come up, you're in good, competent, and refreshingly funny hands. *Arthur Christmas* is an inspired take on the hoary clichés of the Santasploitation genre. This time, Aardman has left its trademark Plasticine stop-motion designs behind in favor of CGI and 3-D techniques, both of which turn out to work splendidly in the service of a very Aardman take on the notion of what it means to be Santa (voiced here by Broadbent) and the perils (and perhaps inevitability) of taking one's profession for granted, no matter how special, magical, or outrageously awesome it may be. If you can get past the Bieber, this is smart, funny stuff. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ — Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE DESCENDANTS

D: Alexander Payne; with George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Nick Krause, Amara Miller, Judy Greer, Beau Bridges, Robert Forster, Matthew Lillard, Mary Birdsong, Rob Huebel. (R, 115 min.)

Did anyone ever look less Hawaiian than the dapper and poised George Clooney? It serves his *Descendants* character, Matt King, well: Those constitutionally ill-fitting, loud prints and pleated shorts

and boat shoes embody how out of touch Matt has become as a husband and father to 10-year-old Scottie (Miller) and 17-year-old Alex (Woodley). Voiceover opens the film and pops up occasionally, sometimes to describe the depths of the family's dysfunction. However, what we're told and what we're shown by director and co-writer Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *About Schmidt*) don't always square: The girls seem more precociously rebellious than tyrannical, and Matt, who is publicly roasted for his failures as a family man, is never seen as anything less than a competent and loving caretaker. *The Descendants* is beautifully shot (by Phedon Papamichael) and compellingly performed, especially by its young stars, and it has moments of startling tenderness. If only it didn't feel phony to its bones. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown

DOLPHIN TALE

D: Charles Martin Smith; with Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd, Nathan Gamble, Morgan Freeman, Cozi Zuehlsoff, Kris Kristofferson, Austin Stowell, Frances Sternhagen, Ray McKinnon. (PG, 113 min.)

This film, inspired by the true story of the first dolphin to be fitted with a prosthetic tail, is solid family entertainment. Though it meanders through some chum-heavy patches, this genuine crowd-pleaser is a worthy new entrant into the boy-and-his-underdog genre. Young Sawyer Nelson (Gamble) of Clearwater, Fla., is a withdrawn kid who, when he encounters a beached dolphin, becomes fascinated by the Clearwater Marine Hospital. He goes to the facility and comes under the spell of its managerial family — Dr. Clay Haskett (Connick Jr.), his daughter Hazel (Zuehlsoff), and his dad (Kristofferson). Sawyer's affinity with the dolphin helps him emerge from his shell, as does support from his mother (Judd) and the Hasketts. It's a little overloaded, but director Charles Martin Smith (*Air Bud*) handily keeps the sap at bay. Inspirational in the best sense, *Dolphin Tale* honors the values of commitment, perseverance, and inclusion for all life's damaged mammals. (09/23/2011)

★★★ — Marjorie Baumgarten
Movies 8

DRIVE

D: Nicolas Winding Refn; with Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan, Bryan Cranston, Albert Brooks, Oscar Isaac, Christina Hendricks, Ron Perlman, Kaden Leos. (R, 100 min.)

Welcome to the 2011 model of the Renaissance man. He's a metrosexual *and* an auto mechanic. He'll chastely hold his best gal's hand and bash in the skull of any goon who looks at her wrong. A delectable mix of brooding arthouse and heist-gone-to-hell genre picture, *Drive* opens with an eye on Ryan Gosling's tight-lipped, no-name stunt driver, moonlighting as a getaway driver for anonymous crooks. The drive goes a little wrong, and it's an enjoyably tense tease of what's to come when things go a lot wrong. Fairly early on, *Drive* ratchets up to something like controlled chaos. From writer Hossein Amini's keen characterization of this tender taciturn (pause for occasional primal rage) to director Nicolas Winding Refn's order to hold long and hard on his lead actor's luscious visage, there's just no resisting. I can't remember the last time I felt so seduced by a film. (09/16/2011)

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Movies 8

50/50

D: Jonathan Levine; with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, Anna Kendrick, Anjelica Huston, Bryce Dallas Howard. (R, 99 min.)

50/50 accomplishes the near-impossible: It's a feel-good cancer comedy. Writer Will Reiser based the script on his own bout with spinal cancer in his early 20s. His real-life best friend, Rogen, plays his own fictional surrogate: the schlubby, emotionally stunted fount of dick jokes that we've come to know and love. Joseph Gordon-Levitt is Reiser's stand-in, a Seattle-based National Public Radio producer diagnosed with a rare kind of cancer that doesn't come with great odds (the title's 50/50). In keeping with a character who is kind and cautious, Gordon-Levitt skips big theatrics for tiny masterstrokes of emotion and a winning matter-of-factness in his delivery of Reiser's cuttlingly funny writing ("Nobody wants to fuck me; I look like Voldemort."). *50/50* dispatches the comedic and the dramatic with aplomb. There's some overall flabbiness, but mostly it's just terribly funny and sad and beautiful and terrifically feel-good for being, you know, a cancer comedy. (09/30/2011)

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Movies 8, Metropolitan

HAPPY FEET TWO

D: George Miller; with the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Hank Azaria, Alecia "Pink" Moore, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Ava Acres, Sofia Vergara, Common, Hugo Weaving, Richard Carter, Anthony LaPaglia. (PG, 100 min.)

There's lots of peril but not much story in this sequel to 2006's animated-penguin blockbuster. The movie opens with a big song-and-dance number in which young Erik (Acres) is unable to dance but is encouraged to do so by his mom, Gloria (Pink), and dad, Mumble (Elijah Wood), who were the central characters in the original. Erik wants to find his own thing, so he takes off with some friends for lands beyond. Mumble soon rescues Erik, but upon their return they find the penguins' habitat has shifted, leaving the flock trapped. Concurrently, we meet Will (Pitt) and Bill (Damon), a couple of krill who decide they're tired of being "one in a krillion" and set off on their own adventure. Although appealing to look at, *Happy Feet Two* is unable to spark much emotional involvement, and the film's near-constant peril may intimidate the young ones in the audience. (11/18/2011)

★★ — Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, IMAX Theatre, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE HELP

D: Tate Taylor; with Viola Davis, Emma Stone, Octavia Spencer, Bryce Dallas Howard, Jessica Chastain, Allison Janney, Sissy Spacek, Cicely Tyson, Mary Steenburgen. (PG-13, 146 min.)

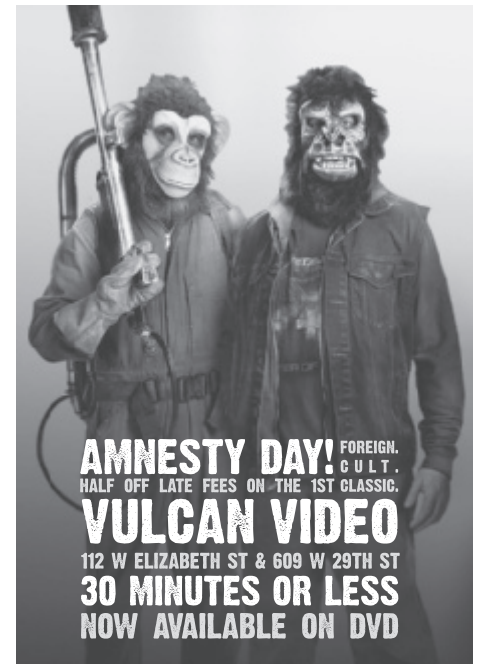
A major complaint brought against Kathryn Stockett's 2009 bestseller *The Help* was that a white woman didn't have any business writing a civil rights-era novel from the perspective of black maids. It's hard to imagine Tate Taylor's positively polite film adaptation drawing much controversy; it's hardly worth arguing over offensiveness in its anodyne interpretation of the civil rights struggle of 1963. As in the source novel, *The Help* alternates perspectives between Aibileen (Davis), a tough-as-nails maid who is mourning the death of her son while worrying about the white child in her charge; saucy Minny (Spencer); and Skeeter (Stone), a white woman who bucks her background to write a book with Minny and Aibileen about what it's like to be "the help." *The Help* may be more interested in the moral at the end of the story than the story itself, but what saves the film from its meticulous one-dimensionality is its nuanced, deeply moving cast. (08/12/2011)

★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Movies 8

HUGO

D: Martin Scorsese; with Asa Butterfield, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Chloë Grace Moretz, Helen McCrory, Emily Mortimer, Christopher Lee, Ray Winstone, Michael Stuhlbarg, Jude Law, Richard Griffiths. (PG, 126 min.)

Scorsese steps outside his usual comfort zone here and winds up creating one of the most splendid and personal films of his career. A visual and technological stunner, *Hugo* manages to wrap an emotionally involving story about an orphaned boy in 1930s Paris around a passionate appeal for the practice of film



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J. EDGAR Presented in DLP Cinema® (R) Fri. - Thu. 1:00 4:05 7:15 10:25

TOWER HEIST Presented in DLP Cinema® (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 11:45 2:30 5:20 8:00 10:45

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1 Presented in DLP Cinema® (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 10:00 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

HAPPY FEET TWO 3D Presented in DLP Cinema® (PG) Fri. - Thu. 10:45 1:10 3:55 6:30 9:15

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D Presented in DLP Cinema® (PG) Fri. - Thu. 10:20 1:20 4:05 6:45 9:30

IMMORTALS Presented in DLP Cinema® (R) Fri. - Thu. 11:15 2:05 4:55 7:45 10:40

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IMMORTALS 3D (R) DBox Motion Seating Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:20 9:45 11:59
DBox Motion Seating Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:20 9:45

THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:15 9:40

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:10 2:20 4:40 7:15 9:40 11:50
Sun. - Thu. 12:10 2:20 4:40 7:15 9:40

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:30 1:00 1:45 3:45 4:00 4:30 6:45 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00 10:15 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 12:30 1:00 1:45 3:45 4:00 4:30 6:45 7:00 7:30 9:30 10:00 10:15

J. EDGAR (R) Fri. - Thu. 1:00 4:10 7:15 10:10

TOWER HEIST (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:45 11:55
Sun. - Thu. 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:45

A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) Fri. & Sat. 9:35 11:30
Sun. - Thu. 9:35

PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:55 9:15 11:20
Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:55 9:15

HAPPY FEET TWO 3D (PG) Fri. - Thu. 12:00 2:10 4:20 7:00

★ - Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons
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openings

Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey (PG)

Desi Boyz (NR)

Pastorela (R)

The Women on the 6th Floor (NR)

The Yellow Sea (R)

ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

● La bomba

SHOWTIMES

FRIDAY, DEC. 2-THURSDAY, DEC. 8

An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.

FOR UPDATED SHOWTIMES, SEE austinchronicle.com/film.

Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE AT THE RITZ 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Action Pack: Christmas Pops Sing-Along Thu (12/8), 10:15pm
Master Pancake: Christmas Show Sat, 7:00, 10:00; Sun, 5:00, 8:00
Action Pack: Die Hard Thu (12/8), 7:00pm
Zang!!!: Gremlins 2: The New Batch Fri, 7:10pm
Girlie Night: Love Actually Tue, 7:00pm
Sommelier Cinema: Midnight in Paris Wed, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: Mitchell Wed, 9:45pm
My Week With Marc Fri, 6:20, 8:55; Sat, 4:20, 6:15, 8:50; Sun, 2:10, 4:00, 6:40; Mon, 6:30pm; Tue, 7:10pm; Wed, 7:45pm; Thu (12/8), 7:15pm
Terror Tuesday: Nightmare City Tue, 10:05pm
Late Show: Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale Fri-Sat, 11:30pm; Sun, 9:15pm
Action Pack: We Will Rock You: The Queen Sing-Along Fri, 10:30pm
Skinemax: Wild Things Thu (12/8), 10:00pm

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Arthur Christmas Fri, 10:55am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm; Sat, 10:15am, 1:15, 3:45, 6:30, 8:55pm; Sun-Tue, 10:55am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm; Wed, 10:55am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:45pm; Thu (12/8), 10:55am, 1:35, 4:05, 6:45, 9:15pm
Food & Film: A Christmas Story Wed, 7:00pm
Action Pack: Die Hard Sun, 7:00pm; Wed, 7:00pm
Happy Feet Two Fri, 10:15am, 1:00pm; Sun-Wed, 10:15am, 1:00pm
Hugo Wed, 7:45pm
Hugo (3-D) Fri, 10:10am, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45pm; Sat, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45; Sun-Tue, 10:10am, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45pm; Wed, 10:10am, 1:24, 3:50, 9:30pm; Thu (12/8), 10:10am, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 9:30, 10:45pm
J. Edgar Fri-Sat, 3:35, 7:00, Sun, 3:35pm; Mon-Tue, 3:35, 7:00; Wed, 3:35, 9:20; Thu (12/8), 3:35, 7:00
The Muppets Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 11:00, 11:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:15, 4:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:05, 10:30pm; Sun, 10:00am, 10:30, 11:30, 12:45, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 5:15, 6:45, 8:00, 10:05, 10:30pm; Mon-Tue, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:15, 4:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:05, 10:30pm; Wed, 9:45am, 10:00, 11:30, 12:45, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30, 10:05pm; Thu (12/8), 10:30am, 11:00, 11:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:15, 4:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:05, 10:30pm
Tower Heist Fri-Sat, 8:00, 10:10; Sun, 10:10pm; Mon-Tue, 8:00, 10:10; Wed, 10:15pm; Thu (12/8), 8:00, 10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 Fri, 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sat, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/8), 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00pm
TV @ the Alamo: The Walking Dead Sun, 9:00pm

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAMAR 1120 S. Lamar, 707-8262. Showtimes subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily by phone or website.
Action Pack: The Big Lebowski Quote-Along Mon, 10:00pm
The Descendants Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 12:30, 3:35, 4:40, 6:40, 9:35pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:55, 4:40, 4:55, 6:55, 9:50pm; Mon, 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40; Tue, 11:00am, 12:30, 3:35, 7:30, 9:35pm; Wed-Thu (12/8), 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40
Melancholia Fri, 11:15am, 7:00, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 2:50, 7:00, 10:25pm; Mon, 1:05, 4:20, 9:55; Tue, 12:00, 3:35, 10:25; Wed, 4:15, 9:55; Thu (12/8), 1:00, 4:15, 10:05
Food and Film: Moonstruck Mon, 7:00pm
The Muppets Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55pm; Sun, 10:45am, 1:25, 4:10, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55pm; Mon, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55; Tue, 11:20am, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 9:55, 10:55pm; Wed, 1:00, 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 10:55; Thu (12/8), 1:35, 4:30, 7:10, 9:55, 10:55
AFS: Phiffit! Tue, 7:00pm
The Skin I Live In Fri, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:30, 7:50; Mon, 1:10, 4:05, 10:30; Tue, 1:50, 4:45, 10:50; Wed-Thu (12/8), 1:05, 4:00, 10:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 Fri, 11:05am, 1:45, 7:30, 10:45pm; Sat, 1:45, 7:30, 10:45; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 7:30, 10:45pm; Mon, 1:00, 3:50, 7:35; Tue, 11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 7:55pm; Wed, 1:15, 4:00, 7:35; Thu (12/8), 1:10, 4:10, 7:35
TV @ the Alamo: The Walking Dead Sun, 8:30pm
Big Screen Classics: White Christmas Mon-Thu (12/8), 7:00pm
The Yellow Sea Fri, 11:25am, 2:40, 6:20, 10:10pm; Sat, 11:35am, 3:15, 6:20, 10:15pm; Mon, 2:40, 6:20, 10:10; Tue, 11:55am, 2:50, 6:30, 10:10pm; Wed-Thu (12/8), 2:40, 6:30, 10:10

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE VILLAGE 2000 W. Anderson, 459-7090. Tuesday matinee Baby Day shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and their children younger than 6. Showtimes at this venue are subject to frequent change. Please confirm daily times by phone or website.
Action Pack: Elf Quote-Along Wed, 7:00pm
TV at the Alamo: Glee Tue, 9:45pm
Mon Alone Tue, 7:00pm
Hugo Fri, 1:35, 6:25, 9:40; Sat, 10:55am, 1:50, 6:15, 9:30pm; Sun, 10:55am, 2:00, 7:00, 10:05pm; Mon, 6:45, 9:55, Tue, 10:30am, 6:30, 9:35pm; Wed, 7:15, 10:30; Thu (12/8), 7:00, 10:15
Hugo (3-D) Fri, 11:45am, 3:05pm; Sat, 11:45am, 3:00pm; Sun, 12:25, 3:40; Mon, 3:40pm; Tue, 12:15, 3:25; Wed, 4:00pm; Thu (12/8), 3:45pm
Immortals Fri, 11:55am; Sat, 1:15, 3:30; Sun, 1:30, 5:05; Mon, 3:50pm; Tue, 3:00, 4:15; Wed, 4:05pm; Thu (12/8), 4:45pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 7:30, 10:30; Sat, 7:20, 10:30; Sun, 8:00, 10:50; Mon, 9:40pm; Tue, 10:20pm; Wed, 6:35, 10:00; Thu (12/8), 7:45, 10:45
J. Edgar Fri, 6:55pm; Sat, 4:00, 10:10; Sun, 3:05, 6:30; Mon, 9:50pm; Wed, 9:30pm; Thu (12/8), 9:20pm
Puss in Boots Fri, 11:05am, 12:00pm; Sat, 10:45am; Sun, 11:00am, 9:50pm; Mon, 3:25pm; Tue, 12:25, 1:55; Wed, 3:50pm; Thu (12/8), 4:05, 6:45
The Rocky Horror Picture Show Sat, 11:55pm
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 Fri, 11:50am, 4:45, 7:50, 10:05pm; Sat, 12:40, 5:55, 10:55; Sun, 11:55am, 4:25, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40; Thu (12/8), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm.
NCM Fathom: Chicago Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits Tue, 7:00pm
The Descendants 12:10, 12:50, 3:10, 3:50, 6:40, 7:10, 9:50, 10:20
J. Edgar 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
Like Crazy Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05; Sun, 12:00, 7:40, 10:05pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40; Thu (12/8), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
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J. Edgar 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
Like Crazy Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05; Sun, 12:00, 7:40, 10:05pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40; Thu (12/8), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
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J. Edgar 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
Like Crazy Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05; Sun, 12:00, 7:40, 10:05pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40; Thu (12/8), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm.
NCM Fathom: Chicago Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits Tue, 7:00pm
The Descendants 12:10, 12:50, 3:10, 3:50, 6:40, 7:10, 9:50, 10:20
J. Edgar 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
Like Crazy Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:05; Sun, 12:00, 7:40, 10:05pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 4:25, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Tue, 11:00am, 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:55pm; Wed, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40; Thu (12/8), 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall, MoPac & Highway 360, 888/AMC-4FUN. Matinee discounts available before 6pm on weekdays and before 4pm Friday through Sunday and holidays. Call theatre for Dec. 6 and 8 showtimes.
Arthur Christmas (3-D) Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 4:40, 9:50pm; Sun-Mon, 4:30, 9:50; Wed, 4:30, 9:50
Arthur Christmas (digital) Fri-Mon, 1:50, 7:15; Wed, 1:50, 7:15
The Descendants (digital) Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 2:35, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40pm; Sun, 11:40am, 2:35, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon, 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; Wed, 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
Happy Feet Two (3-D, IMAX) Fri-Sun, 9:45am, 12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20pm; Mon, 12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; Wed, 12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20
Happy Feet Two (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:40, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon, 1:40, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30; Wed, 1:40, 4:05, 6:50, 9:30
Hugo (3-D) Fri-Sat, 9:50am, 12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40pm; Sun-Mon, 12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40; Wed, 12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40
Hugo (digital) Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 5:35, 8:20, 11:05pm; Sun-Mon, 5:35, 8:20, 11:05; Wed, 5:35, 8:20
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 10:00am, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35pm; Sat, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35; Sun, 10:00am, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35pm; Mon, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20; Tue, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20
Immortals (digital) Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:00; Mon, 12:00, 2:30; Wed, 12:00, 2:30
J. Edgar Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15pm; Mon, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15; Wed, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15
Jack and Jill Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:25, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25pm; Mon, 1:25, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25; Tue, 12:55, 3:35, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
Sensory Friendly: The Muppets Sat, 10:00am
The Muppets (closed captioned, closed captioned and describe video) Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05; Wed, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05
The Muppets (digital) Fri, 10:00am, 12:40, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50pm; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50; Wed, 12:40, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50
Pokemon the Movie: White - Victini and Zekrom Sat-Sun, 10:00am
Puss in Boots (digital) Fri-Mon, 1:05, 3:15, 5:15, 10:35, 3:15
Tower Heist Fri-Sun, 11:45am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10pm; Mon, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10; Tue, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 12:00, 1:10, 2:50, 4:40, 5:30, 7:05, 8:15, 10:00, 11:00pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:20, 1:10, 3:00, 4:40, 5:45, 7:05, 8:30, 10:00pm; Mon, 12:20, 1:10, 3:00, 4:40, 5:45, 7:05, 8:30, 10:00; Wed, 12:20, 1:10, 3:00, 4:40, 5:45, 7:05, 8:30, 10:00

CINEMARK CEDAR PARK 1335 E. Whitestone, 800/FANDANGO.
Arthur Christmas (3-D) Fri, 4:10, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 4:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 4:10, 9:20
Arthur Christmas (digital) 1:20, 6:50
NCM Fathom: Chicago Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits Tue, 7:00pm
Happy Feet Two (digital) Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30pm
Hugo (3-D) 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:20
Hugo (digital) Fri, 4:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 4:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 4:40, 10:15
The Ides of March (digital) 11:50am, 4:50, 9:40pm
Immortals (3-D) Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20
J. Edgar (digital) Fri, 3:10, 6:40, 9:50; Sat, 6:40, 9:50; Sun, 11:40am, 3:10, 6:40, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/8), 3:10, 6:40, 9:50
Jack and Jill (digital) Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Moneyball (digital) 2:00, 7:00
The Muppets (digital) Fri, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50pm; Mon, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50; Tue, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50; Thu, 12:30, 1:50, 3:20, 6:10, 7:30, 8:50
Puss in Boots (digital) Fri, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/8), 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Opera: Rodelinda Sat, 11:30am
Opera: Satyagraha Wed, 6:30pm
Tower Heist (digital) 12:50, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (digital) Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

CINEMARK HILL COUNTRY GALLERIA 14 12812 Hill Country Blvd., 800/FANDANGO.
Arthur Christmas (3-D) 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05, 10:30
Arthur Christmas (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25pm; Mon-Tue, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25; Wed, 1:40pm; Thu (12/8), 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25
NCM Fathom: Chicago Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits Tue, 7:00pm
The Descendants (digital) 12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05
Happy Feet Two (3-D) 12:50, 5:55
Happy Feet Two (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:25am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
Hugo (3-D) 12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:10
Hugo (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 5:45pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 5:45pm
Immortals (digital) 9:35pm
J. Edgar (digital) Fri, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00; Sat, 6:45, 10:00; Sun, 12:30, 3:35, 6:45, 10:00; Mon, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00; Tue, 12:15, 3:30, 10:00; Wed-Thu (12/8), 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
Jack and Jill (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:10am, 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:50, 4:25, 6:50, 9:30
Moneyball (digital) 1:00, 6:15
The Muppets (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 2:00, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:05, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:00, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:05, 10:25
Puss in Boots (3-D) 3:25, 8:35
Puss in Boots (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:45, 4:15, 7:10
Opera: Rodelinda Sat, 11:30am
Opera: Satyagraha Wed, 6:30pm
Tower Heist (digital) Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1 (digital) 12:30, 3:35, 6:30, 9:40

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2240 N. Mays, Round Rock, 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for Dec. 7-8 showtimes.
Admission: Fri, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Tue, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
Dolphin Tale Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:55am, 4:45, 7:30, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:30pm; Mon-Tue, 1:45, 4:30
Dolphin Tale (3-D) Fri-Tue, 3:45, 10:05
Deliver Us (digital) Fri, 7:30pm; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 3:30; Mon-Tue, 7:30pm
Drive Fri-Sat, 7:00, 9:30, 11:45; Sun-Tue, 7:00, 9:30
50/50 Fri-Sat, 7:20, 9:45, 11:55; Sun-Tue, 7:20, 9:45
The Help Fri, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55; Mon-Tue, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55
Johnny English Reborn Fri, 1:50, 4:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:15pm; Mon-Tue, 1:50, 4:15
The Lion King 3D (3-D) Fri, 2:30, 4:45; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 4:45; Mon-Tue, 2:30, 4:45

The Smurfs: Fri, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15pm; Mon-Tue, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15
The Thing: Fri, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20pm; Mon-Tue, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20
The Three Musketeers (3-D): Fri-Sat, 11:20am, 4:10, 9:10, 11:55; Sun-Tue, 7:10, 9:40

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, Round Rock, 800/FANDANGO. Cost for 3-D shows is regular ticket price plus a \$3.50 premium.
Arthur Christmas (3-D) Fri, 4:40, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 4:40, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 4:40, 9:50
Arthur Christmas (digital) Fri, 2:55, 8:20, 7:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 12:30, 2:55, 8:20, 7:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 2:55, 8:20, 7:45, 10:10
Happy Feet Two (3-D) 1:55, 7:15
Happy Feet Two (digital) Fri, 1:10, 3:35, 6:05, 8:30; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:10, 3:35, 6:05, 8:30pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:10, 3:35, 6:05, 8:30
Hugo (3-D) Fri, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:20am, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05
The Ides of March (digital) Fri, 8:40, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 5:40, 10:40; Mon-Thu (12/8), 5:40, 10:40
Immortals (digital) Fri, 1:05, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:05, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10
J. Edgar (digital) Fri, 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:10am, 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
Jack and Jill (digital) Fri, 1:35, 3:55, 6:50, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 3:55, 6:50, 9:15pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 1:35, 3:55, 6:50, 9:15
Moneyball (digital) Fri, 3:00, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 10:05am, 3:00, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu (12/8), 3:00, 8:00
The Muppets (digital) Fri, 2:20, 3:25, 4:55, 6:15, 7:35, 9:20, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 11:45, 12:2

preservation. In the process, Scorsese also schools other filmmakers and viewers in the use of 3-D as a potential enhancement to the art of storytelling rather than its contemporary bastardization as a requisite *gewgaw*. *Hugo* is perhaps not a story for the youngest of children but should work just fine for older kids, adolescents, and grown-ups. Robert Richardson's cinematography is most impressive. In fact, Scorsese's entire crew functions at the top of its game here. Although a nip and a tuck might improve the film's overall pace, there is no denying that this love letter to the movies is something to cherish. (11/25/2011) ★★★★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ THE IDES OF MARCH

D: George Clooney; with George Clooney, Ryan Gosling, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Paul Giamatti, Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, Jeffrey Wright, Max Minghella. (R, 102 min.)

The gray slush of Ohio in winter provides a suitable backdrop for George Clooney's morality tale about American politics. This story about the erosion of idealism and loyalty is told from the perspective of Stephen Meyers (Ryan Gosling), press secretary for Clooney's Democratic Gov. Mike Morris, who is engaged in a presidential primary in Ohio. Meyers' mentor is Paul Zara (Philip Seymour Hoffman), whose tired, ruffled, and flabby demeanor and constant second-guessing tell us everything we need to know about the mental state of political operatives. He is matched in kind by Tom Duffy (Paul Giamatti), the campaign manager of Morris' rival, who is equally ruffled and flabby but just a little bit meaner. Add to that Gosling again proving his vast versatility and Marisa Tomei as a hustling journalist trolling for a scoop. Despite some narrative missteps, the perfectly cast *Ideas of March* still ranks as one of the season's most intelligent and polished films. (*The Idees of March* is playing on a double bill with *Moneyball*.) (10/07/2011) ★★★★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten

CM Cedar Park, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Gateway, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

IMMORTALS

D: Tarsem Singh; with Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, John Hurt, Kellan Lutz, Freida Pinto, Luke Evans. (R, 110 min.)

What Tarsem Singh's first two films, 2000's *The Cell* and 2006's *The Fall*, lacked in narrative articulateness he balanced out with visual verve. Which, I suppose, made Singh a no-brainer to take on this cobbled-together Greek myth. Henry Cavill plays Theseus, a blank-eyed, bastard-born villager who, unbeknownst to him, has been hand-picked by the Olympian gods to lead a revolt against the blood-thirsty King Hyperion (Rourke). There's more to the story — a magical bow, a sexy virgin oracle (Pinto), and caged Titans — none of it terribly interesting. The plot exists primarily to take us from one gruesome act to the next. Barbarity, of course, was the Greek gods' bread and butter, but there's more to thrill at in three lines of Homer than the whole of Singh's numbingly choreographed chaos and lascivious bloodletting. The Greek myths will endure. The same cannot be said for Singh's silly, self-serious, instantly forgettable, and inaptly named *Immortals*. (11/18/2011) ★★

— Kimberley Jones

Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

IN TIME

D: Andrew Niccol; with Amanda Seyfried, Justin Timberlake, Alex Pettyfer, Gillian Murphy, Olivia Wilde. (PG-13, 109 min.)

In Time shares similar DNA with writer/director Andrew Niccol's 1997 debut, *Gattaca*, as both dabble in a seemingly refined future that's dystopian for the have-nots, but *In Time* is a far chintzier production. The concept is that in the near future, time has become the most precious commodity. To combat overcrowding, all humans stop aging at 25 and their clocks start counting down. Wages are paid with added time to one's lifespan, while rent and bread money are subtracted, so the rich stockpile centuries, and the poor drop dead in the street. There's concept, and then there's execution, and Niccol's cornball double entendres about time imbue the film with a hokeyness it never recovers from. Casting Justin

Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried can only go so far to counteract the film's fundamental unhipness. They have some fun as class warriors on the lam, but it's all just big-budget dress-up in a futurescape that reeks of phoniness. (11/04/2011)

★ — Kimberley Jones
Tinseltown South

★ J. EDGAR

D: Clint Eastwood; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Naomi Watts, Armie Hammer, Judi Dench, Josh Lucas, Stephen Root, Dermot Mulroney. (R, 136 min.)

It seems right that the man who played Dirty Harry would now, in his ridiculously productive twilight, turn his attention to the legacy of J. Edgar Hoover, played with great virtuosity by Leonardo DiCaprio. For all the good Hoover accomplished in bringing the FBI into the modern age of forensics by using scrupulous scientific methods and establishing a national database of fingerprints, the man was also undone by his bigotry, secrecy, narrow-minded dogma, and unbridled power to ruin lives. Eastwood gives us both sides of this figure — a portrait of a full human being and not just as the butt of an unfounded joke about closeted transvestites. The time frame jumps around, spanning decades in a single leap, but it doesn't strain the structure. Eastwood and DiCaprio have delivered a nuanced story about a man, a mythos, and an institution that relies on the facts rather than the legend. (11/11/2011) ★★★★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Village, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, iPic, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Violet Crown, Westgate

JACK AND JILL

D: Dennis Dugan; with Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes, Al Pacino, Eugenio Derbez, Nick Swardson, Tim Meadows, Valerie Mahaffey. (PG, 91 min.)

It's probably worse than pointless to ask what has become of the Adam Sandler who once upon a time took a courageous chance on *Punch-Drunk Love* or was as consistently hilarious as he was in *Happy Gilmore*. The downhill slide is only made more comically perilous here, with Sandler cast as Los Angeles ad executive Jack Sadelstein as well as his needy, harpy-esque twin sister Jill, who has arrived from the Bronx to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with her brother's family and then extends her stay way past the sibling breaking point. (Holmes is utterly wasted as Jack's wife Erin.) Two Adam Sandler's for the price of one? And Al Pacino?! It's like a dream. A horrible, depressingly cookie-cutter dream conceived by a craven Hollywood exec who thinks no one will notice how similar in hysterical tone and lazy execution this is to too many previous Sandler outings to name. (11/18/2011) ★

— Marc Savlov

Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

JOHNNY ENGLISH REBORN

D: Oliver Parker; with Rowan Atkinson, Dominic West, Gillian Anderson, Rosamund Pike, Daniel Kaluuya, Richard Schiff, Pik Sen Lim. (PG, 101 min.)

Few in North America have been clamoring for a sequel to Rowan Atkinson's 2003 James Bond spoof *Johnny English*. Atkinson's rubber-faced antics are an acquired taste, yet those who respond to him do so with gales of laughter. The plot of this sequel is inconsequential: Former MI7 (ha!) agent Johnny English (Atkinson) is called back into service from his exile in an Eastern monastery where he's been studying since his unexplained debacle in Mozambique. Seems he's the only agent who might be able to foil a plot against the Chinese premier. English is partnered with young greenhorn Agent Tucker (Daniel Kaluuya). Although the Bond references are numerous and the blundering English is a goldmine of physical humor, Oliver Parker's pedestrian direction does little to accentuate the jokes. Atkinson's fans are likely to rejoice as the comedian twists his face and body to and fro, but the rest of us will not be recruited. (10/21/2011) ★★

— Marjorie Baumgarten

Movies 8

LIKE CRAZY

D: Drake Doremus; with Felicity Jones, Anton Yelchin, Jennifer Lawrence, Charlie Bewley, Alex Kingston, Oliver Muirhead, Finola Hughes. (PG-13, 90 min.)

Two college kids sit across from each other, tentative, shyly smiling, and on a first date. First there's Anna (Jones), British and bucktoothed lovely, then Jacob (Yelchin), who is all gentleness. Director Drake Doremus (*Douchebag*) foreshadows here a defining fact of Anna and Jacob's relationship: They do not share the same space. Flamed with love, Anna overstays her student visa and is barred from re-entry to the States. The bulk of the film follows Jacob flying back and forth between Los Angeles and London for fitful reunions and visa appeals, broken by scenes of their lives apart. There's no question that the actors and filmmakers have fashioned a compelling love story of a certain age — which is not to be confused for a love story for the ages. In its inability to explore Anna and Jacob's evolving relationship adulytly, *Like Crazy* is a pantomime of its sweet but depthless young lovers. (11/11/2011) ★★★

— Kimberley Jones

Arbor

THE LION KING 3D

D: Roger Allers, Rob Minkhoff; with the voices of Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Matthew Broderick, James Earl Jones, Nathan Lane, Jeremy Irons, Whoopi Goldberg, Cheech Marin. (G, 89 min.)

Disney has retrofitted its much-loved, *Hamlet*-lite family film *The Lion King* for this limited, 3-D, theatrical run. (09/16/2011) — Kimberley Jones
Movies 8



DINNER » DRINKS » MOVIES » EVENTS

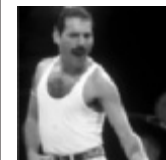
SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

• COMING SOON TO AN ALAMO NEAR YOU •



Fantastic Fest Presents:
THE YELLOW SEA
Opens 12/2 @ South Lamar

For his sophomore film, Na Hong-jin (*The Chaser*) has crafted a hyper-violent, border crossing crime epic sure to become another audience favorite.



The Action Pack:
WE WILL ROCK YOU: THE QUEEN SING-ALONG
12/2 @ Ritz

It's time to bust out your best catsuit, slap on your complimentary mustache, and prepare to take your voice on a four-octave journey of non-stop rock.



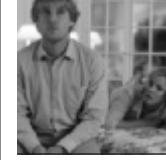
The Late Show:
RARE EXPORTS
12/2 & 12/3 @ Ritz

Better watch out. This holiday season, we're bringing back the film the Village Voice called "the best anti-Christmas Christmas movie since *BAD SANTA*".



Master Pancake:
X-MAS SHOW
12/3, 12/4, 12/9 @ Ritz

We'll have an audience sing-along, seasonal snacks, and maybe even a little Pudding and Butter! Help us SLEIGH THE HOLIDAYS in Master Pancake style!



Sommelier Cinema:
MIDNIGHT IN PARIS
11/28 @ Ritz

Woody Allen brings to life the most romantic city in the world in a way that only a master can. French wine flight will be selected by our guest connoisseur.



Action Pack:
DIE HARD
12/1 @ Ritz
12/4 @ Lake Creek

Join us this holiday season as we pay tribute to *DIE HARD* with cap guns to shoot-along with and live explosions from the Action Pack.



Food & Film:
A CHRISTMAS STORY MINI FEAST
Wed., 12/14 @ Village

We celebrate the most iconographic Christmas film with a Chinese-themed mini-feast!

ALSO SCREENING: Sing-Alongs: Ye-Z In Love (12/1) » Zzang!!!: *Gremlins 2: The New Batch* (12/2) » Movies in the Park: It's a Wonderful Life (12/4) » Music Monday: Teen Routines: *The Self-Made Magic of R. Stevie Moore* (12/5) » Girlie Night: Love Actually (12/6) » Terror Tuesday: *Nightmare City A.K.A. City of the Walking Dead* (12/6) » Weird Wednesday: Mitchell (12/7) » Skinemax: *Wild Things* (12/8) » Sing-Alongs: Action Pack: *The X-mas Pops Sing-Along* (12/8) » *The Late Show: Christmas Vacation* (12/9) »

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It's a Wonderful Life



D: Frank Capra; with James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. (1946, NR, 129 min.) **Austin Parks Foundation: Movies in the Park.** In this holiday chestnut, a man learns he has mattered in the lives of others, and an angel gets its wings; free. @Republic Square Park, Sunday, 6pm.

🌟 MELANCHOLIA

D: Lars von Trier; with Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Kiefer Sutherland, Alexander Skarsgård, Brady Corbet, Charlotte Rampling, John Hurt, Stellan Skarsgård, Udo Kier, Cameron Spurr. (R, 136 min.)

It's the end of the world, and Lars von Trier knows it. The famously depressed Danish filmmaker brings his vision of human annihilation to the screen in this visually stunning, thematically rich, perversely humorous, and sublimely virtuosic film. Earth faces destruction from collision with a planet named Melancholia, which has only recently been discovered because it's been hiding behind the sun. The first half of *Melancholia* is devoted to the wedding reception for Justine (Dunst) and Michael (Skarsgård), held at the lavish estate of Justine's sister Claire (Gainsbourg) and her husband, John (Sutherland). When news reports mount about the impending natural disaster, Claire's state of mind grows frenzied while Justine declares placidly: "The Earth is evil. We are alone." Dunst's performance is a thing of calm beauty and mired grit. If von Trier seemed as though he was at a creative dead end with his last film, *Antichrist*, he has reawakened with this beautiful, haunting disaster film. (11/18/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Lamar, Violet Crown

🌟 MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

D: Woody Allen; with Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard, Kurt Fuller, Mimi Kennedy, Michael Sheen, Nina Arianda, Corey Stoll, Alison Pill, Kathy Bates, Carla Bruni, Adrien Brody. (PG-13, 94 min.)

Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris* is, quite simply, charming. Gil (Wilson), a would-be novelist on vacation with his no-nonsense fiancée, Inez (McAdams), has a very specific fantasy in mind: Paris in the Twenties in the rain. During the day, Gil and Inez putter around like regular tourists, checking out this and that – but it's the nighttime where *Midnight in Paris* really hits its stride. As the clock strikes midnight, Gil discovers a portal of sorts into the 1920s. There, he boozes it up with Ernest Hemingway (Stoll, killing it), shares his manuscript with Gertrude Stein (Bates), and pitches future filmmaker Luis Buñuel the plot of the eternally baffling *The Exterminating Angel*. This stretch of the film is a riot and feels like deeply personal filmmaking for Allen. While it's not all strictly *la vie en rose*, it's easy to shrug off the occasional fumble when weighed against so much cleverness and canniness and, *bien sûr*, irresistible charm. (06/10/2011)

★★★★ – Kimberley Jones
Alamo Ritz, iPic, Tinseltown North

🌟 MONEYBALL

D: Bennett Miller; with Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright, Kerris Dorsey, Chris Pratt, Reed Diamond, Stephen Bishop. (PG-13, 133 min.)

Moneyball is a smart, funny, and thoughtful baseball movie that tells us more about what happens in the managers' offices than out on the ball field. Based on Michael Lewis' 2003 book, *Moneyball* details the true story of the turnaround strategy employed by Oakland A's General Manager Billy Beane (played by Brad Pitt) in the team's 2002 season. With the help of Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a Yale economics graduate who concocts mathematical formulas

to forecast wins, Beane repopulates his roster with undervalued athletes after his top three players are purchased by wealthier teams, and in this way the little guys might be able to even the playing field. While some of its tangents add little to the story, *Moneyball* is certain to appeal to both sports fans and nonfans alike; even when the film is shagging flies, it's an engaging pleasure to watch. (*Moneyball* is playing on a double bill with *The Ides of March*.) (09/23/2011)

★★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten

CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, iPic, Tinseltown North

🌟 THE MUPPETS

D: James Bobin; with Amy Adams, Jason Segel, Chris Cooper, Rashida Jones, Zach Galifianakis, Ken Jeong, Sarah Silverman, Feist, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez. (PG, 98 min.)

It is with immense pleasure that I can report that Disney's Muppet reboot movie is an absolute delight. It hews very closely to the original item, with all the original Muppet characters on board, along with one new one: the small, orange Walter (voiced by Peter Linz) who doesn't, in fact, realize that he's a Muppet. He believes he's the shorter, fuzzier, younger brother of Jason Segel's human Gary. Walter, Gary, and Gary's best gal Mary (Adams, redefining the word "perky") journey to the old Muppet Theater, now a cobwebbed, empty shadow of its former self that's about to be sold. What to do? Why, track down the original *Muppet Show* members, of course, and put on the Great Muppet Telethon. True Muppet maniacs are advised to bring a hankie. The Muppets may have been gone, but it's an absolute joy to have them back. After all, to paraphrase Wait Kelly: We have met the Muppets, and they are us. (11/25/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN

D: Simon Curtis; with Michelle Williams, Eddie Redmayne, Kenneth Branagh, Dominic Cooper, Julia Ormond, Emma Watson, Judi Dench, Zoë Wanamaker, Dougray Scott, Toby Jones, Derek Jacobi. (R, 101 min.)

Colin Clark was 23 years old when the most famous movie star in the world, Marilyn Monroe, came to England to co-star with acting legend Sir Laurence Olivier in *The Prince and the Showgirl*, which Olivier was also directing and for which Clark served as third assistant director. When the film shoot turned difficult (and what production starring Monroe didn't?), Clark, if we are to believe his account, became Monroe's confidant and partner in flirtation. The truth of what actually occurred between Monroe and Clark is immaterial. There are only two real reasons to see this movie. The first is the spooky-good impersonation of Monroe by Michelle Williams. No slouch either is Kenneth Branagh in his depiction of Olivier. The second reason to see *My Week With Marilyn* is for its encapsulation of a running controversy about the diametrically opposed approaches of classically trained and method actors. No new ground is broken on the subject, however. (11/25/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Ritz, Arbor

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3

D: Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman; with Katie Featherston, Chris Smith, Sprague Grayden, Lauren Bittner, Brian Boland, Chloe Csengery, Jessica Tyler Brown, Dustin Ingram. (R, 81 min.)

Well, I'll be damned to hell! This third outing in the faux documentary/found footage supernatural shocker series finally gets things right. This one fucking creeped me out. Helmed by *Catfish* directors Joost and Schulman, *Paranormal Activity 3* is still no one's idea of a classic horror film, but it delivers the *gotcha* moments with subtlety and brio compared to its clunky predecessors. The plot, what there is of it, finds a cache of old VHS tapes, circa 1988, purporting to show what happened to the frightened Rey family, led by wedding videographer dad Dennis (Smith) and mom Julie (Bittner), who begin to experience odd goings-on after youngest daughter Kristi (Brown) starts chatting up her "invisible friend" Toby. Things go to hell from there, literally. *Paranormal Activity 3* has enough jolts, frissons, and downright freak-outs to qualify as the best teen date movie of the season, if not the year. Boo. Scary. (10/21/2011)

★★★ – Marc Savlov
Tinseltown South

🌟 PUSS IN BOOTS

D: Chris Miller; with the voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Zach Galifianakis, Billy Bob Thornton, Amy Sedaris, Constance Marie, Guillermo del Toro. (PG, 90 min.)

This animated spin-off from the *Shrek* trilogy presents the origin story of the green ogre's sidekick, Puss in Boots. DreamWorks' hero's tale is bolstered by solid storytelling and voice work, more deranged fairy-tale mash-ups, and an abundance of feline cuteness. Antonio Banderas' Puss is at once a lover and a fighter, part Zorro and part Pepé Le Pew, and his pairing with Salma Hayek, who provides the voice of Kitty Softpaws, is *muy simpatico*. The plot takes us back to Puss' childhood in an orphanage, where he becomes best friends with Humpty Dumpty (Galifianakis), a large egg who tricks the cat into a bank robbery that goes wrong, leaving Puss in exile and Humpty with a chip on his shoulder. There's a lot of chase and rescue to fill out the meager storyline, but the top-notch voice work keeps us attuned to the screen. *Puss in Boots* is cute and entertaining but hardly purr-fect. (10/28/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

Phffft!

D: Mark Robson; with Judy Holliday, Jack Lemmon, Jack Carson, Kim Novak. (1954, NR, 88 min.) **Austin Film Society: And It Feels So Good – Comedies of Remarriage.** A couple's divorce puts an end to their marital strife but ultimately proves that the pair belong together. A dandy cast makes this comedy sparkle. @Alamo Lamar, Tuesday, 7pm.



REAL STEEL

D: Shawn Levy; with Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo, Evangeline Lilly, Anthony Mackie, Kevin Durand, Hope Davis, James Rebhorn, Olga Fonda, Karl Yune. (PG-13, 127 min.)

Real Steel may have a hardened outer shell, but it's pure marshmallow on the inside. This kids' film mixes the heart of come-from-behind boxing drama with the geeky gadget gestalt of films like *The Transformers*. Thinly derived from a Richard Matheson short story, *Real Steel* is set in a debased near-future in which robot boxing is all the rage. Charlie Kenton (Jackman) is a former champion boxer who now hustles robot matches. He's a gruff, unlikable guy, and when he's informed of his long-lost son, Max (Goyo), whose mother has just died, Charlie makes self-serving financial arrangements for the boy's care, never guessing he and his son will bond before the summer is through. The film's predictability is a serious drawback, but *Night at the Museum* director Shawn Levy hits all the right notes that should guarantee the film's appeal to young and old joystick junkies who, despite outward appearances, harbor sentimental hearts. (10/07/2011)

★★★ – Marjorie Baumgarten
Metropolitan

THE RUM DIARY

D: Bruce Robinson; with Johnny Depp, Michael Rispoli, Amber Heard, Giovanni Ribisi, Richard Jenkins, Aaron Eckhart, Bill Smitrovich. (R, 120 min.)

Adapted from Hunter S. Thompson's first novel, this film version is more aptly described as a sloe gin fizz. Set in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1960, Depp plays Thompson's alter ego, Paul Kemp, a budding journo-cum-novelist who's living in suspended, rum-infused doldrums while working for the English-language newspaper, *The San Juan Star*. He's joined in the sugary haze by seasoned newshounds Sala (Rispoli), the photographer, and Ribisi's prune of a writer, Moburg. Kemp, socializing with the best and worst of them, eventually catches the eye of Chenault (Heard), the sigh-worthy wife of yanqui developer Sanderson. What *The Rum Diary* lacks in narrative astonishment it almost makes up for in boozy charm. In the end, *The Rum Diary* feels like a work of writerly juvenilia, half-baked but not unpleasant. Like the tropical breezes that waft off of the screen, it reeks of promise yet to be fulfilled. And booze. Lots and lots of booze. (10/28/2011)

★★ – Marc Savlov
Metropolitan

🌟 THE SKIN I LIVE IN

D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Antonio Banderas, Elena Anaya, Marisa Paredes, Jan Cornet, Roberto Álamo, Blanca Suárez. (R, 117 min., subtitled)

An elaborate puzzle of a film that confounds expectations in the grandest of ways, this tricky masterpiece from Almodóvar, Spain's maestro of madness, dominates every iota of your attention. Antonio Banderas' character, Dr. Robert Ledgard, is a plastic surgeon of some renown who long ago lost his wife in an automobile accident. Working out of his fortresslike home in Toledo, Spain, he also has a live-in patient, a young woman, Vera (Anaya), who spends her days garbed head to toe in a skintight bodysuit and may or may not be there of her own inclination. Something very peculiar, perhaps morally reprehensible, is going on, but the exact nature of this outré situation is only revealed by the slow, strange turns of fate's wheel. Banderas' performance is so rich, so complex, and eventually, so very dark that it frazzles your brain stem. Almodóvar blows his characters' minds, and then yours, and you love him for it. Bravo! (11/11/2011)

★★★★ – Marc Savlov
Alamo Lamar, Arbor, Violet Crown

THE SMURFS

D: Raja Gosnell; with Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris, Jayma Mays, Sofia Vergara, Tim Gunn; with the voices of Jonathan Winters, Katy Perry, Alan Cumming, Fred Armisen, George Lopez, Anton Yelchin. (PG, 86 min.)

The good news is that there is no news in the land of Smurfdom. The cartoon creatures are still blue, three apples tall, cheerful as all get-out, and annoying as hell. Having directed *Scooby-Doo* and *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*, Gosnell is becoming something of a mixed live-action/animation expert, so you would think that by now his compositions would look less like human beings clutching at tiny, imagined Smurfs that are going to be filled in later. The plot lands the

Paul Goodman Changed My Life

D: Jonathan Lee. (2011, NR, 89 min.) **Third Coast Activist.** The 20th century thinker, gadfly, and author of the seminal New Left book *Growing Up Absurd* is profiled in this new documentary. @MonkeyWrench Books, Thursday, (12/8), 8pm; \$10.



Smurfs in New York City, where they end up bunking with Grace and Patrick Winslow (Mays and Harris). The Smurfs are being chased by the evil but inept wizard Gargamel (played as a human cartoon by Azaria). Much chasing and escaping of Smurfs occurs at a frenzied pace, which seems designed to keep young ones' eyes glued to the screen. It's a good thing they couldn't hear my mutterings: They were definitely not PG content. (07/29/2011)

— Marjorie Baumgarten

Movies 8

TAKE SHELTER

D: Jeff Nichols; with Michael Shannon, Jessica Chastain, Tova Stewart, Shea Whigham, Katy Mixon, Kathy Baker. (R, 120 min.)

Curtis LaForche (Shannon) stands in the wide-open expanse of his yard in Ohio, staring at the horizon, sensing that something is wrong. Storm clouds are massing in the distance, and when the rain begins to fall, it has the consistency of motor oil. It's just one of the many troubling sensations and nightmarish images Curtis has recently noticed. Curtis has what his friend Dewart (Whigham) describes as a "good life." He has a good job; his wife, Samantha (Chastain), is beautiful and supportive; and his young daughter, Hannah (Stewart), though deaf, is developing nicely. So, is he going crazy, or is he just tuned in to some larger apocalypse brewing? Writer/director and Austin resident Jeff Nichols has crafted a deeply unsettling movie with *Take Shelter*. The film's epilogue is sure to be a source of contention for many viewers. Without disclosing anything, let's just say that it is a major misstep in an otherwise beautifully modulated movie. (10/28/2011)

★★★★ — Marjorie Baumgarten
Arbor

THE THING

D: Matthijs van Heijningen Jr.; with Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Joel Edgerton, Jonathan Walker, Ulrich Thomsen, Eric Christian Olsen, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Paul Braunstein, Kim Bubbs, Jørgen Langhelle, Jan Gunnar Røise, Stig Henrik Hoff, Kristofer Hivju. (R, 102 min.)

This update of *John Carpenter's The Thing* is, in fact, not a remake at all but a prequel, showing in goey detail exactly what otherworldly horrors befell the Norwegian scientists in the days leading up to the events depicted in Carpenter's film. Danish director Matthijs van Heijningen relies on a finely calibrated series of good old-fashioned scares, gruesome special effects, and solid performances. A research team in the Antarctic, led by Dr. Sander Halvorson (Thomsen) and co-manned by Yank paleontologist Dr. Kate Lloyd (Winstead) discovers a millennia-old spacecraft — and its frozen pilot — buried in the ice, and before you can say "Holy tentacular Otter Pops!" the alien is up and about and imitating whatever host form it can find. Paranoia ensues. Heijningen's *The Thing* is tightly paced and full of imaginative horror, but now it's less a question of "Who goes there?" than "Why go there, again?" (10/14/2011)

★★★★ — Marc Savlov
Movies 8

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

D: Paul W.S. Anderson; with Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Orlando Bloom, Ray Stevenson, Luke Evans, Christoph Waltz, Matthew Macfadyen, Til Schweiger, Mads Mikkelsen. (PG-13, 110 min.)

Have we retained nothing of the lessons of *Hudson Hawk*? Like that early Nineties colonial disaster, *The Three Musketeers* hinges on the secret machinations of Leonardo da Vinci. It's worth pointing out that when the Musketeers — roll call: Porthos (Stevenson), Athos (Macfadyen), and Aramis (Evans) — raid Leonardo's vault for the schematics to a flying war machine, they flood the underground lair on their way out, destroying thousands of documents in the process. That carelessness doesn't so much as raise an eyebrow; I mention it here only to highlight the rancid taste of these early scenes, which are an indiscriminately violent bore to behold. Still, once you accept Paul W.S. Anderson's entirely unnecessary adaptation on its own terms (nonsensical, under-achieving), it has its limited charms, which include a snigger-inducing alphabet soup of accents, a stand-out rooftop swordfight, and British comedian James Corden as the Musketeers' put-upon manservant. (10/28/2011)

★★ — Kimberley Jones
Movies 8

TOWER HEIST

D: Brett Ratner; with Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Casey Affleck, Alan Alda, Matthew Broderick, Téa Leoni, Michael Peña, Gabourey Sidibe, Judd Hirsch, Stephen Henderson. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Alert to the righteous rage of the 99-percenters and canny about how to mine that rage for laughs, *Tower Heist* is like *Ocean's Eleven* meets class consciousness. Ben Stiller plays Josh Kovacs, the manager of a luxury condo in Manhattan called the Tower, where he commands a small army of housekeepers, concierges, and security guards. When the Tower's penthouse-dwelling big-shot investor Arthur Shaw (Alda) is taken into federal custody for some funny business with the books, his entire staff's pension plans are gone, and the people-pleasing building manager wants revenge. Going rogue, Josh gathers a motley crew — including Eddie Murphy's ex-con Slide — to filch the \$20 million Shaw has hidden in his penthouse. A constitutionally glib director, Brett Ratner is nevertheless a professional: He's made a lean and likable action comedy that motors along at a satisfying clip. *Tower Heist* nails the humor, all right, but also, quite crucially, humanizes the high concept. (11/04/2011)

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN – PART 1

D: Bill Condon; with Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Ashley Greene, Nikki Reed. (PG-13, 117 min.)

Alas, this is more or less the same movie we've been seeing all along: Bella (Stewart) wants sex; Edward (Pattinson) won't even heavy pet. Even after the wedding that opens this fourth adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* books, the topic of will-they-or-won't-they is still on the table. While on honeymoon, their first attempt results in Edward splintering the bed and accidentally roughing up Bella. (When she reassures him she's fine and knows he didn't mean to bruise her, it creepily whiffs of battered-wife syndrome.) So Edward swears off all carnal pleasures; wouldn't she rather play another game of chess instead? With this film, the *Twilight* series officially makes the transition from essentially harmless Victorian-minded trash to something flatly pernicious. And boring, to boot. The filmmakers decided to break the fourth and final book of Meyer's series into two parts, ostensibly to accommodate its surfeit of action. They must be saving all that for *Part 2*. (11/25/2011)

★ — Kimberley Jones
Alamo Lake Creek, Alamo Lamar, Alamo Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Flix Brewhouse, Highland, Gateway, iPic, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Millennium, Tinseltown North, Westgate

A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS

D: Todd Strauss-Schulson; with Kal Penn, John Cho, Neil Patrick Harris, Thomas Lennon, Danny Trejo, Paula Garcés. (R, 89 min.)

This is the first of the three Harold and Kumar titles in which the weed-loving pair aren't actively coming or going, and it shows. A grinning but toothless comedy, this Christmas-themed outing pales in inventiveness compared to the original. Hell, Harold (Cho) doesn't even smoke pot anymore. Married and settled in the suburbs, he wants to give his wife, Maria (Garcés), and her clan (including Trejo's gruff Papi) the perfect Christmas. That plan goes up in smoke when the tree is accidentally torched during a visit by Harold's estranged best friend, Kumar (Penn), thus setting into motion a quest picture with an ingenuity deficit. It gets a pretty good buzz going with a kicky Claymation nightmarescape, Cho and Penn's genial rapport, and the picturesque three-dimensioning of plumes of pot smoke. But those pleasures are fleeting — gone, if you will, with the weed. (11/11/2011)

★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE WAY

D: Emilio Estevez; with Martin Sheen, Deborah Kara Unger, James Nesbitt, Tcheky Karyo, Emilio Estevez. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The Way stars the grizzled Martin Sheen as Tom, who travels to Europe to claim the ashes of his estranged son, Daniel (writer/director/real-life son Emilio Estevez), who died in a freak accident along "the Way," an ancient route of pilgrimage known as the El Camino de Santiago. Grimly determined to finish what his son started, Tom straps on Daniel's pack and makes the trek. He's joined by other damaged souls he meets along the path, and they coalesce into a kind of movie-friendly pack of strays whose idea of a *bon camino* involves lots of laughter and good wine. *The Way* never arrives anywhere you couldn't see coming a mile away, but it does so with such empathy that its conclusions feel comforting rather than predictable. (10/14/2011)

★★★★ — Kimberley Jones
Arbor

VIOLET CROWN

THE DESCENDANTS

"Payne blends wit and poignancy so artfully it feels like an exquisitely choreographed dance."

USA TODAY

MELANCHOLIA

"Thematically rich, perversely humorous, and sublimely virtuosic. *Melancholia* is the best film of von Trier's storied career."

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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"J. Edgar is a somber, enigmatic, darkly fascinating tale."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

THE SKIN I LIVE IN

"Voluptuous sexual perversion, devious plot twists, a snaky interweaving of past and present, all painted on a canvas of bright colors."

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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DECEMBER 1-8

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale



THURSDAY 1

Die Hard (1988) D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.) **Action Pack.** Free cap guns with admission and live explosions in the theatre. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

The Nightmare Before Christmas Sing-Along (1993) D: Henry Selick; with the voices of Danny Elfman, Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, William Hickey. (PG, 73 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm.

Ye-Z in Love Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.

SPACES

★ **The Falls (1980)** D: Peter Greenaway; with Peter Westley, Aad Wirtz. (NR, 195 min.) **Austin Film Society: Avant Cinema.** VUE, a "violent, unexplained event," befalls England in this Greenaway film, which then proceeds to detail the biographies of 92 victims whose surnames begin with the letters "F-A-L-L." Birds are, perhaps, responsible. @Aviary Lounge, 7pm.

★ **Granito: How To Nail a Dictator (2011)** D: Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís, and Peter Kinoy. (NR, 113 min.) **Benson Latin American Collection: Politics of Memory: Guatemala's National Police Archive.** This screening precedes the Dec. 2 conference during which the University of Texas will launch the Guatemala National Police Digital Archive, which is featured in the documentary for its role in the legal prosecution of human-rights violations. The film's editor, Peter Kinoy, will be present for a Q&A. @Frances Auditorium (TNH 2.114, UT campus), 5pm; free.

★ **Life, Above All (2011)** D: Oliver Schmitz; with Khomotso Manyaka. (PG-13, 100 min.) **World AIDS Day.** In this South African drama, a township overcomes its fear of AIDS by the example of a courageous young girl. The screening will be followed by a "There Is Hope" discussion. (*) @City Center, 3:30pm.

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 Dec. 16 issue is Monday, Dec. 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 email.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

FRIDAY 2

Gremlins 2: The New Batch (1990) D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, John Glover. (PG-13, 106 min.) **Zzang!!!** The new batch is more – yet less – of the same. @Alamo Ritz, 7:30pm.

★ **Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010)** D: Jalmari Helander; with Onni Tommila. (R, 80 min.) **Late Show.** Quite the opposite of treachery holiday fare, this European import features one very bad Santa. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm.

We Will Rock You: The Queen Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10:30pm.

SPACES

A Christmas Story (1983) D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon. (PG, 98 min.) **Austin Shop Crawl: Merry Movie Night.** Seating begins at 6pm. Free adult admission with the Austin Shop Crawl badge, free admission for children under 12 with a donation for Toys for Tots. (*) @Osaka Soul, 7pm.

Departures (2009) D: Yōjirō Takita; with Masahiro Motoki. (PG-13, 130 min.) **Jung Society: Healing and Homecoming Through Acceptance and Relationship.** This Oscar-winning film screens on Friday, along with a lecture; a workshop follows on Saturday. See www.jungociety.com for details. (*) @First Unitarian Church, 7pm.



Lioness

Gremlins (1984) D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton. (PG, 106 min.) **Holidays at the Drive-in.** (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 7:30pm.

Priceless (2006) D: Pierre Salvadori; with Audrey Tautou, Gad Elmaleh. (PG-13, 104 min.) **Rom-Coms for the Holidays.** Tautou plays a gold-digging gamine working in the south of France. (*) @Freestyle Language Center, 7pm; free.

SATURDAY 3

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. This seasonal show features the Master Pancake regulars and clips from favorite holiday TV specials and other weird holiday programs. @Alamo Ritz, 7, 10pm.

The Muppets (2011) D: James Bobin; with Amy Adams, Jason Segel, Chris Cooper, Rashida Jones, Zach Galifianakis, Ken Jeong, Sarah Silverman, Feist, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez. (PG, 98 min.) **Autism Society of America: Sensory-Friendly Films.** At these screenings, the auditorium will have the lights brought up and the sound turned down. Additionally, audience members can get up and move about during the screening and bring special-diet snacks. (*) @Barton Creek Square, 12:40, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50pm.

Pokémon the Movie: White – Victini and Zekrom (2011) D: Kunihiko Yuyama. (NR) @Barton Creek Square, 10am.

★ **Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) Late Show.** @Alamo Ritz, 11:30pm. (See Friday.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) (R, 95 min.) Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for more than three decades. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Village, 11:55pm.

Rodelinda Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD. Renee Fleming reprises her portrayal of the title role in Handel's opera. @Metropolitan, Arbor, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, 11:30am.

SPACES

Groundhog Day (1993) D: Harold Ramis; with Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott, Stephen Tobolowsky. (PG, 103 min.) **Holidays at the Drive-in.** (*) @Blue Starlite Drive-In II, 6:30pm.

SUNDAY 4

Christmas Show Master Pancake Theater. @Alamo Ritz, 5, 8pm. (See Saturday.)

Die Hard (1988) Action Pack. @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/1.)

Pokémon the Movie: White – Victini and Zekrom (2011) @Barton Creek Square, 10am. (See Saturday.)

★ **Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) Late Show.** @Alamo Ritz, 9:15pm. (See Friday.)

Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing: 100th St. Olaf Christmas Festival Live (2011) NCM Fathom. This concert of Christmas hymns, carols, choral works, and orchestral selections will be simulcast live. @Metropolitan, Arbor, Tinseltown North, 2:30pm.

The Walking Dead TV @ the Alamo. @Alamo Lamar, 8:30pm; Alamo Lake Creek, 9pm.

SPACES

★ **It's a Wonderful Life (1946)** See p.72.

★ **"Jesus was a Commie" (2011)** D: Terence Ziegler and Matthew Modine; with Modine, (NR, 15 min.) **CineCause.** The film challenges viewers to seek their own answers and personal truths as it leads them a dialectical journey. The writer, co-director, and star, Matthew Modine, will be present for a Q&A. The screening venue is a 90-seat trailer. @Cinetransformer Trailer (Seventh & Trinity), 6pm; free.

MONDAY 5

The Big Lebowski Quote-Along (1998) (R, 117 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Lamar, 10pm.

★ **Moonstruck (1987)** D: Norman Jewison; with Cher, Nicolas Cage, Vincent Gardenia, Olympia Dukakis, Danny Aiello. (PG, 102 min.) **Food and Film: Edible Austin Benefeast.** See the menu at www.drafthouse.com. Proceeds benefit Urban Roots and the Sustainable Food Center. @Alamo Lamar, 7pm.

White Christmas (1954) D: Michael Curtiz; with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen. (NR, 120 min.) **Big Screen Classics.** Whether you're a seasoned regular or a newbie, this Irving Berlin holiday classic about four entertainers falling in love and saving a Vermont inn is essential seasonal froth. @Alamo Lamar, 7pm.

SPACES

★ **"Jesus was a Commie" (2011) CineCause.** @Cinetransformer Trailer (Seventh & Trinity), 6pm; free. (See Sunday.)

★ **Moving On (2011)** D: Matt Katsolis. (NR, 90 min.) **CineCause.** In this documentary, a young American family decides to risk everything and move to Uganda with the hope of making a difference. This is the film's world premiere. The screening venue is a 90-seat trailer. @Cinetransformer Trailer (Seventh & Trinity), 7:30, 9:30pm; free.

TUESDAY 6

Chicago Presents an Evening of Holiday Music and Greatest Hits NCM Fathom. This in-theatre concert is promoted as the band's "special personal holiday video greeting card to Chicago fans everywhere." @Metropolitan, Arbor, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, Tinseltown North, 7pm.

Glee TV at the Alamo. @Alamo Village, 9:45pm.

Home Alone (1990) D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.) **Cheese Pizza Party.** (*) @Alamo Village, 7pm.

Love Actually (2003) D: Richard Curtis; with Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Keira Knightley, Martine McCutcheon, Billy Bob Thornton, Joanna Page, Rowan Atkinson. (R, 135 min.) **Girlie Night.** This merry skein of loves lost and found is set in holiday-season London. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

Nightmare City (1980) D: Umberto Lenzi; with Hugo Stiglitz, Laura Trotter, Mel Ferrer. (R, 88 min.) **Terror Tuesday.** Lethal Italian zombies emerge from an airplane exposed to radiation. @Alamo Ritz, 10:05pm.

★ **Phffft! (1954)** See p.72.

White Christmas (1954) Big Screen Classics. @Alamo Lamar, 7pm. (See Monday.)

SPACES

★ **Lioness (2008)** D: Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers. (NR, 81 min.) **Austin Public Library and KLRU: Community Cinema.** This documentary provides direct accounts from the first women in U.S. history to be sent into direct ground combat. @Windsor Park Branch Library, 7pm; free.

Check Film Listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!
austinchronicle.com/film

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

WEDNESDAY 7

A Christmas Story (1983) Food & Film: Mini Feast. @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Friday.)
Die Hard (1988) Action Pack. @Alamo Lake Creek, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/1.)
Elf Quote-Along (2003) D: Jon Favreau; with Will Ferrell. (PG, 95 min.) **Action Pack.** @Alamo Village, 7pm.
Midnight in Paris (2011) D: Woody Allen; with Owen Wilson. (PG-13, 94 min.) **Sommelier Cinema.** Sip some wine with Woody. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.
Mitchell (1975) D: Andrew V. McLaglen; with Joe Don Baker, Linda Evans, John Saxon, Martin Balsam. (R, 97 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A detective played by Joe Don Baker goes after drug dealers – and also porn, Schlitz, and Linda Evans. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.
Satyagraha Metropolitan Opera: Encore Presentation. Richard Croft reprises his acclaimed interpretation of Gandhi in Philip Glass' opera. (*) @Metropolitan, Arbor, Southpark Meadows, Tinseltown North, Cinemark Stone Hill Town Center, Hill Country Galleria, CM Cedar Park, 6:30pm.
White Christmas (1954) Big Screen Classics. @Alamo Lamar, 7pm. (See Monday.)

THURSDAY 8

Christmas Pops Sing-Along Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 10:15pm.
Die Hard (1988) Action Pack. @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See Thursday, 12/1.)
White Christmas (1954) Big Screen Classics. @Alamo Lamar, 7pm. (See Monday.)
Wild Things (1998) D: John McNaughton; with Neve Campbell, Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon, Theresa Russell, Denise Richards. (R, 108 min.) **Skinemax.** The film is a fun, sexy never-ending game of double-cross. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

SPACES

Paul Goodman Changed My Life (2011)
 See p.73.

IMAX

Born To Be Wild (2011) (G, 40 min.) Only screening in IMAX theatres, this 3-D film lovingly documents human intervention in the fate of orphaned orangutans and elephants. (*) Thu. (12/1)-Fri., 1pm; Sat., 11am; Sun., 1pm; Mon.-Wed., 11am, 1pm; Thu. (12/8), 1pm.
Happy Feet Two (2011) D: George Miller; with the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Hank Azaria, Alecia "Pink" Moore, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Ava Acres, Sofia Vergara, Common, Hugo Weaving, Richard Carter, Anthony LaPaglia. (PG, 100 min.) See review, p.69. (*) Thu. (12/1)-Fri., 1, 3, 5, 7, 9pm; Sat., noon, 2, 4pm; Sun., 3, 5, 7, 9pm.

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 producing everything from grapefruit to microchips. Thu. (12/1)-Sat., 10am; Mon.-Thu. (12/8), 10am.
Tornado Alley (2011) D: Sean C. Casey. (NR, 43 min.) Storm Chasers star Casey joins the researchers of VORTEX 2 in this effort to capture the origins and evolution of tornadoes in 3-D. Thu. (12/1)-Fri., 2pm; Sun., 2pm; Mon.-Wed., noon, 2pm; Thu. (12/8), 2pm.

OFFSCREEN

501 Studios: Soundstage + HD Theatre 501 Studios' soundstage in Downtown Austin doubles as a theatre – with a Sony Qualla HD projector, a 28-foot screen, 180 (removable) seats, a vintage popcorn machine, and affordable rates. Need a venue for premieres, wrap parties, or concerts/plays/performance featuring projection? This could be the place. It's also available as a soundstage or green screen. 485-3000. www.501studios.com.
Austin School of Film Prime yourself for cinematic advancement with professional ASoF classes in all forms of digital media this fall: **Sound Recording for Film and Video, Web Video and Viral Marketing, Advanced Final Cut Pro, Lighting 101,** and many more. See website for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org.

Cine Las Americas: Call for Entries The Cine Las Americas International Film Festival is accepting submissions for its 15th annual incarnation in the ATX this coming April. They're looking for films made by or about Latinos in the U.S. or the rest of the world and films by or about indigenous groups of the Americas. See website for details. Deadline: Jan. 16, 2012. www.cinelasamericas.org.

Hill Country Film Festival Accepting Submissions The three-day independent film event held in Fredericksburg is now accepting submissions for its third annual festival in April 2012. Indie filmmakers from around the world can submit features, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, and 3-D shorts. See website for details. Early deadline: Dec. 2. Regular deadline: Feb. 2, 2012. www.hillcountryff.com.

John Waters' Christmas Oh my, yes, that creepily crushworthy filmmaking savant comes to the ATX's most storied venue to perform "a provocative and devious monologue that takes the audience on a misbehaved trip to the extremes." Provocative and devious, indeed, and highly recommended. *Fri., Dec. 2, 8pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$30-50. www.austintheatre.org.*

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a state-of-the-art screening room, which is available to the public on a rental basis. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, and a surround-sound system and supports Super 35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Accessible, restrooms – the works. It also has a break room suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. 322-0145. www.austinstudios.org.



THE ICE STORM DIRECTED BY ANG LEE
 Evan Smith will interview Rick Moody following the film.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6PM-10PM

The Ice Storm is a 1997 film directed by Ang Lee, adapted from the 1994 novel of the same title by author Rick Moody. After the screening, Evan Smith will interview Moody, and there will be time to take questions from the audience. Book-signing & cocktails & appetizers to proceed screening.

austinbatcave.org



To WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS to see *The Ice Storm* followed by a conversation with Rick Moody and Evan Smith at the Blanton Auditorium, log on to WWW.AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/CONTESTS



RUN LIKE THE WIND



Dog Friendly Run/Walk
 Kids K & Endurance Runs
 Canine Massage
 Silent Auction
 Rescue Groups



Saturday
December 3

The Canine Center
 in Oakhill

All proceeds benefit the Schrodi Training Fund, overseen by Animal Trustees of Austin, 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit animal welfare organization. Monies raised helps owners who can't afford the cost of training to be able to train and keep their dogs.



"AN EPIC, PULSE-POUNGING THRILLER!"
 -IndieWIRE

THE YELLOW SEA

SCREENPLAY AND DIRECTED BY NA HONG-JIN

R wellmade SHOWBOX popcorn film *the island* SF *the way, way back* Ksure H&A FOX

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT STARTS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

AUSTIN
 Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar
 (512) 476-1320

MUSE AWARDS
 OF CENTRAL TEXAS
 2011

200+ SCHOOLS
 1 FINE GOAL

INSPIRATION IMAGINATION COMPETITION

www.2011museawards.com



Mayhem

A cold night in Oslo, Norway, feels godless – like the sun's died. Thus black metal, the lo-fi flaying of early thrash, begins more or less with the Norwegian capital's Mayhem, whose 1984 birth

and subsequent career abortions, including the suicide of vocalist Per Yngve Ohlin, aka Dead, and the murder of founding guitarist Øystein "Euronymous" Aarseth by bassist Varg Vikernes (Burzum), stain the genre even as they shape it.

"One must die to find peace inside – you must get eternal," curses Hungarian Attila Csihar on "Life Eternal," from Mayhem's iconic 1994 disc *De Mysteriis Dom Sathanas*, begun in 1987 and completed after the aforementioned shotgun beheading and homicide. The year before on *Live in Leipzig*, a posthumously burnt offering of Dead's scabrous vocal terror, the Mayhem martyr

guides the way to the hereafter on one damnation after another: "Necrolust," de facto Oslo tribute "The Freezing Moon," and "Pure Fucking Armageddon."

Original bassist Jørn "Necrobutcher" Stubberud and second drummer Jan Axel Blomberg (aka Hellhammer) continue to lead Mayhem, gutted vocally now by Attila Csihar, so the source still seethes. Bringing with them fellow Norwegians Keep of Kalessin, whose black dragon metal packs a wallop; Warsaw, Poland, stormtroopers Hate; and Yankee shrieks Abigail Williams, Mayhem's arctic death caw melts winter. – Raoul Hernandez

Emo's Inside, Sunday 4

Keep of Kalessin, Hate, Abigail Williams

RACHAEL YAMAGATA Parish, Friday 2

Gosh darn, DIY pianist-singer-songwriter Rachael Yamagata has been working to get her solo career off the ground for a solid decade. This year her third LP, *Chesapeake*, hit via a crowd-funding campaign on PledgeMusic. Beautifully arranged, its songs are ready made for prime-time TV, with a lot of big emotions complemented by equally powerful musicianship and an irresistible melted-butter voice. Mike Viola opens. – Melanie Haupt



Rachael Yamagata

sound that's amply showcased on their acclaimed current album, *Smoke Ring Halo*. Carsie Blanton's on first. – Jay Trachtenberg

SLAID CLEAVES Cactus Cafe, Saturday 3

It's not quite South Lamar's Horseshoe Lounge, the location of his recent live triumph *Sorrow & Smoke*, but the Cactus is probably the best place to catch Slaid Cleaves alternating between jovial and mournful. The new double-disc set serves as a near perfect compilation of the local songsmith's best work, amply showing off his natural ability to capture the mundane with studied insight and rare wit. Expect a career overview that will put most of today's so-called singer-songwriters to shame. Graham Weber and his *Women* open. – Jim Caligiuri

CAVE Mohawk, Tuesday 6

Burning off – or rather, organ frying – some of the obvious Can influence from its previous *Psychic Summer*, plus sanding down the metallic sheen and not-so-obvious hints of early Devo, Chicago instrumental quartet Cave shifts comfortably into the third gear of its third LP driving, lysergic, metronomic 2011 Drag City earwig *Neverendless*. Fourteen minutes of "This Is the Best" come expertly matched locally with the garage rock flammability of Dikes of Holland and the raw jolt of Naw Dude. – Raoul Hernandez

NOT IN THE FACE Antone's, Wednesday 7

Not in the Face's promising debut, *Bikini*, boasts the rare distinction of actually being reviewed

by the *Chronicle* twice. Led by local roots guitarist Jonathan Terrell, the local power duo pairs Tom Petty's classic rock & roll with the drunken, one-night-stand charm of the Replacements – rustic yet restless. Super Secret's garage-psych trio Faceless Werewolves howls first, hopefully prepping a follow-up to 2008's *Pardon Me, Are Those Your Claws on My Back?*. – Austin Powell

THE SEA & CAKE Mohawk, Thursday 8

Gauzy vocals, shimmering guitar textures, and deep rhythmic canals flow together with luminous ease on *The Moonlight Butterfly*, this Chicago quartet's first offering since 2008. Weaving just such poignant soundscapes for more than 15 years, the Sea & Cake has taken its contemplative post-rock tones to an impressionistic peak, well paired with the cresting *Bad Vibrations* of local cinephiles My Education. The next night, Friday, 7pm, the Tiny Park Gallery (607½ Genard) opens an exhibition featuring the work of local poster brand Michael Sieben and the Sea & Cake's Sam Prekop. Runs through Jan. 14, 2012. – Doug Freeman



The Sea & Cake

MOJO NIXON, DASH RIP ROCK Continental Club, Friday 2

Dash Rip Rock, still crazy after all these years, issued its randy *Call of the Wild* in 2010, a nonstop assault on rock & roll with wicked, swamp-fueled Louisiana twang. Onstage, the trio's Southern party rock is close kin to Mojo Nixon's white lightning' psychobilly & satire. Nixon, currently hosting three Sirius XM shows, was suitably honored as a Throbbleshed action figure. Suitable, that is, for a man who declared "Don Henley Must Die." – Margaret Moser

THE WOOD BROTHERS Parish, Saturday 3

When he's not at his day job digging a deep bottom for jazz funk trio Medeski Martin & Wood, bassist Chris Wood can usually be found teamed with his guitar playing brother, Oliver, a former member of Atlanta's blues rockers King Johnson. Together, the brothers Wood have shaped a modern, collaborative, down-home combo with a countrified Americana roots



The Wood Brothers

soundcheck

BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

DIAMOND SMUGGLERS' CHRISTMAS BASH

Antone's, Friday 2

Surely Neil Diamond never cut a Christmas LP!

HARRY NILSSON TRIBUTE

Skinny's Ballroom, Friday 2

Locals put the lime in the de coconut and shake it all up, 7pm.

STANLEY JORDAN/PAT MARTINO

One World Theatre/Continental Club, Friday 2

Jazz guitarists night out.

CHRYSTA BELL

AustinVentures StudioTheater at Ballet Austin, Saturday 3

Double vinyl debut, listening party, and live set for the onetime local siren's *This Train*, produced by filmmaker David Lynch.

AKINA ADDERLEY & THE VINTAGE PLAYBOYS Central Market North, Saturday 3

Star time, soul time – get the young'uns started early, 6:30pm.

RITA COOLIDGE

One World Theatre, Sunday 4

Country Rapunzel lets down her hair on jazz standards with *And So Is Love*, 7pm.

CAKE

Stubb's, Sunday 4

Sold out.

MUSHROOMHEAD

Emo's East, Tuesday 6

Mad Max meets Cleveland metal.

THE TRISHAS

Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 7

DIY Dixie Chicks.

CHARLIE MARS

Saxon Pub, Thursday 8

Find Mars' "Mississippi" drawl on KGSR's *Broadcasts Vol. 19*.

in-stores: Friday: **Triggermen, Dentdelion**, Trailer Space, 7pm; Saturday: **The Cobras (Paul Ray, Denny Freeman, Rodney Craig, Larry Lange)**, Antone's Records, 3pm; Wednesday: **Dead Cats Dead Rats, Code Named Code**, Trailer Space, 7pm

THE Continental CLUB

COMING SOON
DEC. 13 • 20 • 27
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
& UNCLE LUCIUS
 12/12 **STONE RIVER BOYS**
 12/16 **DALE WATSON**

THUR DEC 1
 H. H. **PLANET CASPER**
BARFIELD
 12AM **THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK!**
FLYJACK
 10PM
 FRIDAY DEC 2
 NO HAPPY HOUR/DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

MOJO NIXON'S
BOBBLEHEAD
TOUR
 12AM
DASH
RIP
ROCK
 10PM

Pat Martino
 8PM
 SATURDAY DEC 3
 MATINEE DOORS AT 3PM
REDD VOLKAERT

J.D. McPHERSON
 12:30AM
MAC CURTIS
 11:15PM
MARTI BROM
 9:45PM
MODERN DON JOANS
 8:30PM
 SUNDAY DEC 4

WOODE WOOD
 5-6PM
JUNIOR BROWN
 7:30PM
 AND THE LOVELY
TANYA RAE

HEYBALE WITH
REDD VOLKAERT,
EARL POOLE BALL
 PLUS **DALLAS WAYNE**
 9:30PM
THE WAGONEERS

THE PALADINS
 12AM
JADE IDOL
 10:30PM
THE BLUE DOTS
 9PM

MONDAY DEC 5
CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY
 TUESDAY DEC 6
 H. H. 6:30PM **TONI PRICE**
 12AM **HECTOR WARD & THE BIG TIME**
 10:30PM **UNCLE LUCIUS**
 WEDNESDAY DEC 7
 H. H. **HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN**
 12AM **KEVIN MCKINNEY**

THURSDAY DEC 8
 H. H. **PLANET CASPER**
OZZY & THE TYRANT TOE TO TOE!
 12AM **Whack Sabbath**
 10PM **BARFIELD**
 THE TYRANT OF TEXAS FUNK!
 FRIDAY DEC 9
 H. H. 6:30PM **THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS!**
WELCOME HOT ROD REVOLUTION!
 12AM **DAVE ALVIN**
 & THE GUILTY ONES
 10PM **The Leroi Bros.**
 SATURDAY DEC 10
 MATINEE DOORS AT 3PM **REDD VOLKAERT**
WELCOME HOT ROD REVOLUTION!
 12AM

CHOSEN ONE OF "AMERICA'S BEST BARS" IN PLAYBOY'S GUIDE TO AMERICA'S GREATEST BARS IN 2000 AND AGAIN IN 2010!

UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY
 • THU 10:30
TAMEGA JONES
 8:30 **THE PETERSON BROS.**
 • FRI • SAT • SUN 10:30
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
 FRI & SUN W/ **JAKE LANGLEY & KYLE THOMPSON**
 SAT W/ **JAKE LANGLEY & FROSTY**
 FRI 8:30 **ROBERT KRAFT TRIO**
 SAT 8:30PM **STEVE BERNAL'S ZODIAC**

ART OPENING
 7PM
THURSDAY DEC. 1
SUE ZOLA

GALLERY OPENS AT 8:00PM
 SUN 8:30 **JON DEE & FRIEND SHOW**
 W/ **ROSIE FLORES**
 • MON CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY
 • TUE 10:30 **THE EPHRAIM OWENS EXPERIENCE**
 8:30 **WILL T. MASSEY**
 • WED 10:30 **TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZZ**
 8:30 **BUSTAMOOVALATORS**

1315 S. CONGRESS • OPEN: TUES.- FRI. 4PM • SAT. 3PM • SUN. 6:30PM • 441-2444



Hot Rod REVOLUTION

DECEMBER 10 - CAMP MABRY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In the 1940's, many of our boys were coming home from WWII with a lingering itch for speed and danger. Many turned to Hot Rods.

The Hot Rod Revolution is a traditional pre-1948 Hot Rod show that pays homage to those men and the machines they created and captained.

Vintage war inventory and traditional hot rods... Come see our gathering on December 10 at Camp Mabry. Gates open at 10am. A small spectator fee of \$10 gets you into the show as well as access to some incredible live music. See you there!

★ BAND SCHEDULE ★

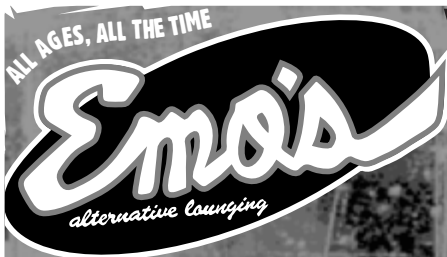
11:00 HOURS : Pushrod

12:30 HOURS : Two Tons Of Steel

14:00 Hours : The Thunderchiefs

15:00 HOURS : The Paladins

WWW.HOTRODREVOLUTION.COM



EMO'S: 603 RED RIVER • 693-3667

EMO'S 2015 E. RIVERSIDE
EAST: 693-3667

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

INSIDE: **HICKOIDS**
MR. LEWIS AND THE FUNERAL FIVE
ZERO SKILLS • IEX AMIGOS!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

EAST, DOORS 6PM: SODA JERK PRESENTS
NORMA JEAN • OH SLEEPER
CLOSE YOUR EYES • STRAY FROM THE PATH
LOWER THAN ATLANTIS • READY THE MESSENGER

INSIDE: **THE IMPALERS • WICCANS**
CRIATURAS • THE CREAMERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

EAST, DOORS 8PM: SCORE MORE PRESENTS
BIG SEAN • CYHI THE PRINCE
SHAWN CHRISTOPHER • DOUGHBEEZY

INSIDE: **NANOSMASH W/ LONESTAR DEMONS**
THE MILLIPEDE • AWESOME DEATH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

INSIDE, DOORS 9PM:
101X & NO CONTROL RADIO PRESENT
MAYHEM • KEEP OF KALESSIN
HATE • ABIGAIL WILLIAMS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

INSIDE: **KINGDOM OF SUICIDE LOVERS**
LITERATURE • MIAMI DOLPHINS
BLACK GUM • ICHI NI SAN SHI

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

INSIDE, DOORS 7PM: NO CONTROL RADIO
& SODA JERK PRESENTS
MUSHROOMHEAD
ONE EYED DOLL • HEADCRUSHER
HUMAN FACTORS LAB • TENAFly VIPER

INSIDE: **GOMEZ • JENSEN EYES**
ADAM & THE BULLSHARK • ME & THE DEVIL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

INSIDE: **FREE SHOW!**
NIGHT SEIGE • DEADLY REIGN
DETHRONE • DOOM SIREN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

INSIDE, DOORS 9PM: **MR. GNOME**
THE BAKER FAMILY
TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

EAST: OUTTA DA EAST PRESENTS
ABANDON • BIZZLE • PRINCE HILL
THE WARRIORS ATX • NATORI BLUE • KARA NICOLE

INSIDE: **CANOE!**
OVENBIRDS • THE NOUNS

COMING SOON: 12/19 BLACK COBRA / ZOROASTER / THE BODY / SKYCRAWLER (IN) • 12/20 SKREW / THE BLOOD ROYALE / MALA SUERTE / BEYOND THE BLOOD (IN) 12/21 THE BRIGADE / DGNS / THE ARTILLERY / FOR EVERY EMPIRE (IN) 12/22 DIKES OF HOLLAND / THE YOUNG / GOSPEL TRUTH / CREATIONISTS / CROOKED BANGS (IN) 12/23 THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS (IN) • 12/26 JOHN WESLEY COLEMAN / BLOWER / THE NEGATIVES / SCRABBLE ROBOT (IN) • 12/29 QUINTRON / MIND SPIDERS / MANATEES / FLESH LIGHTS (IN) • 12/30 KILLDOZER / RITUALS / WOMEN IN PRISON (INSIDE FINAL SHOW) • 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE W/ BLACK ANGELS, WOODEN SHIPS (EAST) • 1/07 DYNAMITE BOY / CRUISERWEIGHT / RIDDLIN' KIDS / SHAFT / FIRE KILLS / FAILSAFE (EAST) • 1/14 WU-TANG CLAN (EAST) • 1/21 IN FLAMES / TRIVIAM / KYNG (EAST) • 1/27 BADFISH, A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME (TIX THRU C3CONCERTS.COM) • 1/28 AUGUST BURNS RED / SILVERSTEIN / TEXAS IN JULY / LETLIVE (EAST) • 2/14 ATTACK! ATTACK! / SLEEPING WITH SIRENS / CHUCK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUCK! DREAM ON DREAMER (EAST) • 2/21 CHILDREN OF BODOM / ELUVIETIE / REVOCATION / THREAT SIGNAL (EAST) • 2/28 SYMPHONY X / ICED EARTH / WARBRINGER (EAST) • 2/29 DROPKICK MURPHYS / FRANK TURNER & THE SLEEPING SOULS • 3/27 DECIDE / JUNGLE ROT / ABIGAIL WILLIAMS / LECHEROUS NOCTURNE / FLESH HOARDER (EAST) • 5/5 OVERKILL / BELPHEGOR / ABORTED / BLACKGUARD / DIAMOND PLATE

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE @ EMOSAUSTIN.COM,
Waterloo Records, Trailer Space, & End of an Ear Records



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

INSIDE, DOORS 8PM: NO CONTROL RADIO
& SODA JERK PRESENTS
KORPIKLAANI • ARKONA
POLKADOT CADAVER • FORGED IN FLAME

EAST, DOORS 9PM: **SCRATCH ACID**
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

INSIDE, 9PM: NO CONTROL RADIO
& SODA JERK PRESENTS
BLACK TUSK • MONSTRO • KYNG

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

ANTONE'S: SODA JERK PRESENTS
BORN OF OSIRIS • VEIL OF MAYA
CARNIFEX • STRUCTURES
BETRAYING THE MARTYRS

INSIDE: **POCKET FISHERMAN**
BABY DICK • TOTAL UNICORN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

EAST, 5PM: SODA JERK PRESENTS
THRASH AND BURN TOUR
FEATURING

WINDS OF PLAGUE • CHELSEA GRIN
AS BLOOD RUNS BLACK • FOR THE FALLEN DREAMS
UPON A BURNING BODY • IN THE MIDST OF LIONS
LIKE MOTHS TO A FLAME

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

INSIDE, DOORS@9PM:
DIXIE WITCH • HONKY • EL PATHOS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

INSIDE, **FREE SHOW!** DOORS@9PM:
DEAD END CRUISERS
THE MOTARDS 8 THE CHUMPS
JESUS CHRIST SUPERFLY • BULEMICS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

INSIDE, DOORS@9PM:
MAN OR ASTROMAN?
FUCKEMOS • THIGHMASTER • CUNTO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

INSIDE, DOORS@9PM:
AGONY COLUMN
FLASH BOYS • BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA

EAST, DOORS@8PM:
EMOS & 101X PRESENT: **CLUTCH**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

INSIDE, DOORS 9PM:
EMOS & 101X PRESENT: **CLUTCH**

SCRATCH ACID

EMO'S EAST | 8PM
2015 EAST RIVERSIDE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

12/18
CLUTCH
EMO'S INSIDE '30

EMO'S EAST '25
CLUTCH
12/17

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SAT DEC 31ST

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Come celebrate the brand new Beauty Ballroom with us and...

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EVERY MONDAY ABS OPEN MIC & BLUES JAM

COMING SOON:
 JAN 20 - TOASTERS
 JAN 27 - GOURDS
 JAN 29 - ME TALK PRETTY
 FEB 1 - WHERE'S THE BAND TOUR (C3CONCERTS.COM)
 FEB 21 - MATTHEW GOOD
 W/EMILY GREEN (C3CONCERTS.COM)
 FEB 25 - SUPERSUCKERS
 MARCH 13 - BAND OF SKULLS W/WE ARE AUGUSTINES (C3CONCERTS.COM)

THU 1 DEC
THAT DAMNED BAND

 ERIK HOKKANEN
 THE ATOMIC DUO
 DOORS: 8PM


FRI 2 DEC THE SMUGGLERS' ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASH
 TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND

 LEADERS OF THE GANG


SAT 3 DEC
BODEANS FASTBALL GREATCOATS

 DOORS: 9PM

SUN 4 DEC
CROOKS
 OWEN TEMPLE
 WALT WILKINS & THE MYSTIQUEROS
 DREW KENNEDY
 ERIC HISAW
 MATT HARLAN

 DOORS: 6:30PM

TUE 6 DEC SODA JERK PRESENTS:
THE WAILERS

 DUANE STEPHENSON
 DUB GIDEON
 DOORS: 9PM

WED 7 DEC
NOT IN THE FACE

 FACELESS WEREWOLVES
 THE VITAMINS
 DOORS: 8PM

THU 8 DEC LAZ PARKING PRESENTS

Special Olympics TEXAS BLUES NIGHT FUNDRAISER
 MICHAEL HOLT AND TROPHY 500'S
 SONNY WOLF • JO HELL BAND
 DOORS: 8PM

FRI 9 DEC SODA JERK PRESENTS:
ZECHS MARQUISE

 EQUALS PARKING
 DOORS: 9PM

SAT 10 DEC
JASON BOLAND EVAN FELKER

 ACOUSTIC TOUR
 DOORS: 10PM

SAT 10 DEC
PAUL THORN

 DOORS: 7PM

WED 14 DEC
HELLO LOVERS


 PAPERHREAT • SUR

FRI 16 DEC
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
 CD RELEASE PARTY

 WHISKEY SHIVERS
 EAST SIDE DANDIES
 DOORS: 8PM

SAT 17 DEC
CHARLIE ROBISON

 WILL SEXTON BAND
 DOORS: 8PM


MON 19 DEC DOORS: 7:30PM
HOLIDAY HAAM JAM


WED 21 DEC
SHURMAN

 CHRISTMAS ALBUM RELEASE PARTY & FRUIT CAKE RAFFLE
 DOORS: 8PM

FRI 23 DEC FELIZ NAVIDAD WITH
VALLEJO
 AND SPECIAL GUEST

 DAMESVIOLET
 BIPOLAR BEARS
 DOORS: 8PM

THU 29 DEC
JONATHAN TYLER
 & NORTHERN LIGHTS

 DOORS: 8PM

SAT 31 DEC NEW YEAR'S EVE
GARY CLARK JR.

 DOORS: 8PM

SAT 14 JAN
REVEREND HORTON HEAT

NOT IN THE FACE
 DOORS: 8PM

THU 19 JAN
THE MOUNTAIN GOATS

 TIX ON SALE FRI 12/2 @ 10AM
 THRU C3CONCERTS.COM
 DOORS: 7PM

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Tattoo and Piercing

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RED7

TH 12/1 ★ 9 PM
THE CRACK PIPES, OBNOX,
DEAD SPACE, PARTY LINES

F 12/2 ★ 9 PM
THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY, BANGAAR,
BLACK CONGRESS, WEIRD PARTY

SA 12/3 ★ 9 PM
THE NOUNS, GRAPE ST., CROOKED BANGS,
I'D DIE FOR LO-FI // MANZIG LEGACY,
GG ALLIN COE, DIRTBAG, JAKE FLORES

SU 12/4 ★ 8 PM
FACELESS PREACHER, IMMERSE,
SHADOW SPECTRUM, HAVOK

F 12/9 ★ 5 PM
THE CHARIOT, VANNA, FORMER THIEVES,
THE GREENERY, LISTENER

SA 12/10 ★ 9 PM ★ FREE! INSIDE
POWER TRIP, RZL DZL, MINDLESS

SU 12/11 ★ 9 PM
VERBAL ABUSE, SS KAILERT (GERMANY),
EMBRACE THE KILL, NAW DUDE

RED7RUSTIN.COM 611 EAST 7TH

LIVE MUSIC VENUES

- ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER.**
310 W. Willie Nelson Blvd., 225-7999
- AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE,** 5804 S. I-35, 458-2531
- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN,** 10401 Anderson Mill,
918-1599
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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
- AUSTIN MUSIC HALL,** 208 Nueces, 263-4146
- AZUL TEQUILA MEXICAN RESTAURANT,** 4211 S. Lamar,
416-9667
- BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL,** 3003 S. Lamar, 691-9140
- BALLET AUSTIN STUDIO,** 3002 Guadalupe, 476-9051
- BAR 141,** 141 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos,
512/558-7399
- BAT BAR,** 218 E. Sixth, 474-6363
- 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
- BLIND PIG PUB,** 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
- BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR,** 422 E. Sixth,
476-1077
- 'BOUT TIME,** 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
- BROKEN SPOKE,** 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
- THE BROWN BAR,** 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
- CACTUS CAFE,** Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
- CAFFE MEDICI,** 2222-B Guadalupe, 474-5730
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE,** 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
- CEDAR STREET,** 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH,** 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH,** 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300
- CHAIN DRIVE,** 504 Willow, 480-9017
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE,** 119 Cheatham St.,
San Marcos, 512/353-3777
- CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE,** 1400 E. 38½,
538-1991
- CHEZ ZEE,** 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY,** 219 E. Sixth, 476-5015
- CLUB 1808,** 1808 E. 12th, 524-2519
- CLUB DE VILLE,** 900 Red River, 457-0900
- CONANS PIZZA,** 2018 W. Stassney, 441-6754
- CONTINENTAL CLUB,** 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
- COTTON CLUB,** 212 E. Davilla St., Granger,
512/859-0700
- DIZZY ROOSTER,** 306 E. Sixth, 236-1667
- DONN'S DEPOT,** 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL,** 604 Brazos, 474-5911
- 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 EAST,** 2015 Riverside, 474-5370
- EMO'S,** 603 Red River, 505-8541
- EVANGELINE CAFE,** 8106 Brodie, 28-CAJUN
- FADÓ IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT,** 214 W. Fourth,
457-0172
- FAIR BEAN COFFEE,** 2210+ S. First, 444-BEAN
- FLAMINGO CANTINA,** 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEEHOUSE,** 1601 Barton Springs Rd.,
480-8646
- FRANK,** 407 Colorado, 494-6916
- FRIENDS,** 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
- FRONTIER BAR,** 2421 Webberville Rd., 243-7153
- GIDDY UPS,** 12010 Manchaca Rd., 280-4732
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON,** 5434 Burnet Rd.,
458-1813
- GOGO BAR,** 209 W. Fifth
- GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT,** 811 W. Live Oak,
444-4747
- GRUENE HALL,** 1281 Gruene Rd., New Braunfels,
830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR,** 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
- HALCYON,** 218 W. Fourth, 472-9637
- THE HIGBALL,** 1142 S. Lamar, 383-8309
- HILL'S CAFE,** 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300
- HOLE IN THE WALL,** 2538 Guadalupe, 302-1470
- HOTEL VEGAS,** 1500 E. Sixth, 589-1411
- HOUSE WINE,** 408 Josephine, 322-5210
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN,**
701 Congress, 457-8800
- JOVITA'S,** 1619 S. First, 447-7825
- KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE,** 4600 Guadalupe,
467-IDOL
- KICK BUTT COFFEE,** 5775 Airport #725, 454-5425
- LA FERIA RESTAURANT,** 2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301
- LA PALAPA,** 6640 Hwy. 290 E., 459-8729
- LA ZONA ROSA,** 612 W. Fourth, 263-4146
- LANAI,** 422 Congress, 479-6600
- LAS PALOMAS,** 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
- LATITUDE 30,** 512 San Jacinto, 472-3335
- LUCKY LOUNGE,** 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
- LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT,**
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- MAGGIE MAE'S,** 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
- MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA,** 8012 Mesa,
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- MARIA MARIA,** 415 Colorado, 687-6800
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS,** 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
- MEAN-EYED CAT,** 1621 W. Fifth, 472-6326
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- MUGSHOTS,** 407 E. Seventh, 236-0008
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- ONE WORLD THEATRE,** 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500
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- PARAMOUNT THEATRE,** 713 Congress, 472-5470
- THE PARISH,** 214 E. Sixth, 473-8381
- PATSY'S CAFE,** 5001 E. Ben White, 444-2020
- PLUSH,** 617 Red River, 478-0099
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE,** 22308 Hwy. 71 W.,
Spicewood, 512/264-0318
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE,** 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468
- 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
- THE RED ROOSTER,** 109 E. Pecan, Pflugerville, 251-4129
- RED SHED TAVERN,** 8504 S. Congress, 280-4899
- RILEY'S TAVERN,** 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
- ROADHOUSE,** 1103 Wonder St., Round Rock,
512/218-0813
- RUSTY'S,** 405 E. Seventh, 482-9002
- RUTA MAYA,** 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
- RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE,** 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE,** 1413 Webberville Rd., 927-0700
- SAM'S TOWN POINT,** 2115 Allred, 282-0083
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR,** 5900 Slaughter #400,
288-9994
- SAXON PUB,** 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
- SHENANIGANS,** 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
- SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL,** 9012 Research
Ste. C-1, 380-9443
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS CEDAR PARK,**
601 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH,** 11416 RR 620 N.,
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610-3500
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- TROPHY'S,** 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
- 29TH STREET BALLROOM,** 2906 Fruth, 480-9562
- VICTORY GRILL,** 1104 E. 11th, 291-6211
- VOLSTEAD LOUNGE,** 1500 E. Sixth, 680-0532
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE,** 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE,** 9600 Escarpment Blvd., 301-1007
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All dates, acts, ticket prices subject to change w/o notice. All tickets subject to applicable service charges.

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12/13 KUT Welcomes Trampled by Turtles w/
William Elliott Whitmore (c3concerts.com)

12/14 Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers and Jon
McLuaghlin (c3concerts.com)

1/21 MASON JENNINGS
(c3concerts.com)

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cactus cafe

EST. 1978

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ALYSSA GRAHAM

FRI DEC 2
RAYLAND BAXTER

SAT DEC 3
SLAID CLEAVES
WITH **GRAHAM WEBER**

WED DEC 7
THE TRISHAS
WITH **SALLY ALLEN**

THURS DEC 8
BETTY SOO & DOUG COX

FRI DEC 9
ELLIS PAUL
WITH **SETH GLIER**

SAT DEC 10
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

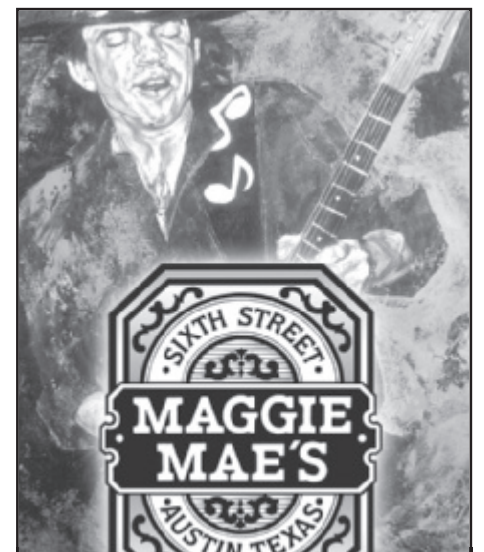
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SUNDAY 12/4
AUSTIN ICON **ALAN HAYNES**

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\$3 YOU CALL IT

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DJ KENN ROOFTOP
MASH-UP DJ TETSUO
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SOUTH ON RIVERSIDE

Sun Dec. 4 **The Seekers** 11 am
no cover

Sun Dec. 11 **Jon Emery**
Hillbilly Gospel 11 am
no cover

NORTH ON LAMAR

Sun Dec. 4 **Danny Santos**
y los Bluegrass Vatos 11 am
no cover

Wed Dec. 7 **The Carper Family** 7 pm
no cover

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HOSTED BY: JESSIE SCOTT (ALL SHOWS INDOOR)

Sun Dec. 4 **Max Stalling** 8 pm
\$10

Mon Dec. 5 **Big John Mills with Troy Stone** 8 pm
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Tue Dec. 6 **Josh Grider** 8 pm
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Fri 12/2 • (7p) Harry Nilsson
 Tribute with 8 local favorites!
 (9:30p) The Sweet Nuthin', Pastures,
 Pastor Cory Cross, Greg Mullen
Sat 12/3 • (5p) Barebones
 Orchestra Holiday Happy Hours
 (8p) McMercy Family Christmas,
 Clyde and Clem's Whiskey Business
 ★ **Tue 12/6** • (8p) Ghosts ★
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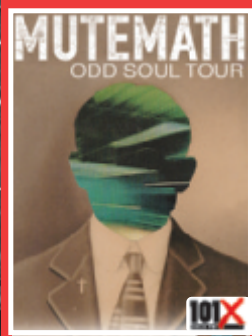
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WED JAN 25



FRI JAN 27



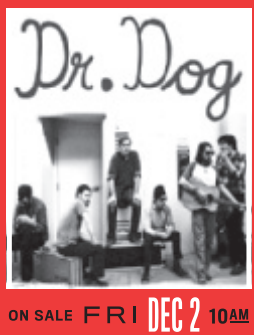
SAT FEB 18



SAT MAR 3



FRI MAR 9



FRI MAR 23



IN THE CLUB

THU DEC 1 DOORS 8PM

THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
 WITH BROWN BIRD AND JONNY CORNDWAG

FRI DEC 2 DOORS 9PM

MYNAMEISJOHNMICHAEL WITH BOY

SAT DEC 3 DOORS 8:30PM

WILL HOGE
 WITH JOSH HOGE AND REED TURNER

SUN DEC 4 DOORS 10:30PM

10IX INDEPENDENT WORKFORCE XMAS WITH
SPEAK, UME
 AND **SOLIDER THREAD**

TUE DEC 6 DOORS 8PM

HAAM CORPORATE BATTLE OF THE BANDS WINNERS
THE IDEUCE! & THE CIRRUS
LOGIC GUITAR ORCHESTRA

FRI DEC 9 DOORS 9:30PM

AQUAJONES WITH THE DRY SEASON,
 LIVE LIGHTS AND TOM MELANCON

SAT DEC 10 DOORS 11:30PM

DAVID RAMIREZ
 WITH HIS BAND WITH WILD CHILD

TUE DEC 13 DOORS 8PM

HURT THE ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE

THU DEC 15 DOORS 9PM

GRIEVES & BUDO
 WITH K.FLAY AND THE BREAKLITES

FRI DEC 16 DOORS 9:30PM

SOUNDS UNDER RADIO
 WITH SUITE 709 AND PAPER HOTEL

CALENDAR

» OUTSIDE SHOW » INSIDE SHOW

12-31* **T. BIRD & THE BREAKS**
 WITH THE SIDESHOW TRAGEDY -
 NEW YEAR'S EVE!

1-11* **FRANKIE BALLARD**

1-14* **CASS MCCOMBS**
 WITH FRANK FAIRFIELD

1-17* **LANGHORNE SLIM**
 AND THE LAW

2-10* **REBELUTION**
 W/THE GREEN AND PEP LOVE

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CLUB LISTINGS

THURSDAY (1)

ACL LIVE AT THE MOODY THEATER
 Nick Lowe, Wilco (6:30) R

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Lone Star Swing
 A

BAT BAR Continuums

BEAUTY BAR Go Go Garcia

BEERLAND Bang Bang Theodores,
 Stiff Nites, Neon Cobra

CACTUS CAFE Alyssa Graham
 (8:30) A

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Littlest Birds,
 Shady Rest Band, Karly
 Sweet, Haydon Camp, Charles
 Whitman & the Branch
 Davidians (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Sounds of AM
 (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
 Bordertown Bootleggers ♪
 (6:30) A

CHAIN DRIVE Bubbleface, Attic
 Ted Xmas Opera, Retarded
 Guitartar, Venison Whirled

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE
 Forest Wayne Allen, Court
 Nance (9:30)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE
 Strumero (8:00) A

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish &
 Misbehavin' (9:00)

CLUB DE VILLE The Blackwells,
 Bitter Birds, Damn Hands
 (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: The
 Peterson Bros., Tameca Jones
 (8:30); In the Club: Planet
 Casper (6:30); Flyjack, Barfield
 (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Guilty Pleasures
 (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
 (8:30); In the Club: Planet
 Casper (6:30); Flyjack, Barfield
 (10:00)

THE DRISKILL HOTEL The Driskill
 Bar: The Carper Family, Sahara
 Smith, Erin Ivey, Tje Austin ♪,
 Dale Watson (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her
 Fellas (6:00), Ephraim Owens
 Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Missions ♪

EMO'S Ex-Amigos, Zero Skills, Mr.
 Lewis & the Funeral 5 (9:00) R

FLAMINGO CANTINA Harbingers of
 Hip Hop, OT23, Grim Nasty,
 the Warriors, Storm Shadow,
 Syllable (9:00) R

FRANK Beau Jennings, Holiday,
 Little Brave ♪ (9:30) R A

FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON
 Hoedown w/ Dale Watson
 (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins & the
 Mystiqueros A

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Bobby Fuentes
 (6:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Professor
 Cowboy & the Space Crazies,
 Shakey Graves, Once Per Axis

HOTEL VEGAS Jah Karma, Jake
 Scarborough, Brede, DJ Gmau
 (10:00)

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F.
 AUSTIN Stephen F. Bar: Weldon
 Henson & Devin Preitauer

JOVITA'S Joe Romeo, Son Armado,
 Nick Gaitan & the Umbrella
 Man (6:00) A

LA ZONA ROSA Bogl, Vibe Squad,
 Mimosa

LUCKY LOUNGE Kalu James ♪
 (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Horseshoe
 Rambling Orchestra (8:00) R

ROAD SHOWS

December

THU 1

Wilco, Nick Lowe, ACL Live at
 the Moody Theater

Harbingers of Hip Hop,
 Flamingo Cantina

Beau Jennings, Frank

Horseshoe Rambling
 Orchestra, Mean-Eyed Cat

Crooked Fingers, Strand of
 Oaks, Mohawk

Bamako Airlines, Momo's

Kenny Rogers, Paramount Theatre

Neverwas, Red 7

Deserts of Mars, Red Eyed Fly

The Devil Makes 3, Brown
 Bird, Stubb's

FRI 2

Natural Child, Beerland

Rayland Baxter, Cactus Cafe

Mojo Nixon, Dash Rip Rock,
 Pat Martino, Continental Club

Norma Jean, Oh Sleeper,
 Close Your Eyes, Stray From
 the Path, Emo's East

Outlaw Nation, Flamingo Cantina

Max Stalling, Gruene Hall

Victoria Noll, Hole in the Wall

Honey Island Swamp Band,
 Roxy Roca, Momo's

Rachel Yamagata, the Parish

This Moment in Black History,
 Weird Party, Red 7

Dent Le Lion, Trailer Space

Records

Carolyn Mark, Dastardly, Triple
 Crown

Cabra, Trophy's

SAT 3

The BoDeans, Antone's

Bay of Pigs, Beerland

Dent Le Lion, Club 1808

JD McPhearson, Mac
 Curtis, Modern Don Juans,
 Continental Club

Nanosmash, Awesome Death,
 Emo's

Cyhi the Prince, Shawn
 Christopher, Doughbreezy,
 Emo's East

Sheer Khan, Frank

La Migra, Dastardly, Hotel Vegas

Brave Combo, Jovita's

Brave Combo, Jovita's

Daryl Hance, Momo's

The Wood Brothers, Carsie
 Blanton, the Parish

Jake Kellen, Poodie's Hilltop
 Roadhouse

Shotgun Rebels, Red Eyed Fly

Will Hoge, Stubb's

SUN 4

The National, Local Natives,
 Austin Music Hall

Mayhem, Keep of Kalessin,
 Hate, Abigail Williams, Emo's

Rita Coolidge, One World Theatre

Boy, Shivery Shakes, Papi Tino's

Channel 13, Red Eyed Fly

Cake, Stubb's

Max Stalling, Threadgill's World HQ

TUE 6

The Wailers, Duane
 Stephenson, Antone's

Encore, Cedar Street

Mushroomhead, Headcrusher,
 Human Factors Lab, Tenafly
 Viper, Emo's East

WED 7

Neur, Beerland

Deadly Reign, Emo's

Hang Zeros, Rude King, Viet
 Ruse, Flamingo Cantina

KP & the Boom Boom, the
 Reen, Momo's

Tha Rejects, Red Eyed Fly

Rebecca Loebe, Saxon Pub

THU 8

Sweat Lodge, Crooked Bangs,
 Beerland

Mr. Gnome, Emo's

Mockingbird Loyals, Hole in
 the Wall

The Sea & Cake, Mohawk

Hot Pink DeLorean, the Parish

Junes Not Faking, Triple Crown

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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 NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES

TO: CLUB LISTINGS, PO BOX 49066, AUSTIN, TX 78765; FAX, 458-6910; PHONE, 454-5766 X159; EMAIL, 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.

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W/ VIBESQUAD AND BOGL
THU DEC 1

3RD ANNUAL ROCK SOLID HOLIDAY PARTY

BENEFITTING MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF TEXAS

W/ ALPHA REV, ED ROLAND (OF COLLECTIVE SOUL),
NAKIA, CARRIE RODRIGUEZ, JOE PUG, JON DEE GRAHAM,
QUIET COMPANY, JESSE WOODS, AND MORE...

FRI DEC 2



BRIAN SETZER'S ROCKABILLY RIOT
SAT DEC 10

CHEVELLS LIVE IN CONCERT



W/ AMERICAN FANGS
WED DEC 14
TIX ON SALE NOW



W/ SHOWELS & ROPE AND
SIDESHOW TRAMPS
NYE! SAT DEC 31

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TAP ROOM & BREWERY



12.01 Scorpion Child,
Trip Crystals, Modok

12.04 18th Annual Toy
Drive - bring a toy, get
a beer

12.08 Babydick, Egypt

12.15 Song Gods, Sau-
cerians

Every Sunday: Heart
& Soul Soundsystem

ALL SHOWS FREE

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Jovitas

THURSDAY - 12/1

6:00pm - JOE ROMEO
8:00pm - SON ARMADO
10:00pm - NICK GAITAN
AND THE UMBRELLA MAN

FRIDAY - 12/2

7:00pm - close | \$8 or \$5 for students
UT WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLES

SATURDAY - 12/3

5:00pm - PETERSON BROTHERS



\$10 COVER - DOORS AT 8:00pm
9:00pm - BRAVE COMBO

SUNDAY - 12/4

1:00pm - DB MARTIN
3:30pm - RANDY WEEKS AND FRIENDS
7:00pm - HOT TEXAS SWING BAND
9:30pm - ALL HOLDER AND THE BROKEN HEARTED

TUESDAY - 12/6

6:00pm - DICKIE LEE ERWIN
8:30pm - BIRDY AND THE MELODY MEN
9:45pm - THE SUPERLITES
11:00pm - MAYEUX AND BROUSSARD

WEDNESDAY - 12/7

4:00pm - BRUCE SMITH
5:30pm - KEVIN DANIEL SMITH
8:00pm - THE LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND
10:30pm - THE VENETTA BIG BAND

RESTAURANTE Y CANTINA
FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WIFI JOVITAS.COM

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BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO AUSTIN FOR 20 YEARS

THURSDAY 12.01 *HIP HOP* DOORS 9:00

SYLLABLE'S HIPHOP SHOWCASE

FEATURING SYLLABLE, STORM SHADOW,
WARRIOR, GRIMNASTY, OT23,
AND HARBINGERS OF HIP HOP

FRIDAY 12.02 *REGGAE* DOORS 9:00

OUTLAW NATION TINCAN PHONE THE RAFIKI PROJECT

SATURDAY 12.03 *SKA/REGGAE/SOUL* DOORS 9:00

BANG-A-RANG! ROCKSTEADY EXPLOSION!

THE BANDULUS
HANG ZEROS
RUDE KING, VIET RUSE
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12.08: DID YOU SEE THOSE BATS?, GLOBSTER, FATBACK
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WEDNESDAY -
SATURDAY
6:30 - 9 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
BORDER TOWN BOOTLEGGERS
western swing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2
COPA KINGS
swing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
AKINA ADDERLEY
soul, funk

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
hobo hot jazz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
AVA ARENELLA
jazz christmas show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
DALE WATSON
honky-tonk christmas show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2
JACKIE BRISTOW
indie soul pop

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
BLACKBIRD 3
jazz

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
CLAY McCLINTON
americana

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
STEPHEN DOSTER
& BILL CARTER
singer-songwriters

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
CARPER FAMILY BAND
americana, bluegrass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
AVA ARENELLA
jazz christmas show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
FLYING A'S
americana

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
JIMI LEE
blues

UPCOMING AT NORTH LAMAR: Friday, December 2, 7-10pm
THE GAP AT CENTRAL PARK PRESENTS
HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE & WINTER FASHION SHOW
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- FRI 02 DEC** **THE SOLDIER THREAD (ACOUSTIC)**
Doors 9:00PM \$6.00 All Ages
Dean Stafford & Jack Thornton
- SAT 03 DEC** **FRANK PUBLIC ART : JULIA POTT**
Doors 6:00PM FREE All Ages
Artist Reception for Julia Pott Server Up By Neuro
- SAT 03 DEC** **SOUL TRACK MIND**
Doors 9:30PM \$8.00 All Ages
Sheer Khan
- THU 08 DEC** **KNIFIGHT**
Doors 9:30PM \$6.00 All Ages
Hot Rod Radio & Dudes Die
- FRI 09 DEC** **AUSTIN VIDA SHOWCASE: LEDASWAN**
Doors 9:30PM \$6 All Ages
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MON 12/5 **MOELLER BROTHERS**

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WED 12/7 **HELLFIRE SOCIAL, STORM SHELTER**

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THURSDAY (12/1)
• James Roquemore - 6pm
• Open Mic - 8pm

FRIDAY (12/2)
• HH Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs - 6pm
• The Little Birds - 8pm
• Capital Zen Presents - 9pm

SATURDAY (12/3)
• Rosie and the Ramblers - 6pm
• Robert Steel, Jack Wilson and Becky Alter - 8pm

SUNDAY (12/4)
• Grace London - 6pm
• Bruce Salmon - 8pm

MONDAY (12/5)
• The Bluegrass Outfit - 8pm

TUESDAY (12/6)
• Eric Hokkanen's Lab - 9pm

WEDNESDAY (12/7)
• Sean Bruce - 6pm
• Songwriters Series w/ Lisa Kelyle - 9pm

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM THURSDAY

- MOHAWK** Strand of Oaks, Crooked Fingers (9:00) **A**
- MOMO'S** Isaih the Mosaic, Bamako Airlines, Sam Place & the Gilded Grit (9:00) **A**
- NEWORDELI** Sue Young, Bradley Kopp, Jan Seides **J**
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Robert Johnson's Soul, Candiland (9:00)
- PAPI TINO'S** Kane West Organ Trio (7:00)
- PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Kenny Rogers (8:00) **R A**
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** Sam Pace, Selena Rosie Rosenbaum, Jaron Bell **A**
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE** John Evans
- RED 7** Twin Prisons, Neverwas (9:00) **R**
- RED EYED FLY** White Widow, Deserts of Mars, Brown Acid, Egypt, Brontosaurus **R**
- THE RED ROOSTER** Rockin' Steve
- ROADHOUSE** Mojo Jam
- RUTA MAYA** Aetherhawk **A**
- RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE** Jeff Lofton (7:00)
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE** Hard Proof Afrobeat **J**, Ocote Soul Sounds
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** Earl Poole Ball (6:30)
- SAXON PUB** Eightysixxed (6:00); Johnny Nicholas, Fast Luke & the Lead Heavy, Hector Ward (8:00)
- SKINNY'S BALLROOM** McPullish, Dr. Dubbist
- SPEAKEASY** Big Max Band (10:00)
- STUBB'S** Brown Bird, the Devil Makes 3 **R**
- THE THIRSTY NICKEL** The Bomb Squad (9:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Bruce Smith (6:00), Loose Leaf (10:00)
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Sarah Pierce (7:00) **A**
- Z'TEJAS** The Brew (6:00)

FRIDAY 02

- AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE** Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Purple Room
- ANTONE'S** Leaders of the Gang, the Diamond Smugglers Christmas Show (9:00) **A**
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** George Enslé **A**
- AZUL TEQUILA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Mariachi Relampago (8:00) **A**
- BEAUTY BAR** School Dance Winter Formal
- BEERLAND** These Are Words, Cause for Applause, the Gospel Truth, Natural Child **R**
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Element
- BROKEN SPOKE** Dance Lessons, Jake Hooker (8:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Rayland Baxter (8:30) **R A**
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (7:00)
- CEDAR STREET** Trent Durham (6:00)
- CENTRAL MARKET NORTH** The Copa Kings **J** (6:30) **A**
- CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Jackie Bristow (6:30) **A**
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Hill Country Gentlemen, Jason Bednorz (9:30)
- CHEERYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE** Shark Party, Dudes Die **A**
- CHUGGIN' MONKEY** Guilty Pleasures (9:00)
- CLUB DE VILLE** Fleetwood Mac Hoot Night w/ Lost Soul Revue, Katy Koonce, Quasi Trois, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves, Rage Ranger, Shane Bartell, Eric Beverly **J**, Rae Comeau (8:00)
- CONANS PIZZA** Matt "Blue Cat" Ferrel (6:30) **A**
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gallery: Robert Kraft Trio; Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jake Langley, Frosty (8:30); In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Pat Martino (8:00); Dash Rip Rock, Mojo Nixon (10:00) **R**
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL HOTEL** Driskill Bar: Weldon Henson, the Carper Family (6:00)
- EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Mariachi Tamazula (8:00) **A**
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Violet Crown Revue, Maurice Brown Effect (6:00)
- EMO'S** The Creamers, Criaturas, Wiccans (10:00) **A**
- EMO'S EAST** Ready the Messenger, Lower Than Atlantis, Stray From the Path, Close Your Eyes, Oh Sleeper, Norma Jean (6:00) **R**
- FAIR BEAN COFFEE** Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (5:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Rafiki Project, Tin Can Phone, Outlaw Nation (9:00) **A**
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Wild Bill & the Lost Knobs (6:00) **A**, Littlest Birds, Capital Zen (8:00) **A**
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dane Sterling, Alvin Crow (6:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Aaron Einhouse, Max Stalling (8:00) **R A**
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Los Flames (6:30)
- HILL'S CAFE** Shad Blair **A**
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Victoria Noll, Lucy Rider **R**
- HOTEL VEGAS** Air Traffic Controllers, Rhett & Dean **J**, the French Inhales (8:00); The Happen-Ins (11:30)
- INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN** Danielle Reich (5:30)
- JOVITA'S** UT World Music Ensembles (7:00) **A**
- KICK BUTT COFFEE** DJ Bee (9:00) **A**
- LA ZONA ROSA** Casper Rawls, Ed Roland, Alpha Rev
- LATITUDE 30** Los Jefes (5:30)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Nathan Hubble (9:00)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00) **A**
- MEAN-EYED CAT** Shinyribs (9:00)
- MOHAWK** Awkward Robot, Love Inks (10:00)
- MOMO'S** Roxy Roca **J**, Honey Island Swamp Band (9:00) **R**
- NEWORDELI** Melancholy Ramblers
- ONE 2 ONE BAR** Chesterfield, Lisa Marshall (9:00)
- PAPI TINO'S** Son y No Son, DJ Richard Gear (6:00)

- PARAMOUNT THEATRE** John Waters' Christmas (8:00) **A**
- THE PARISH** Mike Viola, Rachel Yamagata (8:00) **R**
- POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE** No Dry County, Omar & the Howlers, Holler & Bang **A**
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Aaron Tinjum
- RED 7** Weird Party, Black Congress, Fingaar Bangaar, This Moment in Black History (9:00) **R**
- RED EYED FLY** The Standoffs, Audiolight, the Prawns, Vintage Rebellion, Soapbox Spellbinders
- THE RED ROOSTER** Brewer Nation (9:30)
- ROADHOUSE** Twelfth Night
- RUSTY'S** Scott Andrews, Weldon Henson (8:00)
- RUTA MAYA** Os Alquimistas, Atash **J** **A**, Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00) **A**
- THE SAHARA LOUNGE** DJ Spence, Johnny Whutnot
- SAM'S TOWN POINT** Kathy Murray's Blues Groove (8:40)
- SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR** The Swingsters (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** Earl Poole Ball & the Cosmic Americans (6:00), Malford Milligan, Deadman (9:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Atomic Cowboy
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS NORTH** LC Rocks (9:30)
- SKINNY'S BALLROOM** Harry Nilsson Tribute w/ Don Cento, Paul Banks, John Nixen, Jesse Wooten, Luke Kallloch (7:00); Greg Mullen, Pastor Cory Cross, Pastures, the Sweet Nuthin' (9:30)
- SPEAKEASY** Radiostar (10:00)
- STARDUST CLUB** Armadillo Road
- SWAN DIVE** Waldo & the Naturals, Magnificent Snails, the Preservation, the Boxing Lesson (9:00)
- TEXAS MIST** DJ Joe Hernandez (9:00)
- THE THIRSTY NICKEL** Aaron Navarro (8:30)
- TRAILER SPACE RECORDS** The Triggmen **J**, Dent Le Lion (8:00) **R A**
- TRIPLE CROWN** Rabb Rodriguez (6:00); The Johnny Five, Dasterdy, Days N' Daze, Carolyn Mark (9:00) **R**
- TROPHY'S** Alien Knife Fight, the Tits, Cabra, Stumbledrunk **R**
- 29TH STREET BALLROOM** Palit, Crown Imperial
- VOLSTEAD LOUNGE** Djac, DJ I Wanna Be Her, DJ Resinthol (10:00)

SATURDAY 03

- AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE** Johnny Gonzales (5:00)
- ANDERSON MILL TAVERN** Hollie Holloway & Sugarback **J**
- ANTONE'S** The Greatcoats **J**, Fastball, the BoDeans (9:00) **R A**
- ANTONE'S RECORDS** Paul Ray & the Cobras (3:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Jerry Lightsey & the Pick-Up Band (7:30) **A**

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THU 12/1 9PM **KALU JAMES**

FRI 12/2 9PM **NATHAN HUBBLE**

SAT 12/3 9PM **EXIT WONERLAND**
LATER DJ SPYDA SPINS 'TIL 2AM

SUN 12/4 9PM **ROBBIE & THE ROBOTS**

MON 12/5 9PM **DANNY AUSTIN AND JESS PARKE**

TUE 12/6 10PM **GET LUCKY TUESDAYS WITH HUNTERS & GATHERERS**

WED 12/7 8PM **BRONWYNNE BRENT & EDEN BRENT**

THU 12/8 9PM **THE RETURN OF HAPPY HOUR FEATURING THE LEGENDARY 6PM IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND**
LATER: MARK GIBSON WITH RYAN MAGNANI 10PM

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THURSDAY DEC 01 \$5
SPEED DATE AUSTIN: SINGLES MIXER 6:30
ISAIAH THE MOSAIC 9:30
BAMAKO AIRLINES 10:45
SAM PACE & THE GILDED GRIT 12

FRIDAY DEC 02 DOORS 8 \$12
FUNKYBATZ PRESENTS:
The HONEY ISLAND SWAMP BAND
W/ ROXY ROCA
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SATURDAY DEC 03 \$10
A TRIBUTE TO BADFINGER
FEAT: STEVE CARTER, JEFF TVERRAS, PATTERSON BARRETT, LEE ANN ATHERTON, JULIE ANN BANKS, COURTNEY AUBAIN, RICHARD WHITE, BEN COCKE, TESSA IN GREEN 8

THE GREYHOUNDS 10
DARYL HANCE (FORMERLY OF MOFRO) 12

SUNDAY DEC 04 \$7
AUSTIN LIVE MUSIC ACADEMY STUDENT SHOWCASE 6:30
BECKHAM BROTHERS 8
WARREN HOOD & THE GOODS 9:30 #7
KING BISCUIT 12

MONDAY DEC 05 \$5
WILLIAM KELLY NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
HAILEY TUCK 6:30 JEZZEBELLE 8
DUSTIN WELCH DOES THE SONGS OF KEVIN WELCH 9:45
RUSSELL BEACH & THE STEPCHILDREN 11
ANTHONY LOCKE 12

TUESDAY DEC 06 \$5
JAZZ HAPPY HOUR AUSTIN KIMBLE QUARTET \$5 5:30
SONG SWAP W/ JENNY REYNOLDS & NATHAN HAMILTON 8
MOMO'S SONGWRITER SERIES
WILL WEBSTER, NATHAN SINGLETON, DREW SMITH, GRAHAM WILKINSON, JON BECKHAM
THE FALLEN STARS 12

WEDNESDAY DEC 07 \$5
THE REEV NO COVER HAPPY HOUR 5:15
PAULA HELD 6:30
SONS OF FATHERS 8
CACTUS FUZZ 9:30
KP & THE BOOM BOOM 10:45

UPCOMING SHOWS
MINOR MISHAP DEC
MARCHING BAND 16
DEC 24 **SUZANNA CHOFFEL**
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Thursday December 1st
JARON BELL 9PM
SELENA ROSIE ROSENBAUM 6:30PM
SAM PACE HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Friday December 2nd
OMAR & THE HOWLERS 9:30PM \$10
HOLLER & A BANG 12AM \$5
NO DRY COUNTY HAPPY HOUR 4:30PM
Saturday December 3rd \$10 Cover
JAKE KELLEN 11PM
THOM SHEPHERD 9PM
JERRY KIRK 6PM

Sunday December 4th No Cover
TESSY LOU & SHOTGUN STARS 3PM

Monday December 5th No Cover
TEXAS SONGWRITER SHOWCASE 6:30PM
GEORGE ENSLE WITH ADAM CARROLL
BRACKEN HALE 10PM
TRIS & TESS HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Tuesday December 6th No Cover
JOHN INMON 8:30PM
THE HEMS 6:30PM
WAKE EASTMAN HAPPY HOUR 4PM

Wednesday December 7th No Cover
NO BAD DAYS OPEN MIC 7PM
BB MORSE
JASON ALLEN HAPPY HOUR 4PM

NO BAD DAYS

Happy Hour Wed. JASON ALLEN
12/17 JEFF STRAHAN

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THU, DEC 1 6-8PM **TONY HARRISON**
9:15PM **JESSE DAYTON**

FRI, DEC 2 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9PM **JAKE HOOKER**

SAT, DEC 3 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9:30PM **TWO TONS OF STEEL**

TUE, DEC 6 6-8PM **AMANDA CEVALLOS**
8PM **WELDON HENSON**

WED, DEC 7 8-9PM **DANCE LESSONS**
9:15PM **CHAPARRAL w/ JEFF HUGHES**

HOTEL VEGAS BAR
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GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

DEC 01 [thurs. 9pm doors]
5th annual SANTA CRAWL with DJ GMAU

DEC 02 [friday]
early - 7pm doors
THE FRENCH INHALES
RHETT & DEAN
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
late - 11pm
THE HAPPEN-INS

DEC 03 [sat. 9pm doors]
CHRISTIAN BLAND & THE REVELATORS
HOLY WAVE
LA MIGRA
RINGS BAND

upcoming...
dec. 05 - the rind, yellow fever, hatchet wound.
dec. 07 - liars and saints, rob franco.
dec. 10 - super creeps, mahealani.

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DEC. 9	SWEET PEA
DEC. 10	OPENING - MATT HEBERT MIKE & THE MOONPIES
DEC. 31	OPENING - MAC WILLIAMS THE DERAILERS \$20 at the door • \$15 at frontgatetickets.com \$10 for Brewer's Dinner guests

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

JOHNNY NICHOLAS
8PM \$10

HECTOR WARD & THE BIG TIME
10PM \$8

fast luke and the lead heavy 12AM \$5

No Cover Happy Hour 6PM **EIGHTYSIXED** WITH DAVID HOULT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

MALFORD MILLIGAN
9PM \$10 Adv/\$12 Door

DEADMAN
11PM \$10

MEGAN TUBB 1AM \$7

No Cover Happy Hour 6PM
CARL POOLE BALL AND THE COSMIC AMERICANS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Jeff Plankenhorn 10PM \$10

midnight river choir 12AM \$10

DRIVER 8PM \$10

Public Soul 3PM No Cover CD Release

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

THE RESENTMENTS
with Bruce and Scrappy 7:30PM \$7

Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel 6PM \$15

John Evans 10:30PM \$5

Hunter McKithan and the Offenders 12:30AM \$5

Jerry Kirk 3PM No Cover

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

LONELYLAND 8:30PM \$10

Ramsay Midwood 7PM \$10

THE LEAVERS 11PM \$5

HOLLER AND A BANG 12:30AM \$5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Rob Baird 10PM \$5

Bruce Hughes & the All Nude Army 8:30PM \$5

Soulfed 12AM \$5

NO COVER HAPPY HOUR **David Grissom** 6PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

REBECCA LOEBE 9PM \$5

D.L. MARBLE 12:30AM \$5

Ratliff Dean 11PM \$5

NO COVER HAPPY HOUR **The Nortons** 6PM

COMING UP
Dec. 8th - Charlie Mars
Dec. 9th - Joe Ely
Dec. 10th - Butch Hancock

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LARRY LANGE'S LONELY KNIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 3PM
SUNSET VALLEY BOYS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 6:30PM
AUSTIN CAJUN ACES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 7PM
BRENNEN LEIGH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
LISSA HATTERSLEY 7PM
THE PEACEMAKERS 10PM • \$5

Thanks Austin Chronicle readers for voting us BEST CAJUN/CREOLE

FROM SATURDAY

BALLET AUSTIN STUDIO Chrysta Bell

BEERLAND Fur King, Bay of Pigs, Texecas, Sabbath Crow (R)

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dance Lessons, Two Tons of Steel (8:00)

CACTUS CAFE Graham Weber, Slaid Cleaves (8:30) (A)

CAFFE MEDICI Waterloo Trio (noon)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Victor Mourning, T. Tex Edwards, Out on Parole, Right or Happy, the Blitzens (7:30)

CEDAR STREET Jordan Tanner (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Akina Adderley & the Vintage Playboys (6:30) (A)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Blackbird 3 (6:30) (A)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Houston Marchman (9:30)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Radiola, Quin Galavais (7:00) (A)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)

CLUB 1808 Overevo, Breakdancing Ronald Reagan, Skullcater, Sex Bruises, Guardians of the Sky, Dent Le Lion (9:00) (R)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Steve Bernal's Zodiac, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Frosty (8:30); In the Club: Redd Volkaert (3:00); Modern Don Juans, Marti Brom, Mac Curtis, JD McPhearson (8:30) (R)

DIZZY ROOSTER Gary Lee Cox (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws & Outlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Patricia G. (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Matt Farrell (8:00) (A)

ELEPHANT ROOM James Polk (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mistletoe Madness w/ DJ Void, DJ Edminister, DJ Gothfather

EMO'S Awesome Death (J), the Millipede, Lone Star Demons, Nanomash (10:00) (R, A)

EMO'S EAST Doughbreezy, Shawn Christopher, Cyhi the Prince, Big Sean (9:00) (R)

FADÓ IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT Blaggards (9:30)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies (10:30am); Rosie & the Ramblers, Robert Steel (J), Jack Wilson & Becky Alter (6:00) (A)

FRANK Sheer Khan, Soul Track Mind (9:30) (R, A)

FRONTIER BAR The Strange Attractors, the Ripe, the Ugly Beats (10:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Two Hoots & a Holler (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The White Ghost Shivers (1:00); Milkdrive, Bruce Robison & Kelly Willis Christmas Show (9:00) (A)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Shelley King (6:30)

HILL'S CAFE Jon Burklund (A)

HOLE IN THE WALL The Eloyrs, Modrag, Ricky Stein & the Warm Guns, Slowtrain

HOLE IN THE WALL Dastardly (6:00); Rings Band, La Migra, Holy Wave, Christian Bland & the Revelators (9:00) (R)

HOUSE WINE Justif (8:00)

JOVITA'S Brave Combo (9:00) (R, A)

KICK BUTT COFFEE Mud Doctors, Denver Williams, Kidoo & the Dude, Opposite Day (J) (8:00) (A)

LATITUDE 30 Los Jefes (5:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Exit Wonderland, DJ Spyda (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Jeff Banks (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Deuce Coupe, Jimmy & the Mustangs (9:00)

MOHAWK Cartright, the O's, Frank Smith (10:00)

MOMO'S Badfinger Tribute w/ Greyhounds, Daryl Hance (R)

NEWORDELI Panama Hats

ONE 2 ONE BAR Ray Don w/ Ariana Hall, Bernie Calcote, the Hi-Deffs (9:00)

PAPI TINO'S Darin Layne (J), Owen Summers (6:00)

THE PARISH Carsie Blanton, the Wood Brothers (8:00) (R)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jerry Kirk, Thom Shepherd, Jake Kellen (R, A)

RED EYED FLY Shotgun Rebels, Dangerous Toys (R)

THE RED ROOSTER Shuffle Up & Deal (9:30)

RUSTY'S Nancy Scott (7:00)

RUTA MAYA Chris Toast Trio, Josh Allen & the Whisky Brothers, Paul Green School of Rock Music (7:00) (A)

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Zoumountchi

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Riley Osbourne (7:00)

SAXON PUB Driver, Jeff Plankenhorn, Midnight River Choir

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS CEDAR PARK LC Rocks (9:30)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Clyde & Clem's Whiskey Business, Barebones Orchestra, McMercy Family Band Christmas Show (8:00)

STARDUST CLUB B.R.K.

STUBB'S Reed Turner, Rob Baird, Will Hoge (9:00) (R)

TEXAS MIST DJ Spinner (8:30)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Guilty Pleasures (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN AC & the Bad Billys, Izzy Cox, Backseat Action (9:00)

TROPHY'S J. Wesley Haynes Trio (J), Muchos Backflips! (J)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE DJ Orion (10:00)

SUNDAY 04

ANTONE'S Ashley Monical, Luke Bell, Matt Harlan, HalleyAnna, Owen Temple, Drew Kennedy, Eric Hisaw, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros, Crooks (J) (7:00) (A)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings (6:30) (A)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Local Natives, the National (R, A)

BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Open Mic w/ Justif (7:00) (A)

BB ROVERS Open Mic (7:00) (A)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tunes Session (9:00)

CLUB LISTINGS

BLUE MOON ROCK & BLUES BAR Kevin & the Krawlers (8:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (8:00)

CEDAR STREET The Initials (7:00), Much Love (8:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Toys for Tots Benefit w/ Forest Wayne Allen, Jordan Minorl, Javi Garcia & the Cold Cold Ground, Mark Jungers, HalleyAnna, Ashley Monical, Court Nance, Pake Rossi, Matt Skinner, Walt Wilkins & the Mystiqueros (12:30)

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Laura Freeman & the Hey Lollies (10:30am) (A)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Rob Fulton (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Jon Dee Graham, Rosie Flores, Mike Flanigin Trio w/ Jake Langley (8:30); In the Club: Woode Wood (J) (5:00); Junior Brown & Tanya Rae (7:00); the Wagoners, Heybale! (9:30)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00) (A)

DIZZY ROOSTER Jo Hell (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) (A)

ELEPHANT ROOM Aime (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression w/ DJ Pumpkinspice, DJ Boba Fett, DJ Minimus

EMO'S Abigail Williams, Hate, Keep of Kalessin, Mayhem (9:00) (R, A)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Grace London, Songwriter Circle w/ Bruce Salmon (6:00) (A)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Redd Volkaert (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES RESTAURANT Jacques Vilmain (11:00am) (A)

GRUENE HALL Fabrizio Poggi (4:00) (A)

GUERO'S TACO BAR Texas Tycoons (3:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Chris Roads, Fast Luke & the Lead Heavy

HOUSE WINE Justin Landers (6:00)

JOVITA'S D.B. Martin (1:00); Randy Weeks (3:30); Hot Texas Swing Band, Ali Holder (7:00) (A)

KICK BUTT COFFEE Travis Yancy, Southbound Son (6:45) (A)

KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Robbie & the Robots (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Rockin' Gospel Project (noon) (A)

MEAN-EYED CAT Weldon Henson (7:30)

MOHAWK Rock & Roll Garage Sale w/ Paul Green School of Rock Music, Panhandle, Punkart Nation, Unsocialized, the Staff Infection (1:00)

MOMO'S Beckham Bros., Warren Hood & the Goods, King Biscuit

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz (11:00am) (A)

ONE WORLD THEATRE Rita Coolidge (7:00) (R, A)

PAPI TINO'S Cienfuegos (11:30am); Shivery Shakes, Boy (7:00) (R)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tessa Lou Williams (3:00) (A)

RED 7 Havok

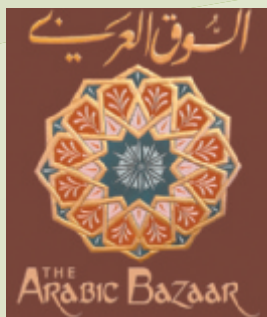
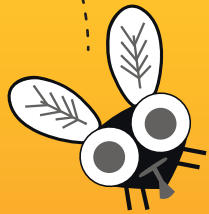
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FRIDAY 12.9

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CLUB LISTINGS

FROM SUNDAY

RED EYED FLY Common Thread, Poor Favor, Wings of Valkyrie, Channel 13 (8:00) **A**

RUSTY'S Buddy Lee & the Backroad Band (5:00)

RUTA MAYA Salsa Lessons, Timbas Del Norte (8:00) **A**

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR Matt Farrell (11:30am)

SAXON PUB Bobby Whitlock & CoCo Carmel, the Resentments, Hunter McKithan, John Evans (6:00)

SPEAKEASY Adam Rodgers (10:00)

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Kanude (11:00am) **A**

STUBB'S Habitat for Humanity Benefit w/ Cake (6:00) **A**

THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:30)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Max Stalling (11:00am) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Grant Ewing, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds

TROPHY'S Rick Rivers Benefit w/ Honky, the Flash Boys, Transmography, Spread Eagle Yacht Club, Church of the Divine Spirits, English Muffin Divers, We Know Where You Live (2:00)

Z'TEJAS The Jitterbug Vipers

MONDAY 05

ANTONE'S Austin Blues Society (8:00) **A**

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned (7:30) **A**

BAR 141 Robbie's Open Mic (9:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:00)

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CEDAR STREET Matt Wilson Band (9:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Randy Rogers

CHEZ ZEE Rich Demarco (6:30) **A**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY The Bomb Squad (9:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Tish & Misbehavin' (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Magnificent 7 (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)

EMO'S Ichi Ni San Shi, Black Gum, Miami Dolphins, Literature, Kingdom of Suicide Lovers **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux & the Austin Cajun Aces (6:30) **A**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The Bluegrass Outfit (8:00) **A**

GIDDY UPS Mark Allen Atwood (7:00)

GRUENE HALL Bret Graham (6:00) **A**

HALCYON World Music Jam w/ Roberto Riggio (10:00) **A**

THE HIGHBALL MatchMaker Band (9:30)

HOLE IN THE WALL Mike & the Moonpies, Leo Rondeau

HOTEL VEGAS The Rind, YellowFever (9:00)

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LATITUDE 30 Chris Tondre (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Danny Austin & Jess Parke (9:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Lew Card (7:30)

MISTER TRAMPS SPORTS PUB & CAFE Open Mike Acoustic Jam w/ Nick Hirsch (8:00) **A**

MOMO'S William Kelley, Jezebel, Dustin Welch, Russell Beach

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson (8:00) **A**

MUGSHOTS Chuck Miller's Acoustic Open Mic (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Tris & Tes, Braken Hale, Songwriters Showcase (4:00) **A**

RED EYED FLY Eliot James, Chrissy Mendiola

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Moeller Bros. (10:00)

SAXON PUB Ramsay Midwood, Lonelyland, the Leavers

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Brent Michael Wood

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Marshall Anderson, Tricky Jones (10:00)

SPEAKEASY Caitie Taylor (10:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Austin Heat (9:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Troy Stone, Big John Mills (9:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Kids (6:00), Chief & the Doomsday Device (9:00)

VICTORY GRILL Open Pro Blues Jam w/ Matthew Robinson, Harold McMillan (9:00)

WHIP IN Brittany Shane (8:00) **A**

TUESDAY 06

ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Open Mic (9:00) **A**

ANTONE'S Dub Gideon, Duane Stephenson, the Waiters (7:00) **A**; Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien, Malford Milligan, Chris Layton (10:30) **A**

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam (7:30) **A**

BAT BAR The Bomb Squad

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Suzanne Smith (7:00)

BLIND PIG PUB Guilty Pleasures

'BOUT TIME A.J. Kline (9:00)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Coffee Sergeants, Modrag (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Much Love, Encore (8:00) **A**

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE John Evans

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Sonny Wolf (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: James McMurtry, Ephraim Owens Experience (8:30); In the Club: Toni Price (6:30); Uncle Lucius, Hector Ward & the Big Time (10:30)

DIZZY ROOSTER Nothing Left (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Liz Morphis (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Kris Kimura Quintet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Yacht Club, Yacht Club (8:00)

EMO'S Me & the Devil, Adam & the Bull Shark, the Jensen Eyes, Gomez (TX) (10:00) **A**

EMO'S EAST Tenafly Viper, Human Factors Lab, Headcrusher, One-Eyed Doll, Mushroomhead (7:00) **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh (7:00) **A**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (9:00) **A**

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Conclusion Jumpers (9:00)

GOGO BAR Guilty Pleasures

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Jon Burklund **A**

HOLE IN THE WALL The Dead Left

HOUSE WINE David Webb (8:00)

JOVITA'S Dickie Lee Erwin, Birdy & the Melody Men, the Superlites, Mayeux & Broussard (6:00) **A**

KICK BUTT COFFEE Peace for Porch (7:00) **A**

LA PALAPA Baby Dallas

LUCKY LOUNGE Hunters & Gatherers (10:00)

LUCY'S RETIRED SURFERS BAR & RESTAURANT Josh & Jason, the Twalls (6:00)

MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA Austinsongz (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Pee Wee Moore (7:30)

MOHAWK Mike & the Moonpies (5:00) **A**; Naw Dude, Marriage, Dikes of Holland, Cave (9:00)

MOMO'S Austin Kimble (5:00); Nathan Hamilton & Jenny Reynolds, the Fallen Stars (8:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR Wayne Sutton, Karl Morgan, Treetop Sailors (10:45)

PATSY'S CAFE Sand & Sunnie (6:30)

PLUSH Sonar

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Wake Eastman, the Hems, Jon Inmon **A**

RED EYED FLY R. Father & the Best Man, A Response to the Body, Brandon Gibbs

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic, Music Open Mic (6:00) **A**

THE SAHARA LOUNGE Moose Tongue Texture

SAXON PUB David Grissom (6:00); Bruce Hughes, Rob Baird, Soulfed (8:30)

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL Justif & the Missing Pieces (10:00)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Bob Hoffnar (6:30), Ghosts Along the Brazos (8:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Aaron Navarro (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Beth Lee (6:00); Ashleigh Stone, the Props (9:00)

TROPHY'S Acoustic Open Mic (9:00)

29TH STREET BALLROOM The Lonesome Heroes (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Honky-Tonk Tuesday w/ Evan Christian (6:00) **A**

Z'TEJAS Tameca Jones (6:00)

WEDNESDAY 07

AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Johnny Gonzales (5:00)

ANDERSON MILL TAVERN Pete Benz

ANTONE'S Faceless Werewolves, Not in the Face (9:00) **A**

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FROM WEDNESDAY

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Flyin' A's **A**

BAT BAR Austin Heat (11:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Brooke Avid (10:00)

BEERLAND Neur, Foreign Mothers, Jackyls **B**

CACTUS CAFE Sally Allen, the Trishas (8:30) **A**

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Soulphonics Holly Daze Show (9:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Clay McClinton **J** (6:30) **A**

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (11:00)

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Aaron Navarro (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Barbara K; Trube, Farrell, & Snizz (8:30); In the Club: Hot Club of Cowtown (6:30), Jon Dee Graham (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER The Bomb Squad (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters, Albert & Gage

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Bruce Smith (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kevin Lovejoy **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Austin Jazz Band (9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid-Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister (8:00)

EMO'S Doom Siren, Dethrone, Deadly Reign, Night Siege (9:00) **B** **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Viet Ruse, Rude King, Hang Zeros, the Bandulus (8:30) **B**

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sean Bruce, Songwriter Circle w/ Lisa Kettyle (6:00) **A**

GIDDY UPS Open Mic (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alan Haynes (9:00)

GRUENE HALL The Georges (6:00) **A**

THE HIGBALL Black Red Black (10:00) **A**

HOLE IN THE WALL Aotearoa, Tate Mayeux & Broussard, Cause in Effect

HOTEL VEGAS Rob Franco, Liars & Saints (9:00)

JOVITA'S Bruce Smith, Kevin Smith, Lucky Tomblin, the Vendetta Big Band (4:00) **A**

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30) **A**

LUCKY LOUNGE Bronwynne Brent & Eden Brent (8:00)

MARIA MARIA Jeff Lofton Quartet **J** (7:00) **A**

MEAN-EYED CAT The Drakes

MOHAWK Danny Malone, Michael Kincaid, Jarrett Killen, Stewart Gershmann

MOJOE BARM & GRILL Love & Harmony Open Mic (9:30) **A**

MOMO'S The Reen **J**, Paula Held, Sons of Fathers, Cactus Fuzz, KP & the Boom Boom **B**

NEWORLEDEL Jim Patton & Sherry Brokus

POODIE'S HILLTOP ROADHOUSE Jason Allen (4:00), Open Mic w/ B.B. Morse (7:00) **A**

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

RED EYED FLY Tha Rejects, Blaxsmith, Kriminals, Dirty P.I.E. **B**

RED SHED TAVERN Open Mic w/ Amy Zamarripa (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Dance Lessons, La Mona Loca (7:45) **A**

THE SAHARA LOUNGE StormShelter, Hellfire Social

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Blues Jam w/ Breck English (9:00)

SAXON PUB The Nortons (6:00); Rebecca Loebe, Ratliff Dean (9:00) **B**

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Tim Curry Trio (6:00), Beth Lee (10:00)

SPEAKEASY Three Cocks & a Box (10:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL Richard Aaron RAB (9:00)

TRAILER SPACE RECORDS Code Named Code, Dead Cats Dead Rats (7:00) **A**

TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood (6:00), Nick Aluotto (9:00)

TROPHY'S No Parachute (8:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE Shane Bartell (8:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Open Mic w/ Julie Nolen (10:00)

Z'TEJAS Jeff Plankenhorn, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter (6:00)

THURSDAY 08

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Dave Hooper **A**

BAT BAR Continuums

BEERLAND Free Beer, Crooked Bangs, the Well, Sweat Lodge **B**

BROKEN SPOKE Tony Harrison, Dance Lessons, Jesse Dayton **J** (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE BettySoo & Doug Cox (8:30) **A**

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Woot Talley, Lizzi & the Lovers (7:00)

CEDAR STREET Sounds of AM (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Pake Rossi

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE Adrian Bourgois, Paige (7:00) **A**

CHUGGIN' MONKEY Tish & Misbehavin' (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: The Peterson Bros., Tameca Jones (8:30); In the Club: Planet Casper (6:30); Barfield, Whack Sabbath (10:00)

DIZZY ROOSTER Guilty Pleasures (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

THE DRISKILL HOTEL Driskill Bar: Stephen Doster & Bill Carter (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Scotty B. Trio (8:00) **A**

ELEPHANT ROOM Albanie & Her Fellas (6:00), Butch Miles (9:30)

ELYSIUM Pussy.Money.Disco w/ DJ Chapzz

EMO'S The Baker Family, Mr. Gnome (10:00) **B** **A**

EVANGELINE CAFE Charlie Irwin (7:00) **A**

FLAMINGO CANTINA Tofu Koza, Fatback Circus, Globster, Did You See Those Bats?

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Campbell (6:00), Open Mic w/ Lisa Kettyle (8:00) **A**

FRIENDS Dive Bar All-Stars (10:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Alvin Crow (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Bo Porter (6:00) **A**

GÜERO'S TACO BAR The Fabs **J** (6:30)

THE HIGBALL Dale Watson (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Mockingbird Loyals, Greg Loftis, Aaron Sinclair, Eagle Eye Williamson **B**

HOTEL VEGAS Eric Tessmer Band, Dumb

HOUSE WINE A.J. Vincent (7:00)

INTERCONTINENTAL STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Stephen F. Bar: Weldon Henson & Devin Preitauer

KICK BUTT COFFEE Open Mic (8:00) **A**

KICK BUTT COFFEE AT THE TRIANGLE Rachel Beaver, Attic Asylum, Jenna McDaniels (6:00)

LA FERIA RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (7:00) **A**

LA PALAPA Johnny Gonzales (7:00)

LANAI Filthy Rich (10:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Mark Gibson & Ryan Magnani (9:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Dave Insley's Careless Smokers (7:00) **A**

MOHAWK My Education **J**, the Sea & Cake **B**

ONE 2 ONE BAR A.J. Vallejo, Aimless Gun, Bi-Polar Bears (9:00)

THE PARISH Hot Pink DeLorean LP Release (9:00) **B**

RED EYED FLY Invisible Target, Leave, Twister, Audic Empire

ROADHOUSE Mojo Jam

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE Jeff Lofton (7:00)

SATELLITE BISTRO & BAR T. Jarrod Bonta (6:30)

SAXON PUB Eightysixxed (6:00), Charlie Mars (10:00)

SKINNY'S BALLROOM Crowded House Hoot w/ Wiretree **J** (10:00)

SPEAKEASY Touche (10:00)

SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE Matt Wilson Band **J** (7:30)

TEXAS MIST Big Money, Don Turnley's Shotgun House (8:00)

THE THIRSTY NICKEL The Bomb Squad (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Mashed Potato Johnson (6:00); Motel Ball Band, Junes Not Faking (10:00) **B**

TROPHY'S Shadow Spectrum, Boars, Old & Ill, Unmothered (9:00)

VOLSTEAD LOUNGE The Shake (10:00)

Z'TEJAS The Brew (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

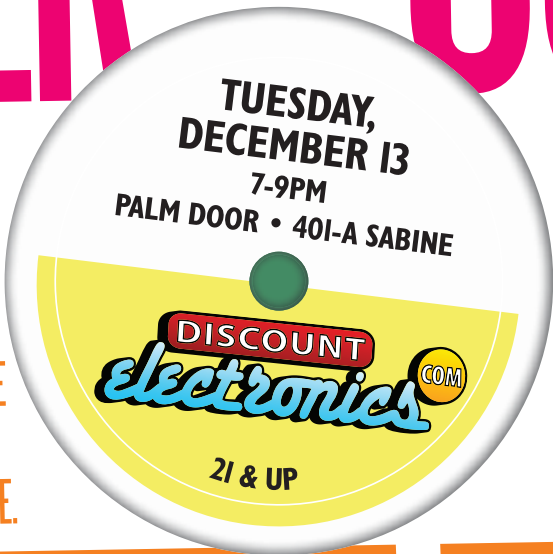
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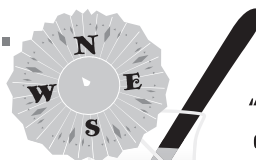
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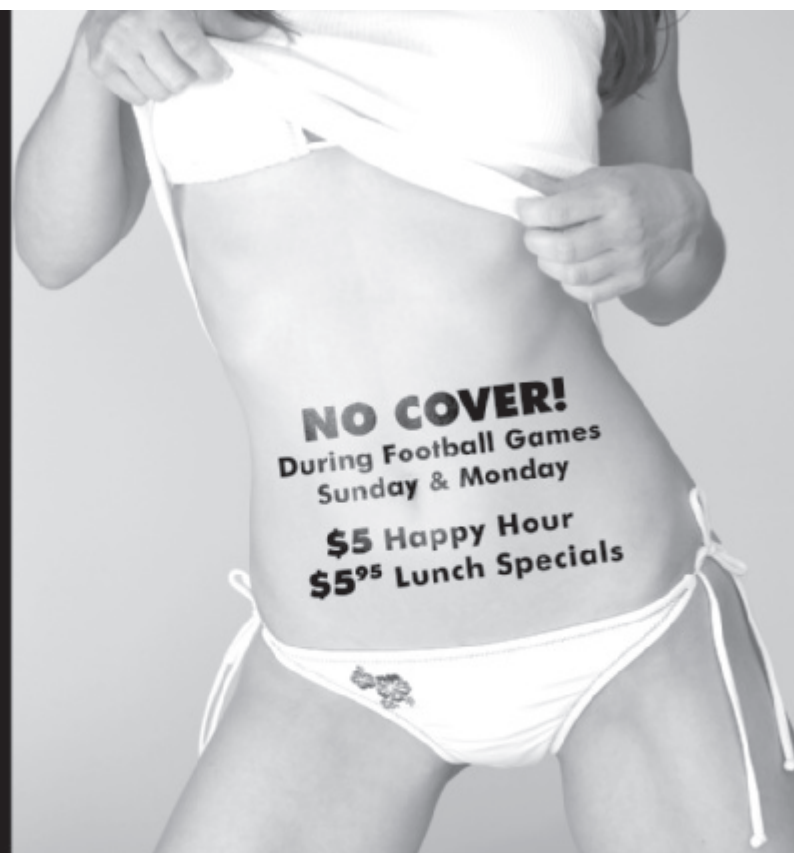
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YOU'RE MY SOULMATE

Must find Special Ed physical ed teacher from Deerpark, moving to Austin to retire next year. Played poker with you and two friends, we talked until 2am. Contact with info. **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: Donn's Depot. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905440**

PIANO

We talked about design, st. thomas, pompidou, wilshire, santa monica, etc. etc. and suddenly the light were turned off. I'd like to continue this conversation any time. **When: Friday, November 11, 2011. Where: Movie. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905439**

LADYBIRD LAKE 11/13

I tried to help make the baby stop crying. Your face was radiant like the sun shining. I would like to get to know your inner beauty. Your knight in Shining Armour... Paul **When: Sunday, November 13, 2011. Where: Ladybird Lake. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905438**

"NO ONE KNOWS..."

"...WHERE WE GO". Airport, gate 16, 11/22. YOU: Blonde/blue, brown pants, it blue luggage, black bag w/ above phrase. ME: sat across from you-buzzed head, grey shirt, shorts (I was cold!). Exchanged glances, but I'm a bit shy. You boarded 11:35am. I'd like to get to know you! **When: Tuesday, November 22, 2011. Where: Airport, Gate 16. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905437**

BEER AND POTATOSOUP

HEB@Oltorf/Congress. You had wonderful red hair and a black tanktop/jeans. Me: bearded and buying Coffee Porter. We chatted@checkout, you bought Snow Day and potato soup. Wish I had your number. **When: Monday, November 21, 2011. Where: HEB on Oltorf and S. Congress. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905436**

DONN'S DEPOT SAT 11/19

You: Special Ed Physical Education teacher from Deer Park, TX. We played poker with your two friends Sat. 11/19 at Donn's Depot and talked until 2am. Find me! **When: Saturday, November 19, 2011. Where: Donn's Depot on 5th Street. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905435**

LIBERTY SMOKE/FINE CONVERSATIONS

On November 12th I bummed a smoke from you. We had an outstanding conversation, but I do wish we had exchanged digits. Hope to find you! **When: Saturday, November 12, 2011. Where: Liberty Bar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905434**

HIT AND DRIVE

You hit me on my bike with your car. You offered to buy me a drink but I was running late. Can I take you up on that drink now? **When: Thursday, November 17, 2011. Where: Walgreens at 45th and Guadalupe. You: Man. Me: Woman. #905433**

HOMEFIELD TALL BLONDE

U: tall, Uma Thurman lookalike walking from Homefield Grill. I walked past you on the way in, kept silent cause u were with a guy. Plz say it's your brother! **When: Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Where: Homefield Grill. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905432**

SEEKING SPROUTS SHOPPER

11/15, 7PM, you: petite, brown hair short, 3 grocery bags (black); me: blue service type short sleeve & jeans, red civic, deer in headlights look over my 'stache & beard. **When: Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Where: Sprouts Anderson. You: Woman. Me: Man. #905431**

The Luv Doc

Like Joe Paterno jokes, Christmas is just ... too soon. Yeah, yeah, broken record. Every year the schmaltz piles thicker and thicker. Maybe if it was somehow discovered that Santa was a child molester ... wait a minute, that story is a broken record too. Santa has probably been busted for child molestation countless times. Good God ... the elves alone point to some sort of sick, stunted development fetish, but you can bet that no matter how many times Santa ends up in a police lineup it's never the real Santa. Of course, the same could be said of countless guys named Jesus who would love to be forgiven their transgressions too, but apparently, God doesn't speak Spanish or post bail. There's no telling how many legions of pedophiles over the course of history have donned Santa costumes. The thought is staggering ... like googol (the number) ... or the grains of sand in an hourglass ... or the extras cast of *Spartacus* - the last scene of which, incidentally, was an excellent example of what used to happen when a large group of people claimed to be someone famous. These days the punishment is much less severe. Yes, identity theft is a crime, but it's not like the mayor of Las Vegas is lining the Strip with crucified Elvises (yes, that's the plural form, otherwise it would be Elvii, which could just as easily refer to Santa's little white-knuckled "helpers"). Regardless of the suspiciously nocturnal ramblings of the red-suited, rosy-cheeked, right jolly old elf, no one seems to want to call him on the elves issue. He could probably leash his reindeer to a windowless van with clowns and ice cream painted on the side. It wouldn't matter. Americans, and arguably the rest of the world, are still "all-in" when it comes to Christmas. There's no turning back now. Overzealous Christians and profit-grubbing corporations have the largest part of the Western Hemisphere sucking intently on the tit of greed. Sound pessimistic? All right. Fair enough. Christmas is the season of giving, but guess what? By Christian standards, so is the rest of the year. It's just that the rest of the year all you get out of the spirit of giving is a profound sense of compassion and humanity which inevitably leads to smug self-righteousness, superiority, and a car that doesn't even have a gas tank. What it never leads to, however, is a Nintendo Wii under a garishly decorated conifer in your living room and stockings stuffed with sweets and swag. Christmas in July is called Meals on Wheels, and even though fat people may still deliver the goods, it's a totally different vibe. When you give gifts expecting something back, it's called Christmas. When you give gifts and expect nothing back, it's called charity. Nobody wants charity, but everybody wants Christmas. Yes, even the Grinch. Remember when his heart grew to three times its size and busted out of its frame? You were there. Wahoo floray motherfucker. There are no charity carols (OK, maybe the theme song on that Sarah McLachlan Debbie Downer dog commercial), charity lights, or charity trees, but there are, thankfully, charity parties. Why? Well, with charity parties you get something back. Is that so wrong? This Friday a seriously fun charity party is happening over at Club de Ville. This party benefits the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians with a Fleetwood Mac Hoot Night. A whole slew of talented entertainers will be on the Mac like a moth on a flame. Plus, there's a Fleetwood Mac costume contest with an Uchi gift certificate for a grand prize. Here's the beauty of this deal: If for some reason you don't feel cool enough to hang out at Club de Ville, relax. This is a Fleetwood Mac Hoot Night. Dork it up all you want. You'll fit in nicely.

Fleetwood Mac Hoot Night

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PROFILE OF THE WEEK

LOOKING FOR FUN

Just out of college, and looking to have some fun. Outdoorsy, nerdy, and a metalhead. Looking for some casual fun, or maybe something more. NotThatDoc, 23

BROWSE through tons more pics and profiles at austinchronicle.com/personals

COMIX

COMIX



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS

"Barnyardy" is a wine-tasting term meaning a wine smells like manure.

In 1916, 6 billion buttons were made in the U.S. from mussel shells - usually 24 per shell.

According to one rock historian, Jimi Hendrix liked science fiction. When he visited England, he liked to play the game *Risk* with Chris Dreja of the Yardbirds.

Some say the Strawberries & Bananas Pure Fruit Smoothie by Britain's Innocent drinks is smoother than Bryan Ferry. The recipe: 4½ crushed strawberries, ½ pressed apple, ½ mashed banana, ½ squeezed orange, 9 pressed red and white grapes, and a dash of lime juice.

In the original story, Snow White lived with miners, not dwarves, and the evil queen wanted to have Snow White killed and eat her organs.

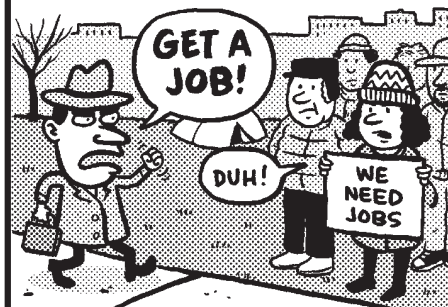


This is information Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

SLOWPOKE

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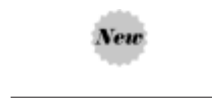
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SOUTHWEST AustinCool.com 693-7231 Luxury on canyon park land. Wet weather waterfalls and swimming holes, minutes to downtown. Lavish condo construction with soundproofing. Large updated kitchen with gas range, oversized bathrooms, bright with large windows. Huge 2/2, \$1,209 includes cable and valet trash.



SOUTHWEST
AustinCool.com
(512)693-7231
UPSCALE 1/1 \$780
2/2 \$905
3 BDRM \$1175

with W/D connections, indoor full-size basketball court, huge fitness center with classes.
Sunset Valley area
AUSTINCOOL.COM



SOUTHWEST AustinCool.com 693-7231 Heavily wooded and hilly park setting, large decks overlooking Barton Creek greenbelt. Big dogs! Earthy setting, remodeled kitchens, Studio \$734.

WEST
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Duplexes
Apartments
Lofts & Condos
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DUPLEX/HOUSES

CENTRAL Cute 1/1 w/ HW floors, lot's of large windows and one covered parking in rear. Window unit a/c's, cats & TINY dogs welcome, no W/D conn. & no laundry on property, \$600. 1209 West 22nd 1/2. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Close to UT Campus. 3 Bedrooms/1 Bath. Fenced yard, pet friendly, 1/2 off on deposit with good credit. Please call Eddy Eichner 512-293-3642 between 8-6.

CENTRAL Hyde Park - Spacious 2/1, all appliances, CA/CH, installing tile in common areas, large patio area, small fenced area, covered parking, W/D conn., great closet space, quiet neighbors. Medium pets negotiable, \$1350. 703 E. 45th (between Red River & Duval). Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Tarrytown - Gigantic 1/1 in 4-plex, Plain Jane exterior, wooden floors, large common yard area for gardens or just relaxing under the trees, windows everywhere, large kitchen, NO W/D connections, no laundry, window a/c's. Cats welcome! - NO DOGS EVER! \$850. 2302 Enfield. Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Classic Pemberton Duplex! Spacious 2/1 duplex, wonderful hardwoods, lots of windows, covered parking, big kitchen, big bedrooms, W/D connections, quiet neighbors. Cats welcome (NO dogs). \$1,250. 1713-B Summit View (1 block north of Enfield). Matthews Properties, Rollo 731-6799, matthewsproperties@yahoo.com

NORTH CENTRAL
\$99 On 1st Month!
Works w/ Bad Credit & 1st Time Renters
1B- \$480- wood floors
1b- \$550- W/D Conn
2B- \$650 Vaulted Ceilings

Blue Water Realty
(512) 496-3725

NORTHWEST 2story 4/3/2 2222/360 area near greenbelt/Bull creek. 2400sqft. washer, dryer, fridge incl. \$1950/mth avail. 12/3 512-767-8555

SOUTH 3/2 cute house, pets ok, yd, trees. 5 min-135: 8 min- Mopac. Fireplace, granite/stainless kitchen, cath. ceiling, W/D, storage, furn., pk, deck. 3 to 4 mos. or longer, early Jan. 512-949-7474

SOUTH List of available duplexes & homes. Quick & courteous Realtor. Call Rick @ 447-7368 w/Properties Plus

ROOMMATES

METRO ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN)

SOUTH Small furnished room in mature household available for employed person. Nice kitchen, washer/dryer, family neighborhood near bus, only \$425. No pets. 779-5101

FOR SALE

CEDAR PARK
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Wood, stainless appliances & more!
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AUSTINCOOL.COM

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5AC ONLY \$59,900 (Was \$149,900)
10AC ONLY \$89,900 (Was \$199,900)
First time offered to public!
• 30 mile views
• 8 minutes to Marble Falls, 40 minutes to Austin

Towering oaks, historic stone walls, gated stone entrance, asphalt roads, infrastructure complete, low taxes, choose your builder, build when ready.
EXCELLENT FINANCING, CALL NOW
1-800-511-2430
Ask for Ext. 24

LAKE MEDINA Liquidation of lots in gated subdivision at Lake Medina, bad credit no credit OK, 3 lots available Hurry! 830-460-8354 Guaranteed financing, WSE available

NORTH Very nice! 3/2/2 near 183/McNeil, new/roof, new/ac, freshly/painted inside/outside and new/flooring. Possible owner/finance 30k/down, \$144k 956-266-9692.

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to send this money
order to Nigeria,
but the prince
promised me
a fortune!



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Classifieds

AV1228 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF
POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTA-
TION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUND-
ING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES
BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.

THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO
THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR
OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNER-
SHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER
THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND
RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC
AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR
CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS
COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DE-
SCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE
NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS,
THEREOF TO WIT;

DECEMBER 28, 2011 @9:30 AM
@ SOUTHSIDE WRECKER,
8200 S. CONGRESS, AUSTIN,
TX 78745

115053830 1999 OLDS 4DR 672TCC TX 1G3NG52M5X6304138
115053840 1992 PLYM VN 150VBJ TX 2P4GH55R5NR647188
115053843 1994 FORD 2DR GNJ260 TX 1ZVL22B9R5120553
115054316 2000 KIA LL 227VBN TX KNDJ87231Y5644989
115054320 1993 FORD LL AJ84405 TX 1FMDU32XPUB65361

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462-9217

LOST & FOUND

Looking for William (Bill)
Bagley. Anyone who has see
Bill since May of last year,
please let me know. He has
family and friends who are
worried about him. Thanks,
Leo, 512-461-9513 or leobuis@
yahoo.com

MOTOR

1988 CHEVY Silverado 1500
Long bed, new AC system,
tow package, runs and drives
great. Miles 166k. Truck is
amazingly clean and straight.
\$2450. Warranty available.
Auto Depot 909
Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.
autodepotatx.com

1991 TOYOTA Corolla Only
82k miles, AT, being readied, 1
year warranty.\$2450.
Auto Depot 909
Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.
autodepotatx.com

1999 BUICK Le Sabre 77k
miles. Very clean, warranty.
\$3950.
Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail.
836-9767. www.autodepotaus-
tin.com

1999 TOYOTA Avalon 4 Dr,
leather, very clean. Full
warranty. Can trade. \$4250.
Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail.
836-9767. www.autodepotaus-
tin.com

2002 CHRYSLER PT touring
cruiser very, very nice. \$5650.
Warranty
Auto Depot 909 Prairie Trail.
836-9767. www.autodepotaus-
tin.com

2003 VOLKSWAGEN GTI
5 sp., leather. Very very nice,
and we can trade. 96k miles.
Warranty \$6450. Auto Depot
909
Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.
autodepotatx.com

2006 KIA Rio 75k miles, 5
sp., clean in and out, drives
perfectly. Can Trade. \$4850.
Auto Depot 909
Prairie Trail 836-9767. www.
autodepotatx.com

AUTOS

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with Moser axles and Wilwood
brakes. Shop built chassis.
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dct1320@att.net

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Camry, good condition w/4
cylinders, auto transmission,
30mpg fuel economy, front-
wheel drive, AM/FM/Cassette/
CD, cruise control. Asking
\$4,000. Call (512)573-0404.

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DALMATIAN PUPPIES \$750
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dorothysperfectpets@yahoo.
com
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****..KATHY GRIFFIN.****
*****..MANNHEIM STEAM-
ROLLER.*****
****BEAUTY & THE BEAST****
****..LES MISERABLES.****
..LORETTA LYNN.
..WILLIE NELSON.
*****..RODNEY CAR-
RINGTON.*****
*****..JOE BONAMASSA.*****
****..CIVIL WARS.****
***..LADYSMITH BLACK
MAMBAZO***
****..MOULIN ROUGE.****
****..GABRIEL IGLESIAS.****
..TORI AMOS.
****..ANDREA BOCELLI.****
..KEB MO.
*****..MARY MARY.*****
*****..AARON NEVILLE.*****
*****..ANTHONY BOUR-
DAIN.*****
*****..TRANS SIBERIAN.*****
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TICKETS

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AD** for accuracy the first time
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by the error, with a maximum
liability of republication. Cor-
rections must be submitted by
Tuesday, 1pm.

notices austinchronicle.com/notices 454-5766 more than a list

LEGAL

**Application has been
made with the Texas
Alcoholic Beverage
Commission for a
Mixed Beverage Permit
for RARE Hospitality
International, Inc. dba
LongHorn Steakhouse
#5396 to be located
at 9900 South I-35,
Austin, Travis County,
Texas 78748. Officers
of said company are:
William White,
President/Treasurer;
Carl Richmond, Vice
President; Joseph Kern,
Vice President/Secre-
tary; Colleen Hunter,
Assistant Secretary;
Douglas Wentz, As-
sistant Secretary.**

AUCTION Pursuant to Chapter
59, Texas Property Code, STOR-
AGE TOWN USA, located at
13107 Dessau Rd #100, AUSTIN
TEXAS 78754 will hold a Public
Auction of property being sold to
satisfy a landlords lien.

**Sale will begin at 10:00AM Dec
17TH, 2011. PROPERTY WILL
BE SOLD TO HIGHEST BIDDER
FOR CASH.** Seller reserves
the right to not accept any bid
and to withdraw property from
sale. Cleaning deposit required.
Contents described as follows:
furniture, appliances, tools,
electronics, computers, clothing,
books, movies, sealed boxes.
Property being sold includes
contents in units of the follow-
ing: 3-Esteban Degaz, 40-Dorothy
Kirkconell, 42-Marvin Henson
56/113-David Gonzalez, 67-Jef-
frey Cadoux, 287-Brain Johnson,
292-Adrain Deleon, 1075-Jeanel
Howell, 1092-Judith Carter.

**CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-11-001581
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS
HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF EUFRACIO O.
MEDINA** Notice is hereby given
that original Testaments
of the Estate of Eufrazio O.
Medina, Deceased, were issued
on November 17, 2011, in Cause
Number C-1-PB-11-001581, pend-
ing in the Probate Court Number
One of Travis County, Texas, to:

Maria Susana Medina
The residence of such Indepen-
dent Executor is in Travis County,
Texas. The address:
11620 Arroyo Blanco Drive
Austin, Texas 78748

All persons having claims
against this Estate, which is
currently being administered,
are required to present them to
Maria Susana Medina, Indepen-
dent Executor of the Estate of
Eufrazio O. Medina, at the office
of Joel B. Bennett, P.C., 316 W.
12th Street, Suite 101, Austin,
Texas 78701.
Dated the 17th day of November,
2011.

By: /s/ Catalina E. Cantu
Attorney for Maria Susana
Medina

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-11-006422
To: ANGELA FALCONER TOR-
RES MAY and to all who it may
concern, Respondent(s); GREET-
INGS: YOU HAVE BEEN

SUED. You may employ an
attorney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer with
the clerk who issued this citation
by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday
next following the expiration
of twenty days after you were
served this citation and petition,
a default judgment may be taken
against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMAND-
ED to appear and answer before
the Honorable District Court,
353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT, Travis County, Texas, at
the Courthouse of said County
in Austin, Texas, at or before
10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday
next after expiration of twenty
days from the date of service
of this citation, then and there
to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION
FOR DIVORCE AND TRAVIS
COUNTY STANDING ORDER
filed in said court on NOVEM-
BER 16, 2011, and said suit being
number D-1-FM-11-006422 on
the docket of said Court, and en-
titled "IN THE MATTER OF THE
MARRIAGE OF TERRY DARWIN
MAY and ANGELA FALCONER
TORRES MAY."

The nature of said suit is a re-
quest to DISSOLVE the marriage
of the parties, appoint managing
and possessory conservators,
and divide the estate of the par-
ties in a manner that the court
deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this
suit to enter any judgment or
decreed dissolving the marriage
and providing for the division of
property which will be binding
on you.

Issued and given under my hand
and the seal of said court at Aus-
tin, Texas, November 16, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-
MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ COURTNEY MOREAU,
Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JACQUELYN MARIE WILSON
LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTO-
PHER C. MERRITT
609 WEST 10TH ST.
AUSTIN, TX 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512)
320-8188
FAX: (512) 366-9084

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-11-006498
To: QUENTIN EDWARD
DOWNING and to all who it
may concern, Respondent(s);
GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN
SUED. You may employ an
attorney. If you or your attorney
do not file a written answer with
the clerk who issued this citation
by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday
next following the expiration
of twenty days after you were
served this citation and petition,
a default judgment may be taken
against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMAND-
ED to appear and answer before
the Honorable District Court,
201ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT, Travis County, Texas, at
the Courthouse of said County
in Austin, Texas, at or before
10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday
next after expiration of twenty
days from the date of service
of this citation, then and there
to answer the ORIGINAL PETI-
TION FOR DIVORCE, TRAVIS
COUNTY STANDING ORDER
filed in said court on NOVEM-
BER 21, 2011, and said suit
being number D-1-FM-11-006498
on the docket of said Court, and
entitled "IN THE MATTER OF
THE MARRIAGE OF SOPHIA
CARTER DOWNING and QUEN-
TIN EDWARD DOWNING, ET AL,
and In the Interest of BR/VE

QUENTRELL DOWNING,
CHILD". The nature of said suit
is a request to DISSOLVE the
marriage of the parties, appoint
managing and possessory con-
servators, and divide the estate
of the parties in a manner that
the court deems just and right.
The Court has authority in this
suit to enter any judgment or
decreed in the CHILD's interest
which will be binding on you,

including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 22, 2011.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe,
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ BARRON MICHELLE,
Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

SOPHIA CARTER DOWNING
12827 MEEHAN DRIVE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78727

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LEIF LOGAN HALVERSON Deceased, No. C-1-PB-11-001830 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas. GALEN DEAN HALVERSON AND ALL The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on November 08, 2011, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LEIF LOGAN HALVERSON, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on November 08, 2011.

Dana DeBeauvoir

County Clerk,

Travis County, Texas

P.O. BOX 149325

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/ ABRAM

GONZALEZ

NOTICE Cause No. 11-3176-FC2; In Re Change of Name of Hojoing Christian Ryu, A Minor Child, in the County Court at Law No. 2, Williamson County, Texas. This is a notice to Respondent Heesun Ryu. You are hereby notified that a name change petition concerning your minor child has been filed in the Williamson County Court at Law No. 2 by Petitioner Hyo Jin Park. You have until December 19, 2011 to file an answer or any objections to this name change petition with the Court.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by Central Towing, 15300 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724 unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

2000 Ford, LL, no LP, VIN: 1FM-ZU72X4YZC17052, \$1022.70 owed as of 11/28/11

1993 Merc 4dr, LP:131GNK (OK), VIN: 2MELM-75W6P6X09739, \$963.10 owed as of 11/28/11

1995 Merc, 4dr, LP VIN: 1MELM50UJSA607567, \$1022.78 owed as of 11/28/11

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed.

Garagekeeper:

A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC

2963 MANOR ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78722

PH: (512) 670-7578

1. 2001 Chevrolet Impala, Lic# GHN569, VIN#2G1WF52E619307235

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 30 days.

Garagekeeper:

A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC

2963 MANOR ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78722

PH: (512) 670-7578

1994 Buick Century Custom, Lic# CK8M123, VIN# 1G4AG5549R6463074

1989 Buick Le Sabre Custom, Lic# FMB064, VIN# 1G4HP-54C8KH440953

1995 Honda Civic, Lic# BBST58, VIN# 1HGEG-8650SL068207

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to Texas Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, the following vehicle(s) will be sold at Public Auction if not claimed within 72 days.

Garagekeeper:

A&A WRECKER AND RECOVERY, LLC

2963 MANOR ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78722

PH: (512) 670-7578

2000 Honda Civic, Lic# J66LILS, VIN# n/a

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Board of Adjustment of the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, the 14th day of December, 2011, at 7:00 PM, at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following Variance Requests to the Land Development Code:

1. An application submitted by Peter and Carol Knight for a variance from Section 2.1301 of the Land Development Code to encroach into the side yard building setback at 34 Pillow Road to enclose an existing carport which was constructed prior to the current setback provisions of the Code.

2. An application submitted by Larry Barto for a variance from Section 2.1301 of the Land Development Code to encroach into the side building setback at 15 Sunset Trail.

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday prior to the hearing. All written comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, December 12, 2011. The application on the variance requests may be examined at City Hall during regular office hours.

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted at City Hall, 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas, on November 29, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.

Clay Collins

City Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE In accordance with the provisions of State Law, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Uncle Bob's Self Storage location(s) listed below.

And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the below stated location(s) to the highest bidder for cash or otherwise disposed of on **Tuesday, December 13th, 2011 at 9:00AM** starting at the **Hwy 290 East #285** location, immediately there after, auction proceeds to the next listed location.

Uncle Bobs Self Storage #285, 9717 US Hwy 290 E. Austin, TX 78724

Nikesha Roberts-Hslsd gds, Boxes, Sprtg gds, Tools, Appliances, TV/Stereo Equip
Terrance Harper-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, Appliances, TV/Stereo Equip

Uncle Bobs Self Storage #231, 8227 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

Janet Middleton-Hslsd gds,Furn,Boxes,Applnces,TV/Stero equip

Nicole Franklin-Boxes,Tools,Lndscpng equip
Winston Michael Ray-Boxes,Off equip

Juan Martinez-Hslsd gds,Furn,Boxes,TV/Stereo equip

Shannon Lashley-Furn
Priscilla P. Carreon-Hslsd gds, Boxes

Jose Chavez-Hslsd gds,Boxes,TV/Stereo equip,other:Photos

Jennifer Williams-Furn,Boxes,TV/Stereo equip

Uncle Bobs Self Storage #276, 2830 S. AW Grimes Blvd. Round Rock, TX 78664

Alnetia Miles-Hslsd Gds,Furn, Boxes,Tools,Applnces,TV/Stereo Equip;

Erica Sims-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Applnces;

Gracie Erlanson-Hslsd Gds,Furn ,Boxes,Tools,Applnces,TV/Stereo Equip,Off Mach/Equip,Lndscpng Equip,Actngn Rcrds;

Thomas Stailey-Hslsd Gds,Fu m,Boxes,Tools,Applnces,TV/Stereo Equip;

Timothy Jones-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Boxes,Applnces, TV/Stereo Equip,Off Furn;

Robert King Jr. Ent-Furn,Tools,Applnces,Off Furn,Off Mach/Equip,Lndscpng Equip;

James Kizer-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Boxes,Applnces;

DeGohne Fowler-Hslsd Gds,Furn,TV/Stereo Equip;

Cheryl Landry-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Boxes,Applnces, TV/Stereo Equip;

Jennifer Cobb-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Boxes,TV/Stereo Equip,Off Mach/Equip,Toys;

Chandra Morgan-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Boxes,Applnces,Off Furn,Off Mach/Equip,Acctng Rcrds;

David Alston-Hslsd Gds,Furn,Applnces,Off Furn;

Kevin Hitchcock-Hslsd Gds,Boxes,Tools,Applnces, TV/Stereo Equip;

Tiffany Richardson-Furn,Boxes,Applnces,TV/Stereo Equip;

Eric Hicks-Hslsd Gds,Furn,TV/Stereo Equip;

Uncle Bobs Self Storage #197, 5547 McNeil Dr. Austin, TX 78729

Wesley Robinson, Jr.-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, TV/Stereo Equip, Off Mach/Equip

Dayshaun Edwards-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, Tools, appliances, TV/Stereo Equip, Off Furn, Off Mach/Equip, Actngn rcrds

Jeremy Darr-Furn, Boxes, appliances, Off Furn,
Lynn Willis-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes

Uncle Bob's Self Storage #287, 6509 S. 1st St. Austin, TX 78745

April Galvan-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, TV/Stereo Equip

Tomas Gutierrez-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes
Andrew Babcock-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, TV/Stereo Equip
Christie Ruiz-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes

Dianne Scales-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, Tools, appliances, TV/ Stereo Equip, Off Furn, Off Mach/Equip

Jeffery Collins-Hslsd gds, Furn, Boxes, appliances, TV/Stereo Equip, Off Furn

Eric Guzman-Hslsd gds, Furn
Charity D. Hammock-Hslsd gds, Furn, Off Furn, Off Mach/Equip

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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Wednesday, December 21st, 2011

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1104 - Harris, Cecilia Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2036 - Sankofa, Nailah Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

2119 - Fink, Pete Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

3093 - Avila, Mary Furniture

3163 - Catlett, Mitch Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

4086 - Neal, Rosland Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Toys

4174 - Fung, Samuel Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

9:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 10001 N. I-18 35 Austin, TX 78753

1057 - Perkins, Kimberly Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

2087 - Salazar, Jose Boxes / Bags / Totes; Toys

3024 - Slimp, Chester Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3096 - Woodhouse, James Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

4006 - Lopez, Jose Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

4021 - Franklin, Vernon Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

4015 - Onabajo, Cristy Boxes / Bags / Totes

10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 10100 North I-18 35 Austin, TX 78753

A004 - GUNNIER, WAYNE GARY Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

B028 - Sykes, Robert Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

B088 - Domingues, Gilberto Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

B103 - bolden, betty Bedding / Clothing; Furniture; Tools

C044 - Gonzales, Joe Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

C109 - holmes, sindy Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D025 - Ewing, Shaun Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D040 - Scott, Eboni Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D078 - VALDES, CAROL Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D080 - Artega, Juan Ramon Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D098 - HOWARD, KELLY Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D100 - Mansilla, Rafael Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

F003 - Bailey, Shermeka Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

F010 - Renjeria, Crystal Tools

C010 - Parker-Edwards, Alaina Jeovon All items in unit

C012 - Turpin, Kyle Boxes / Bags / Totes

10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 937 Reinli St. Austin, TX 78753

112 - Brown, Glinda Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

435 - Hill, Natacha S Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

540 - Washington, Robert Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

934 - Kane, Greg Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 8101 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

1032 - Shaw, James Books / Files / Cabinets; Furniture

131 - Stone, Sam Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

1404 - Pederson, Christ Tools

1502 - Davidson, Georgia Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1505 - Fitzgerald, James Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools

208 - Norman, David Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

300 - Bowens, Darnise Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes

3082 - caceres, jose Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

3101 - Morrison, Lillie Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3202 - Pennick, Kathy Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

444 - Hames, Glen Bedding / Clothing; Tools

447 - Lee, Rose Furniture

503 - McCain, Lyndel Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

535 - Askew, Sheila Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

557 - Taylor, albertha Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

558 - gentry, herman Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

560 - Jenkins, Benjamin Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

585 - Gallegos, Lizabel Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

S1112 - Dei, Richard all items in unit

12:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 8525 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78753

A014 - Ellis, Steven Appliances

C037 - Lott, Antwan Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

C071 - Gomez, Haydee Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D017 - Williams-Walker, Karon Vehicles / Boats

E008 - Luna, Julian Tools

F006 - Martinez, Marcus Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

F028 - Smith, Andrew Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools

G012 - Walker, Nicole Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

G023 - Gratten, Danny Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

H001 - Aleman, Mario Trailer

F008 - Sagers, Katie Boxes / bags/totes

C022 - Lamotte, Arnold Boxes / Bags/Totes

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Thursday December 22nd, 2011, 9:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave. Round Rock, TX 78681

0902 - Floyd, Deidra Vehicles / Boats

2104 - Francis, Charles Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2129 - Layer, Dawn Boxes / Bags / Totes

3108 - Walker, Mark Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

4129 - Milum, Austin Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

4138 - Alfaro, Alfredo Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

5128 - Richmond, Marilyn-Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

6101 - bell, antionette Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

9115 - Houston, Ronda Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

10:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 12318 N. Mopac Expressway Austin, TX 78758

A072 - jones, alan Boxes / Bags / Totes

B235 - Kimbrell, Edward Boxes / Bags / Totes

C311 - Gums, Barbara Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C435 - McClain, Joseph E.all items

D484 - Clark, Dwayne II items

D508 - Harris, Chellese Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D523 - Fitch, Derrek Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D534 - Marshall, John Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

D561 - Hayter, Savanna all items

10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78758

A018 - Griffiths, Mark Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

A044 - Vega, Cynthia All items in Unit

A049 - Garcia, Jason Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

B079 - fisher, brandi Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

C002 - fitzgerald, josh Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

E044 - Mack, Christopher-Boxes / Bags / Totes

E088 - James, Hagen all items

E166 - Rousseau, Blake all items

11:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759

2307 - Brewer, Daniel All items in unit

A06D - Martinez, Gabriela-Boxes / Bags / Totes

B022 - Alexander, Sarah Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

CARLEY

is a super-outgoing young girl. She is a very happy baby who loves to show it by purring and making biscuits in your lap. Carley would make a great addition to any home!



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Pet of the Week ELLIE

Hi, I'm Ellie, a lovely six month old lab mix here at AHS! I'm the kind of girl who wants to be by your side. I'm very playful and get along well with other dogs and even cats. Did I mention I'm crate trained too? Wanna take a stroll with me? Come down and see Ellie!



124 W. Anderson Ln. 512/646-7387 ext.105

the COMMON LAW by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

EIGHT-FOOT PRIVACY FENCE - CAN I BUILD IT?

I want to build an 8-foot fence to have more privacy from my neighbors. I talked to

LEGAL NOTICES cont.

11:30 a.m. Public Storage@ 12915 Research Blvd.

Austin, TX 78750

3024 - fagan, matthew Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3048 - Clark, Michelle Bedding / Clothing

3066 - MUNDY, ROBERT Boxes / Files / Cabinets

4067 - gonzalez, dana Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

5076 - Kruger, Amanda Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

5090 - Giddens, Lige Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C009 - Ron McCutchen Co-Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools

D001 - Inman, Shelley Boxes / Bags / Totes

D025 - Spinks, Jimi Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

12:00 p.m. Public Storage@ 13675 M. U.S. Hwy. 183

Austin, TX 78750

0228 - Roman, Kyle Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

0236 - Porter, Katie Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

0243 - Williams, Shirley Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

0323 - Dougherty, Curtis all items in unit

0427 - McCutchen, Gloria Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

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Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage @ 9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0077 - Genova, Janet

Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

0404 - DAVIS, ELAINE

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

0444 - Hernandez, Elena

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Toys

0483 - miller, jodi

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

0505 - Kerwick, John

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

0569 - Martinez, Melinda

Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Tools

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street, Austin, TX 78745

A001 - Traugott, Arvin

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Toys

A011 - Delavega, Joel

Electronics / Computers B025 - Smith, Margret

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Toys

J280 - Trussel, Patricia Elaine

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

K291 - Ogilvie, Dan

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Tools

L327 - Seligman, Zach

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

L360 - Shoels, Shakia

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

O465 - Garcia Hoes, Rosa

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

Q494 - galloway, lisa

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes

S568 - Daniel, Joy

=Boxes / Bags / Totes

W764 - COLLINS, BETSY

Boxes / Bags / Totes W786 - Alfaro, Lisbeth

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

10:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

C42 - WILLINGHAM, DON

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

D23 - Cervantes, Manuel

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

D6 - Dotson, Shallun

Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

K16 - Adami, Rita

Appliances; Books / Files / Cabinets; Furniture

L49 - Maldonado, Jose

Electronics / Computers; Toys

L82 - pucket, justin

Furniture; Tools

M41 - young, kerstin

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes

G21 - LUJAN, ARMANDO

=Boxes / Bags / Totes;

11:30 a.m. Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

210 - DeFontaine, Stephanie

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

343 - Zapata, Lorine

Boxes / Bags / Totes

387 - Vandergriff, Shoshannah

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

561 - Rodriguez, Hilda

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Toys

670 - Holland, Jason

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

12:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 2301 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

1039 - Niesen, Charles

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

1107 - Hernandez, Israel

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1124 - Hernandez, Yolanda

Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

2060 - Tolbert, Michael

Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Tools; Toys

2066 - Soto, Fabian

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2186 - Brown, Courtney Dee

Books / Files / Cabinets

2194 - Patuel, Sara

Bedding / Clothing; Furniture

3027 - Estrada, Eva

Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Toys

3038 - Sanchez, Monica

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3041 - Allen, Christina

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3085 - Daniel, Joy

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

3223 - DeLeon, Kristina

Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

3234 - Palmer, Cheryl

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

1:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 5016 E Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

B003 - Coleman, Felicia

Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

B015 - Jackson, Marilyn

Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

B044 - Hollingsworth, Amelia

Appliances; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C036 - Ramirez, Chris

Tools

C048 - Robbins, Molly

Bedding / Clothing; Tools

C049 - Dorsey, Rene

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Tools

C078 - Noyola, Angelica

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

C088 - Scott, Beverly

Boxes / Bags / Totes;

C139 - Hollingsworth, Amelia

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C178 - Guzman, Ruth

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

C184 - Rankin, Amanda

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Tools

C236 - Hoballah, Jamil

Tools

C246 - Rodriguez, Amy

Appliances; Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Tools

C306 - Baltierra, Sonia

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

C337 - Edward, Carl

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

2:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 2121 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78741

1095 - Bullock, Mary

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture; Toys

3121 - AIR QUALITY SOLUTIONS

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Tools

4116 - Zapata, Jamie

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

4136 - Freeberg, Orion

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

3:00 p.m. Public Storage @ 1213 W. 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703

1058 - Wittman, Laurie Babb

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2094 - Saunders, Chris

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

3014 - Bennett, Samuel

=Boxes / Bags / Totes

3050 - Cornerstone Promotion: Accts Dep.

=Boxes / Bags / Totes

5087 - NEELY, MICHAEL

Bedding / Clothing; Boxes / Bags / Totes; Electronics / Computers

3220 - Bowen, Ashley

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture; Toys

3:15 p.m. Public Storage @ 5220 US HWY 290W, Austin, TX 78735

2188 - Baack, Brianne

Bedding / Clothing; Books / Files / Cabinets; Electronics / Computers; Furniture

4300 - Isikwe, Paul

=Boxes / Bags / Totes

3:30 p.m. Public Storage @ 6726 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746

1001 - Barstow, Jan

Boxes / Bags / Totes; Furniture

2222 - Murdock, Ashley

Bedding / Clothing; Tools

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SCOTT DANIEL EWING, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of SCOTT DANIEL EWING, Deceased, were granted on November 8, 2011, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001684 in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to:

CHERYL LEE EWING

Independent Administrator

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Based on instruction of the Independent Administrator that claims be addressed in care of the Independent Administrator's attorney, the address to which claims may be presented is:

CHERYL LEE EWING

Independent Administrator

Estate of SCOTT DANIEL EWING, Deceased

c/o Law Offices of

Rhonda H. Brink

7301 Burnet Road, #102-548

Austin, Texas 78757

Dated this 29th day of November, 2011

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator of the Estate of SCOTT DANIEL EWING, Deceased

By: /s/ Rhonda H. Brink

Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink

7301 Burnet Road, #102-548

Austin, Texas 78757

Phone: (512) 454-8400

FAX: (512) 454-2055

ATTORNEY FOR CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

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CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: Karl Frederick Babyak. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Based on instruction of the Independent Administrator, claims are to be addressed to: KARL BABYAK Independent Administrator Estate of GERALDINE GREENWALD, Deceased c/o John Babyak 8220 Amasia Cove, Austin, Texas 78729 Dated this 24th day of November, 2011.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Roy Douglas Bradley, Deceased, were issued on September 29, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001143, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1, Travis County, Texas, to: Geraldine White.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Representative, Estate of Roy Douglas Bradley

80 Red River, Apt 319

Austin, Texas 78701-4232

DATED the 23rd day of November, 2011.

/s/ Paul T. Morin

Attorney for Geri White

State Bar No.: 14460550

503 W. 14th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 499-8200

Facsimile: (512) 499-8203

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marion B. White, Deceased, were issued on November 22, 2011, in Cause No. C-1-PB-11-001783, pending in the Probate Court Number One, Travis County, Texas, to Anita Joanne White. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Marion B. White, Deceased, c/o Chris Sapstead, Law Office of Chris Sapstead, P.C., 7004 Bee Cave Rd., Bldg 1 Ste 205, Austin, Texas 78746. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 22nd day of November, 2011. LAW OFFICE OF CHRIS SAPSTEAD, P.C. By: /s/ Chris Sapstead

By: /s/ Rhonda H. Brink

Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink

7301 Burnet Road, #102-548

Austin, Texas 78757

Phone: (512) 454-8400

FAX: (512) 454-2055

ATTORNEY FOR CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

CHERYL LEE EWING, Independent Administrator

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for Dec. 2-8

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Dear Mr. Breznsky: My name is Sonny McGee and I own a website that caters to people who are addicted to playing poker. I'm a big fan of your horoscopes, and I'm wondering if you would like to advertise your work to our audience. Gamblers love astrology! Get in touch. - Sagittarian Wheeler Dealer." Dear Wheeler Dealer: Thanks for your interest, but I'll pass. I don't like to encourage anyone to focus their gambling urges on trivial matters like card games, sports events, and lotteries. I prefer they direct that mojo toward high-minded stuff like daring themselves to excel, pursuing exciting and idealistic adventures, and doing brave things to help save the world. By the way, it's prime time for you Sagittarians to ratchet up your commitment to those kinds of gambles.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I hope you're not so perversely attached to your demons that you're inclined to keep providing them with a comfortable home. Why? Because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to permanently banish them from the premises. Yes, I know it may seem lonely at first without their nagging, disruptive voices chattering away in your head. But I really do encourage you to bid them adieu. By the way, as you plan your exorcism, you might want to include a humorous touch or two. They're allergic to satire and mockery, you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Beauvais Cathedral in northern France has been called "the most daring achievement of Gothic architecture." Its soaring facades, carved wooden doors, stained-glass windows, and astronomical clock demonstrate high artistry. There's a problem with the place, however - it has never been completed. Work began in the year 1225, and experts are still talking about how to solve certain ongoing difficulties with its construction. I don't know when this happy ending will occur, Aquarius, but I do expect that in 2012 you will be able to put the finishing touches on your own personal version of the Beauvais Cathedral. Now would be a good time to formulate definite plans to do so.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In my prayers, I've been negotiating with the goddess to grant you the power to change the course of rivers, at least in a metaphorical way. I've also beseeched her to show you how to overthrow the puppet master and convert overwrought hawks into savvy doves. The goddess seems to be seriously considering these appeals, and has even hinted she might offer you instructions on how to shape a new Adam out of one of Eve's ribs, mythically speaking. In return, she does have one request: that you do what you can to make sure the sun rises on schedule for the next 10 days.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This would be an excellent week to head down to Pucón, Chile, and hire a daredevil to fly you in a helicopter into the caldera of the active Villarrica volcano, so you could bungee jump out of the copter down to within 700 feet of the molten lava. If that's too extreme or expensive for your tastes, I urge you to come up with a milder adventure that will still bring you a close encounter with primal heat and light - and maybe even some divine fire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): As a mouse looks for food or shelter, it is flexible enough to fit through a hole as small as a quarter of an inch. You would really benefit from having a talent like that right now, Taurus. Of course, even if you are as slippery and pliable as you'll need to be, you will also have to be on high alert for the inviting possibilities, some of which may be brief or subtle. For example, let's say you spy an interesting-looking person with whom you'd love to chat. The window of opportunity may be open for less than 10 seconds. Seize that moment! Refuse to get hung up in shyness. Don't convince yourself that another chance will come along later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): One of my Gemini acquaintances, Tara, has been playing a slow-moving game of tag with three friends since they were all in second grade together. They're 27 years old now and still live in the same city. Currently, Tara is "it," and has been so for quite some time. But she confided in me that she plans to make a move this week. She says she'll sneak up on one of the other players during his lunch break at work, tag him, and run away before he can tag her back. I told her she's likely to meet with success, since this is an excellent time for you Geminis to gain an advantage in pretty much any kind of game you're playing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Far more crucial than what we know or do not know is what we do not want to know," wrote philosopher Eric Hoffer. This is a good idea for you to contemplate right now. I realize it may be a challenge for you to figure out what you would rather not know and are afraid to know and might even be allergic to knowing. Still, I hope you'll make the effort. Maybe you could enlist a smart ally who'd be skillful in helping you uncover the taboo truth. And maybe you could formulate an intention to be as objective as you've ever been.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Biologists say there are 680 species of trees and shrubs in the U.S. and Canada. By comparison, Lambir Hills National Park on the island of Borneo is home to 1,175 species on its 128 acres. I suspect you will feel right at home in places like Lambir Hills in the coming week, Leo. Your own creative urges will be running hotter than usual, and are most likely to thrive in contexts that are themselves teeming with lush fertility and rich diversity. Please surround yourself with inspirational influences, thereby giving yourself the best possible chance to express yourself with vivid imagination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home," wrote philosopher Dagobert D. Runes. Your assignment, Virgo, should you choose to accept it, is to refute that assertion. In other words, I'm inviting you to travel to all of your usual haunts and treat everything that happens there with the attitude of a first-time visitor. Just assume that the familiar people and places in your life have stimulating gifts to give and lessons to impart. Remember, though, they can't do that to the fullest unless you expect them to.


LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The human brain is composed of 30% protein and 70% fat. So it wouldn't be incorrect to refer to you as a fathead. In order to nourish your brain cells, you've got to eat foods that provide two essential fatty acids your body doesn't manufacture: omega-3 and omega-6. Since you're now in a brain-building phase of your astrological cycle, I urge you to get more than your minimum requirements of these basics. If I may be permitted to resurrect a now-out-of-fashion slang term, I suggest that you also expose yourself to a lot of extraordinarily phat sources of intellectual stimulation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The *mawashi* is the loincloth that Japanese sumo wrestlers wear while competing. It's rare for the garment to come off, even in the heat of a match, but it did happen once in 2000, when a wrestler named Asanokiri suddenly found himself standing naked during his bout with Chiyohakuho. In conformity with sumo's rules, Asanokiri was immediately disqualified. I don't think you're at risk for being rendered literally unclothed in the heat of a showdown or a plot twist, Scorpio. But I do advise you to take extra precautions to prevent a metaphorical version of that occurrence. Get your act very together, and keep it very together.

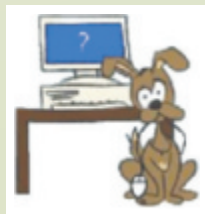
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