

THE AUSTIN

# CHRONICLE

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Vol. 24 No. 36 ★ [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com) ★ May 6, 2005

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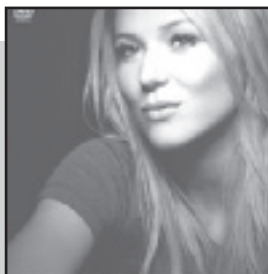
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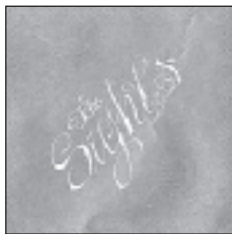
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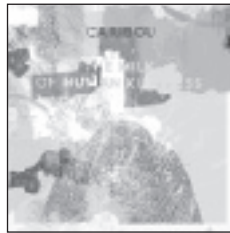
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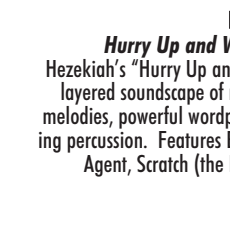
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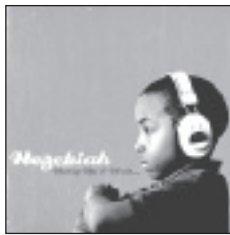
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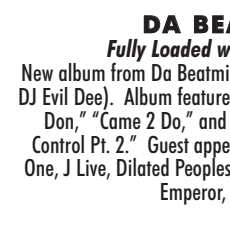
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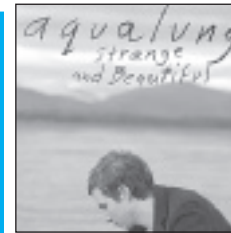
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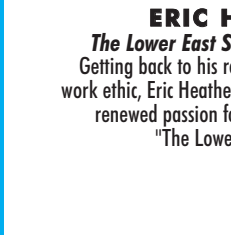
New album from Da Beatminerz (Mr. Walt and DJ Evil Dee). Album features the tracks "Mafia Don," "Came 2 Do," and "Live From Master Control Pt. 2." Guest appearances from: KRS One, J Live, Dilated Peoples, Wordsworth, Last Emperor, Mystic, and others.

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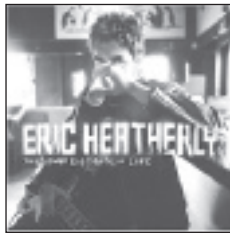
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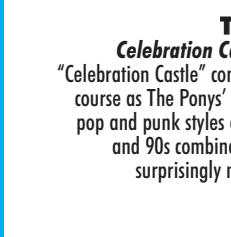
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*Flower of Avalon (Signature Sounds)*

With the release of "Flower of Avalon," Tracy Grammer begins a new story while continuing to champion the songs of her former partner. While the album features 9 brilliant previously unheard Dave Carter songs, the spotlight is on Tracy's gorgeous vocals & instrumental prowess.

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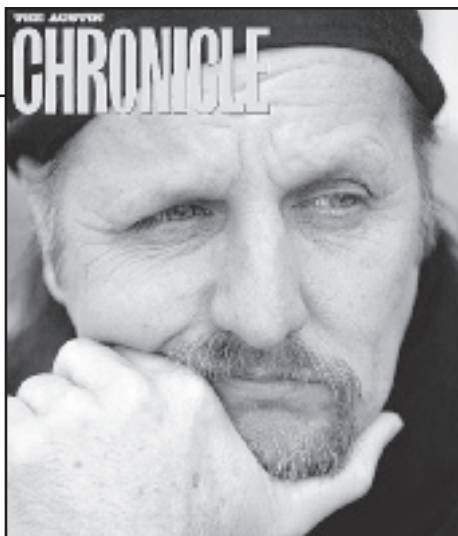
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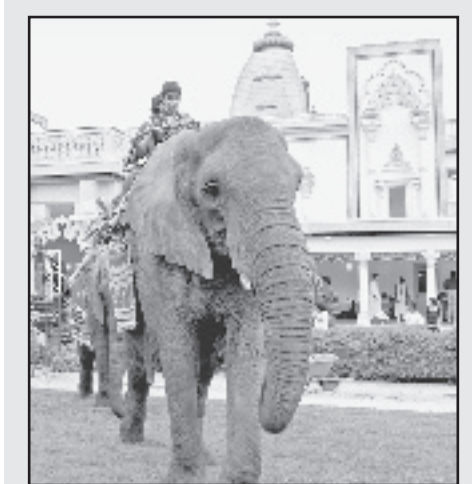
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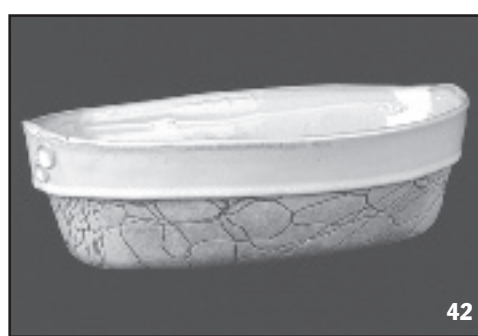


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Sue Littleton, poet, shops at The Turquoise Door

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# THE TURQUOISE DOOR

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# page two

by Louis Black

This column is for my liberal friends, neighbors, casual acquaintances, employees, total strangers and, ah ... hemmmm, my wife (with all due respect and a complete understanding of how wrong on this issue I am), all who turned out to be much more vehemently against smoking and in favor of a smoking ban than I realized. Enthusiastically, they educated me as to their discontents.

The arguments in favor of the ban are largely health-based. Being in an environment where there is secondhand smoke is unhealthy for nonsmokers and for other smokers. This creates a workplace hazard and a health hazard for customers. Areas where smoking is allowed in our society should be as restricted as they can be, in order to protect the health and quality of life of the nonsmokers. Tobacco is bad for our citizens and is addictive. The tobacco companies, through advertising strategies, have lured folks into becoming addicted. Also, since the compromise legislation was passed, the 200 places where smoking is allowed have an unfair business advantage.

The argument against the ban centers on the idea that smoking is central to the economic viability and continued existence of many live-music clubs. This community brags on music but only makes the lives of those responsible for nurturing and presenting it more difficult. It would just be too Austin-business-as-usual to agree to the current smoking restrictions and, before even giving them a chance to have any effect, institute a complete ban.

Above I mentioned neither smokers' nor nonsmokers' rights. In general, bringing "rights" into this discussion has been discouraged and discredited. It's really not about rights, the argument goes; it's about health and safety. Furthermore, if it is about "rights," well, smokers' rights are equaled by nonsmokers' rights, and there are more nonsmokers.

Excluding "rights" from this dialogue is outrageous. Jean Renoir once said, "The truly terrible thing is that everybody has their reasons." The ongoing political debate in America is not between good guys and bad guys. Overwhelmingly, it is among citizens who are convinced what they are doing is in the best interests of the country. Almost each and every one of them is convinced that they are as right as you and I are convinced we are right.

Our "rights" can be lost in many ways, one of which is to chip away at them because of health, community, decency, moral, and/or ethical standards. The dimensions and exact structure of rights change over time. Our rights in the early part of the century, when there was barely a national telephone network, were different than they were at the end of the century, when the world was wired. They've had to go through fine detailing and philosophical reshaping within the guidelines of certain accepted principles.

What exactly are a nonsmoker's rights? To go to any place they want at any time without feeling that their health is threatened? There are certainly health and comfort considerations in regard to nonsmokers. You can argue health and welfare or even common decency and consideration. But can anyone cite a source, either constitutional, legal, or through common acceptance, that privileges nonsmokers' concerns over smokers', guaranteeing nonsmokers or any group of citizens to have any establishment they enter address their health concerns? It may make sense, it may even be right; it's certainly healthier – but nowhere are American citizens guaranteed (or is it even suggested that they have) the right to see the band they want to see, where they want to see it, under the conditions they want. This is not businesses turning away people because of their race, ethnicity, or sexual preference; this is about people

deciding not to go to a business because they don't like its policies. Now, they've decided the solution is to legally force those businesses to change their policies.

This is the part especially for the liberals (sure, I'm talking about tobacco here, but for just a moment, think about it in the abstract).

Let's take a substance and call it "Y," but you all know what I really mean.

Imagine that for decades and decades this substance Y was completely accepted and widely used throughout society, at all social and economic levels. Over time, a minority view that Y was dangerous became widespread and adopted as scientific fact.

The information of how deadly Y was spread throughout the land, was noted on every package of Y sold in any form, taught in the schools and constantly pointed out in the media, by both ads and news items. The industry became more heavily regulated, as well as paying out hundreds of billions of dollars. How dangerous Y was has to have been considered public knowledge for, at the very least, two decades.

The society outlawed Y in all public places. But, despite the warnings, the classes, the talks, and the education, people continued to use Y. Many were concerned about Y's secondhand health threat to the nonusing public. Some wanted to totally ban Y because of these concerns. When education didn't work quickly enough, they turned to restricting the public and legal use of Y as much as possible, singling out and embarrassing Y users because of this personal habit and trying to so stigmatize them that everyone would stop using. This was all being done for the good of the community.

The community then went on to pass severe restrictions on Y use in any public establishment. Shortly after those restrictions

were imposed, the community again reversed itself, considering a complete ban.

Okay, say the Y users got together. They asked the city if, out of the thousands of bars and restaurants, they could use Y in only 200. Those 200 would be licensed by the city, clearly post their policy, and pay the city a fee for the license.

Keep in mind that Y use is legal. It is a personal habit. Also, Y use may not excite, but neither does it offend or violate community or religious standards, unlike a sex business. There may be issues about a bar, but whether it allows Y is hardly germane.

Okay my liberal brethren, the Y users want 200 clearly marked, clearly legal, very specifically not Y-free establishments. There is a community movement by the majority not to allow this.

Why? Well, there are the community's overall health concerns. There is taking one's neighbors' health into one's own hands. Then there are workplace health concerns for employees and performers.

But, friends, what is the single most cited reason? If a non-Y-user decides that what is going on in a Y-use establishment is of interest to them, they want to be able to attend in an environment that they personally prefer. Changing the overwhelming number of local businesses to non-Y use is not enough. They want it to be imposed everywhere.

Okay, let's switch to the term "smoking." No one is made to go to clubs where there is smoking.

The concern over employees and performers is legitimate; it's a lot easier to say, "If you don't like smoke, don't work here" than it is to find a job or build a music career.

But this smoking ban is about the society saying to smokers, again legal and moral, that they can have no public place where they can indulge their vice, because nonsmokers may want to attend.

When you think about it, chipping away "rights" for rock-solid health and/or moral concerns can be an indication of a socially conscious and concerned community or a barely visible baby step away from our "rights" as long defined in this constitutional republic. ■

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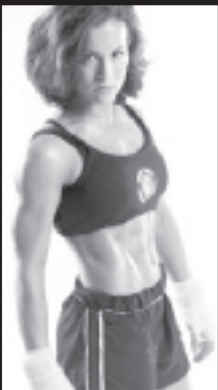
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# endorsements

## 2005 CITY OF AUSTIN ELECTION, MAY 7 BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The following are brief versions of our *Chronicle* endorsements for the May 7 municipal election. See the April 15 issue or [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-15/pols\\_feature6.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-15/pols_feature6.html) for our full endorsements.

### Place 1: Lee Leffingwell

Of all the Place 1 candidates, former Environmental Board Chair Leffingwell is clearly the most experienced at the kind of questions regularly facing the council, from transportation planning to environmental protection to setting priorities for growth and development. Leffingwell gathered so much early support that he has not only dominated the Place 1 debate but altered the dynamics of the rest of the ballot – and that's because he's an experienced, level-headed, progressive candidate who will be an asset to the council and to Austin.

### Place 3: Margot Clarke and Mandy Dealey

We believe Clarke and Dealey are best-qualified and best-suited for Place 3; each has distinct but long-dedicated records of public service, and each has run well for office before. Clarke has made “public participation” the theme of her campaign, and she has consistently run a grassroots-and-green effort that reflects Austin's democratic traditions and reaches out to the city's broadest constituencies. Dealey has emphasized the legacy of Jackie Goodman's service, and has placed health and human services – still recovering from the economic downturn – at the top of her priorities.

### Place 4: Betty Dunkerley

As a financial officer, assistant city manager, and now council member, incumbent Dunkerley has performed long, honorable, and effective service for Austin. There isn't a saner or smarter member on the dais, and as the budget continues to grow, she'll be an attentive and sensitive eye on maintaining both budget balance and program priorities.

### Smoking Ordinance: Yes and No

*Chronicle* sentiments are strong – but strongly mixed – on the proposed smoking ban, so we offer below a split endorsement.

### Smoking Ordinance: Yes

We support the smoking ordinance primarily because it is a rational and necessary measure to extend workplace protections most of us already enjoy to the health of all employees, musicians, and the public. We are not persuaded by opponents that the ban will spell economic disaster, even on a small scale, nor are we convinced that “smokers' rights” extend beyond the limits of their own lungs. In light of the now thoroughly documented damage caused to public health by secondhand smoke – not to mention the enormous public health costs casually imposed on the entire community by the tobacco industry – we don't think the public at large should continue to subsidize such destructive behavior.

### Smoking Ordinance: No

The anti-smoking reformers – well-intentioned as they may be – want to extend an already quite effective smoking ban on 99% of public spaces to the handful of bars and clubs where the music, and the smoking populace that sustains it, still thrives. We oppose the measure primarily out of concern that it will likely drive some small but lively, unique gathering places – especially independent live music venues – out of business, and it sends a message of continued indifference on the part of the city to the economic health of the whole music community, regardless of how much lip service is paid to it. We also think it's an unnecessary governmental intrusion on personal freedom and property rights.

### Austin Community College Annexation Referendum: Yes

If Austin voters approve, those portions of Round Rock, Eanes, and Pflugerville ISDs that are located within the Austin city limits would be annexed into the ACC taxing district. Residents of the entire city would be liable for ACC property taxes, but in exchange, all ACC students within the same boundaries would be eligible for in-district tuition. The Austin area is heavily invested in the success of ACC, and it only makes sense that Austinites across the entire city share the load of community education – both the burdens and the advantages.

## 2005 CITY OF AUSTIN ELECTION – SATURDAY, MAY 7

Polls will be open 7am-7pm. Call 238-VOTE or consult [www.co.travis.tx.us/elections](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/elections) to find your polling place.

### City Council

PLACE 1	PLACE 3
Andrew Bucknall	Margot Clarke
Lee Leffingwell	Mandy Dealey
James Paine	Jennifer Kim
Casey Walker	Gregg Knaupe
Scott Williams	PLACE 4
Steven Adams (write-in)	Wes Benedict
	Betty Dunkerley
	Jennifer Gale
	Phillip Byron Miller
	John Wickham

### Proposed Smoking Ordinance

“An ordinance repealing Austin's current ordinance relating to smoking in public places and replacing it with a new ordinance that maintains the current prohibition against smoking in most public places, including workplaces, and expands the prohibition against smoking to apply to all bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, and billiard parlors, except for restaurants with restricted permits that are renewable through September 1, 2012.”

### ACC Annexation Proposition

“Annexing for junior college purposes only, that portion of the City of Austin that is not presently included within the currently existing boundaries of Austin Community College District”

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# POSTMARKS

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

## 'Chronicle' Needs to Print Truth!

Dear Editor,

Ms. Reeves' article on Comptroller Strayhorn and Sal Costello and his group AustinTollParty.com shows yet another media grab-ass for the politicians who have controlled Austin's destiny for the past several decades ["The Sal and Carole Two-Step: Toll Party Throws a Party," News, April 29].

The people continue to be abused in their wallets and instead of focusing on *that* real issue, Ms. Reeves writes a skewed version of the main issue.

It's obvious that neither Ms. Reeves nor Editor Black have a clue what has been going on regarding toll legislation that will tax our children's children for generations to come. Do you mean Strayhorn is the only politician who lobbies or "plays the crowd"?

You can call it politics and put down the efforts of the anti-toll activists; however, the truth is the truth.

One very real truth is that Central Texans already would be paying a toll on South MoPac to cross over William Cannon Road if it weren't for Strayhorn, Costello, and hundreds of other vigilant legislative watchdogs. They couldn't sneak this toll by us because we were watching their every move!

The *Chron* and its reporters can continue to use their sharp tongues without thinking, but the truth is that the bridge toll would have been a double tax. That project was already paid for in gasoline taxes.

Hey! Why didn't the *Chron* point *that* out to its readers?

Instead of continuing to put down those who don't bow down to wealthy special interests or turn the other cheek, why don't you print the truth for a change?

You quoted Mike Krusee. Krusee certainly is no angel. He's been instrumental in veiling the toll facts from other legislators, agencies, and the public in the drive to implement tolls behind closed-door meetings. Focus on *that* individual with all your sarcasm. Krusee deserves it.

The *Chron* needs to give credit when it's due – and focus it on the right people.

Merle Osmond

## A Park by Any Other Name Is Not a Park

Dear Editor,

In the "Council Notes" for April 29 [News], the site for the proposed expansion of the South Austin Tennis Center was incorrectly referred to as a "neighborhood park." This site was purchased for use as a tennis center 20 years ago; half of the tennis center has been built. The proposal is to construct the second half of the tennis center on land that has always been intended for use as a tennis center.

Jeb Boyd  
Chair

Land & Facilities Committee  
City of Austin Parks Board

[News Editor Michael King responds: I don't wish to get into a semantic dispute with Mr. Boyd, but it's also clear that the folks in the Galindo neighborhood have come to consider this bit of green space a neighborhood park. Judging from their remarks at last Thursday's meeting, at least some council members have also begun to doubt the wisdom of expanding the tennis center in this particular location.]

## Brian Beattie! Brian Beattie!

To everybody who read the Kathy McCarty article last week,

I *totally screwed up* when I wrote my article ["Infinite Capacity," Music, April 29] and didn't even mention the name of my *best friend* (referred to in the article as "the engineer" and "the producer"), *Brian Beattie!!!!!!* Without *Brian Beattie* I would not

only have never made *Another Day in the Sun* or *Dead Dog's Eyeball*, but I probably would never have had the guts to play music at *all*. *Brian Beattie* is the one who let me use the studio and his time (and multi-instrumentalist talents) for free, for years. I really don't know what in the heck I was thinking. I have no problem telling the world that, musically, I can barely turn my amp on without Brian's assistance; I tell everyone all the time. I am not ashamed. In fact I am a little bit *proud* that I have a musical genius who thinks I am worth the time. But for some reason, which *I haven't been able to figure out* after beating myself up for days, I didn't mention Brian in my piece.

Anyway, Brian didn't even want me to write this, but I had to, because I feel like such a jerk. Actually, I feel more like a psychopath. *Brian Beattie*, ladies and gentlemen, the man responsible not only for *Another Day in the Sun*, but also responsible for making it possible for me to record anything, ever, in my life. (This is not an exaggeration. I have never recorded anything, not even the Buffalo Gals, or Sinequan, that Brian wasn't operating the machine.)

I am so sorry.

I don't know what's wrong with me.

Kathy McCarty

## Biased Coverage (?)

Dear Editor,

I bumped into Michael King at a press conference called by the Austin Toll Party and one of our endorsed candidates for council, Wes Benedict. Wes filed suit alleging that the Real Estate Council of Austin is laundering money through the police union to support their favored candidates: Leffingwell, Knaupe, and Dunkerley. Why would RECA hide behind the badge? Because word is getting out that they're prime movers of the toll plan!

King raised the same silly charge he raised last week about our supposedly violating the local campaign finance laws – the \$100 limits I helped pass ["Point Austin," News, April 29]. Some people are upset

*continued on p.12*

**Oops!** In "Did Knee and Futrell Leak APD Warrants?," April 29, Jordan Smith wrote that City Manager Toby Futrell said that "she herself reported to police the original allegations regarding BTS' handling of the city contract." City Manager Futrell offers a clarification as follows (emphasis hers): "The correct statement is that the original complaint of pressuring contractors to hire particular companies by the City's Department of Small and Minority Business Resources came to me and I made the decision to report these original allegations to APD to independently investigate and handle."

"The expanded probe of BTS came as an offshoot of that investigation through separate allegations by a former BTS employee to, I believe, our City Auditor's Office. Although they may have also gone to APD, I was briefed through the Auditor's Office because we agreed to stop a planned internal audit of BTS so that it would not interfere with the referral to and investigation of those separate BTS allegations by APD. That internal audit had been planned because the BTS contract was expiring in several months and we wanted to update the City's December 2000 KPMG audit of BTS before re-negotiating another contract."



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that we are using our list – a petition list gathered by volunteers across the city last year. We do not believe the list has the commercial value that some are attributing to it; suffice it to say, however, that if that's true, the so-called "violation" we're talking about amounts to about \$88!

But, the *Chronicle* is hot on the case. Meanwhile, leaders of the Real Estate Council have been sending money through the police union PAC in lumps of up to \$2,000. The *Statesman* said this is not a violation of the \$100 limit!

Why do you think RECA and the police union bosses think our lists are so valuable? Answer: They represent ordinary people across this city who continue to go out and talk to their neighbors. That is something that money – even RECA's money – cannot buy.

We hope to continue to further a voter revolt in this city, with or without biased coverage from the *Chronicle*.

Linda "for a little more honesty" Curtis [News Editor Michael King responds: Actually, Linda Curtis didn't "bump into me," she interrupted me when I was trying to cover her organization's press conference, where apparently only softball questions are in order. That's OK, but her studied pose of innocent bystander is getting very, very old. Curtis employs the common political standard for campaign finance violations: "When our opponents do it, it's an outrage; when we do it, it's a 'silly' nothing." I agree with her that the RECA/APA practice represents a greater present danger to the election system than the Toll Party's transgressions (although she apparently wants us to report it before it happens – see today's News section, "Full Disclosure: Here Comes the Late Money"). But that certainly doesn't mean she doesn't have to abide by the same campaign finance laws she applies to the competition. Curtis is a paid political consultant, and at least some of her "volunteers" were paid \$1 a signature for a list that exceeds 20,000 names. She now wants to wish away the list's actual

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



value – although one of the campaigns receiving her contribution has since rejected it. And she is inevitably the first to accuse those who disagree with her of being not just wrong, but corrupt (or, in our case, "dishonest"). Such inflated rhetoric may bring out the troops, but it also contributes to the debasement of the political debate.]

## More Needs to Be Done

Dear Editor,

We very much appreciate your coverage of AMD CEO Hector Ruiz's proposal to move 2,000-3,000 Austin employees from offices in East and North Austin to a new campus on Southwest Parkway in the

Barton Springs Watershed ["AMD and the Edwards Aquifer," News, April 22].

We ask that you do more to expose what such a move will mean for our city and the misinformation campaign promoting the move as good for Austin.

Both our local daily and AMD spokesmen support the move as good for Austin with two false claims: that the proposed complex will comply with the voter-approved Save Our Springs ordinance and that it will help reduce traffic because "58 percent of AMD employees live within ten miles" of the proposed site on Stratus Properties' Lantana site.

Stratus claims "grandfathering" for Lantana based on preliminary plans filed in 1984 by previous, long-since bankrupt owners. When Stratus bought the site in 1995, it was clearly under the SOS ordinance; but then "good citizen" Stratus (then Freepport McMoran) went to the Legislature and lobbied retroactive grandfathering legislation. AMD's proposed facility will not even come close to complying with SOS water quality protection measures.

While insisting the Lantana site would serve employee convenience, AMD has admitted that only 36% of its employees live southwest. That means almost two-thirds live in other parts of Austin. The "58 percent within 10 miles" factoid has been manufactured to hide the fact that most AMD employees do not live in and do not now commute onto the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Watershed.

AMD has been good for Austin. We need it to stay that way. We ask the *Chronicle*, its readers, and AMD employees to join with Austin Neighborhoods Council, Liveable City, Save Barton Creek Association, SOS Alliance, Texas Clean Water Action, and Zilker Neighborhood Association in asking AMD CEO Hector Ruiz to reconsider his decision and to work with the community to find an AMD home outside the Barton Springs watershed. See [www.moveamd.com](http://www.moveamd.com) for more information.

Sincerely,  
Bill Bunch  
Executive Director  
Save Our Springs Alliance

continued on p.14

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## Mentally Ill Criteria

Mr. Black,  
According to Darcie Stevens, ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead is "the biggest thing to come out of Austin in the last decade" ["Music Listings," April 29].

Can you please tell me what kinda mentally ill criteria is being used for this equation? Fastball, Los Lonely Boys, and Pat Green have all dwarfed this band with sales figures and attendance at concerts throughout the country, and they've all risen to the fore in the last 10 years.

And, as always, when sloppy writing and reporting fall through the cracks, you gotta find fault with the editor. That said, please put a cot in Hernandez's office. He's sleeping on the job. Again.

Sincerely,  
Chris Grady

## The Right to Engage in Activities

Dear Editor,  
I don't smoke and don't like it whenever anyone remotely near me does. Yet I will vote against the smoking ordinance on Saturday. This issue is – even more than abortion – a referendum on pro-choice and pro-life positions.

We already have such a strong smoking ordinance in place that nonsmokers are rarely inconvenienced by smokers. Is it really so important that we never be inconvenienced? I don't think so. This is about the majority doing what it wants because it can.

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Is the United States about democracy, or is it about liberty? I think the founding fathers chose democracy because they believed it was the governmental system least likely to trample our liberties, then they added the Bill of Rights because they knew that even with democracy liberty was an uphill struggle. Preserving liberty is not about preserving those rights that everyone supports – those are never endangered in a democracy. It is about preserving the right to engage in activities like abortion and smoking that the majority finds abhorrent.

Sometimes the rights of individuals must be sacrificed for the greater good. But it should always be done with hesitation. People who never support the rights of others to participate in objectionable activities don't believe in liberty at all. I am resigned to this intolerance from the right; I hoped for more from the left.

Raymond Heitmann

## Don't Mourn, Fight for Justice

Dear Editor,  
Thank you for writing an article on Dorothy Turner's death ["Dorothy T. Goes Home," News, April 22]. She would have been amazed that the *Chronicle* covered her passing because she believed you did not give fair coverage of the problems in East Austin. Actually, she thought you did not cover at all the problems of police brutality, job discrimination, or the encroachment of developers into the historically black community, forcing people out of their longtime homes. So, perhaps the best tribute to her would be for the *Chronicle* to take up the fight for justice. Surely, you, the *Chronicle's* founders, have some anger about the direction this country is going under the leadership of greedy people. We all live on the same planet. We do not all live under the same degree of repression. Greed is a disease that can never be satisfied. The right-wingers – both Republican and Democratic – will destroy the human rights we all fought for. Then, what will we do?

In community,  
Trella Laughlin  
Fayetteville, Ark.

## Students Are What's Important

Dear Editor,  
Lost among the turbulence of the last few months in RRISD is the fact that our students continue to perform at high levels ["Round One at Round Rock," News, April 29]. Our TAKS scores are very good and higher than predicted. The achievement gaps between different populations are closing faster than in most other districts in the state. Our teachers continue to deliver quality instruction with larger classes, lower budgets, and diminishing support from the state.

Unfortunately, it's hard to get headlines with good news these days. Negative stories have that locked up.

I'm confident RRISD will navigate through these choppy waters and continue to provide an environment where students can succeed. The kids are doing great. It's the adults I'm worried about.

John Romano  
President, Round Rock ISD board of trustees

## Educate the Whole Student

Dear Editor,  
As a parent of two students in the Round Rock school district, I was elated to learn that Tom Gaul has resigned his superintendent's position ["Round One at Round Rock," News, April 29]. Test scores may have improved during his administration, but teacher morale has sunk to a new low due to impossible expectations and lack of administration support. Staff reductions have resulted in higher class loads, and ridiculous busy work takes time away from teaching and diverts it to nonproductive projects that only serve to make administrators look good. Anyone who knows a teacher in the district knows this is true.

Athletic programs and fine arts have been shoved to the side as nonessential to the education of our children. In reality, athletics and other extracurricular programs enhance the overall performance of the students involved in them. Children graduate with work ethics, discipline, and knowledge about the real

world that these programs promote, which contribute to their success in life. Coaches have struggled to maintain programs over the past few years that have been rendered impotent by cuts in funding and administration support. Once respected in these areas, RRISD is in danger of becoming a half-baked mediocre district unless some changes are made.

My hope is that the Round Rock district voters will elect a board that will hire a superintendent who believes in the value of educating the whole student, and provide facilities that will enable the teaching staff to produce outstanding, productive citizens, as they have in the past. This board would not include the threesome running together (Bruce-Juhlke, Sullivan, and McFaul). This group poses a real danger to the district as they have exhibited a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to funding district needs. The ideal situation would be the election of a more moderate board and the appointment of a superintendent who can balance the demands of the budget with creating a positive working environment for teachers and promote learning among district students. The taxpayers can only hope this can be accomplished without the expense of importing a candidate from Alaska or Florida.

Good riddance to bad rubbish, Dr. Gaul!  
Sandy Worthy  
Round Rock

## Addiction Is Not a Lifestyle?

To the editor,  
OK, three times is enough. Louis Black, Michael King, and now Daniel Mottola have in the course of arguing the pros and cons of smoking bans, called smoking a "lifestyle choice." No one can claim ignorance of the truth that smoking is not a lifestyle choice. It is a devastating addiction that kills 1,000% more people per year than all other drugs combined. Smoking is not a choice. It is a compulsion brought on by experiencing the effects and then having to continue. Even the tobacco compa-

continued on p.16

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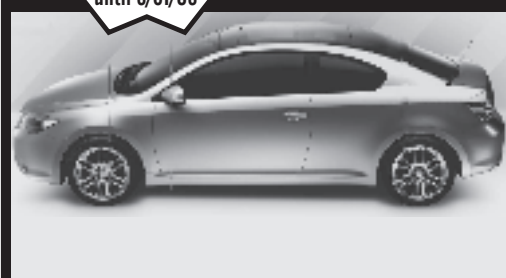
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nies have admitted it and paid heavily for pushing it to children.

Smoking is a horrible addiction, and we have finally trumped the poor tobacco companies' bulging PR coffers and gotten the word out. There will be no turning back. There is no argument from a smoker that means anything. They are sick people who need help. Just like alcoholics, we must approach them with understanding and kindness and then try to help in any way we can. Secondhand smoke is not even an issue. The source of the problem is and always has been that they are trapped in a desperate compulsion brought on by a substance that attracts and then kills. If I can do anything to help them, I will. Banning smoking anywhere helps them. They are the real victims, and any business that depends upon encouraging this horrible addiction in order to survive (like tobacco companies or bars) must be eliminated. There is no argument that can validate preying upon these unfortunate addicts in order to make a living.

Michael Hankin

## Disappoint

To the editor,

I am curious as to why you used the title of my letter to editorialize. You wrote "Isn't Addiction a

Lifestyle Choice?" That is not at all what I wrote. Plenty of pro-smoking letters did not receive such attention. One would tend to think there is a bias here. For the record, the text of the letter states: "Smoking is not a lifestyle choice." I'm disappointed with the *Chronicle*.

Michael Hankin

[Editor's note: Editor Louis Black writes almost all the headlines.]

## ACC Ballot Proposal Perverse

Dear Editor,

The ACC board of trustees slipped onto the May 7 ballot what can only be labeled a perversion of democracy. Community college taxing districts are built on school districts. There are three areas inside the Austin city limits that belong to other school districts, districts that are not part of the ACC taxing district. Those three small areas are about to be swamped by a vote allowing everyone currently paying ACC's tax to extend that tax to cover those three areas. It is a basic tenet of American democracy that only those facing a tax should be allowed to vote on that tax. I believe that was one of the principles upon which we rebelled. ACC's sleazy backdoor effort to expand their tax district makes a mockery of the democratic process. And their only response to that is to repeat, in mechanical fashion, that it's for our own good. The obvious arrogance of that comment aside, it doesn't address the

issue. I live in a MUD and pay the highest property taxes in Austin. How about we hold a vote out here to extend our tax to Dr. Mink. Oh, she'll get to vote on it, too. It's at least as fair as ACC's proposal.

Scott Sexton

## Austin Most Racist City in Texas

Howdy y'all,

Last week I attended four of the meetings the City Manager's Office held. They were "focus groups" for African-Americans. I expected a chilly reception. Talk about hard stares, I got them. I am a tall, bearded white man with a rather long ponytail.

The UT Humanities Institute and Waterloo Press published a book last year, *Writing Austin's Lives: A Community Portrait*. I was able to get some of the African-Americans to be friendlier by reading them the last line of one of the many stories in that book. Plez A. Wooley is the author of "Momma's Crystal Ball." The main library downtown has the book, and it's in bookstores or at the Austin History Center.

The last line of Mr. Wooley's story reads, "I am embarrassed to say that I am from Austin, because it is such a racist city, especially for African Americans." When I read that line to some of the East Austin folks, they quickly asked to read the whole story. The first line reads, "Austin is beautiful, but the Austin Police Department is trying to kill my style: most black men here have become a victim of racial profiling."

I hoped to meet Mr. Wooley and thank him. He is correct. I have learned something over the 54 years that I have lived here. Austin, Texas is the most covertly racist city in all of Texas. Someone should warn African-Americans who are thinking of moving here. I am certain the City Manager's Office is not going to do that. I must also say: This city's development planning is just a continuation of the same discrimination and segregation that has existed in Austin since before the Civil War.

Rick Hall

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# NAKED CITY

edited by Lee Nichols and Cheryl Smith

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“You can’t legislate morality. This is a ridiculous bill. It’s stupid and it’s insulting. It’s an embarrassment and indictment of this body that this kind of garbage has reached the floor of this House.”

– Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, on a bill that would grant the Texas Education Agency power to regulate “sexually suggestive” cheerleading in public schools. The bill eventually passed, 65-56, but has no Senate sponsor.

## Headlines

- ▶ The **Willie Nelson Turnpike** is dead. Austin state Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos officially withdrew his bill to rename a portion of SH 130 for the Red-Headed Stranger after unpatriotic, Texas-hating Republican Sen. Jeff Wentworth opposed it – on the grounds that Willie is a dope-smoking Democrat. Could we please get South Austin removed from his district?
- ▶ This is it: Either you’re a citizen or just a rubbernecking bystander. **Municipal elections** are this Saturday, May 7. For more info, see “Austin Stories,” below; for *Chronicle* endorsements, see p.8.
- ▶ City Council candidate **Lee Leffingwell** announced he would return to the Place 1 campaign this week, after a week’s hiatus following the April 22 death of his wife, Mary Lou McLain. See photo at right.
- ▶ As late money began to enter the council campaigns, charges flew over **illegal or unethical contributions** and the untoward influence of independent PACs. Place 4 candidate Wes Benedict filed suit against the Austin Police Association PAC and the Real Estate Council of Austin PAC, charging that RECA members were effectively “laundering” contributions by bundling them into the APA’s campaign to support candidates Lee Leffingwell (Place 1), Gregg Knaupe (Place 3), and Betty Dunkerley (Place 4). See p.22.
- ▶ Down at the lege, **campaign finance reform** bit the dust once again, as a bill supported by more than 90 House members was scuttled by one of its sponsors, Austin GOP Rep. Terry Keel. Keel blamed the defeat of the bill – a move to bring it out of the Elections Committee was overwhelmingly shot down – on a Democratic attempt to embarrass Speaker Tom Craddick over the ongoing TRMPAC investigation. See p.28.
- ▶ President **George W. Bush** held his first formal press conference in more than a year. And Satan was reported to be shopping for ice skates.

## Austin Stories

- ▶ A big spike in turnout on the last day of **early voting** Tuesday pushed Travis County to 5.44% turnout of registered voters for the ongoing municipal elections. Including mail-in ballots, 26,704 votes were cast early, 6,158 of them on the last day alone. Election day is Saturday, May 7; polls will be open 7am-7pm. Austin voters are deciding three City Council seats and whether to strengthen our anti-smoking ordinance to virtually all public buildings and whether to annex everything within the city limits into the Austin Community College taxing district. Go to [www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do](http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do) for a list of polling places and other info. – L.N.

continued on p.21

JOHN ANDERSON



Austin’s civic activist circles were rocked two weeks ago by the news that Mary Lou McLain, a driving force in creating the Travis County Hospital District, had committed suicide. Last week, her husband, Lee Leffingwell (above), announced that he would continue his campaign for Austin City Council. “I know in my heart that she would not be pleased if I ended my work to make a difference in our community,” Leffingwell said. For more, see “Full Campaign Disclosure: Here Comes Late Money,” p.22.

# NEWS

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# PREVAILING WINDS

## AISD SAYS IT CAN’T AFFORD BOND-PROJECT BENEFITS, BUT LOCAL WORKERS BEG TO DIFFER BY MICHAEL KING

The Austin ISD administration says it wants to make certain that construction workers on district projects are paid prevailing market wages, in the worst way – and as AISD is going about the process, it just might get its wish. On Monday, after weeks of public and private wrangling over a fair wages and benefits package, the administration made its recommendations to the board of trustees for a vote next week, and it looks like the district will succeed in making nobody happy. Under normal circumstances, that might be a sign of a reasonable compromise, but in this instance, it looks more like a clumsy capitulation, a last-ditch fast shuffle, and a potential public relations disaster.

To back up a little bit: Last summer, as the district readied a campaign for a \$519 million bond package, employee organizations asked that eventual bond construction projects be offered for bid at a Department of Labor rate that would encompass prevailing wages and benefits. The district, presuming DOL rates would be too high, proposed doing its own local market study instead – labor reps agreed, the study was done, and the market rates came in at numbers equal to or higher than the DOL rates. The district blanched at those numbers, too, and last month recommended to the board that bid offerings reflect only prevailing wage rates – not benefits (most importantly, health insurance). The ensuing outcry included not just labor groups, but local civic leaders (Daryl Slusher, Gus Garcia), religious leaders, and, perhaps more importantly, bond committee members who had helped promote the bond package to the voters at least partly with the assurance that the proposed con-

struction projects would include the increased wages and benefits.

Buying time, the district commissioned yet another study. (If anybody makes out on this deal, it will be John Hockenjos of Texas Perspectives, who worked on both the original study and the latest one, rewriting to order his own earlier analysis.) Now the administration says it wants to use rates incorporating the prevailing local wages but *not* benefits – instead, it proposes a \$1.36 per hour health insurance “supplement,” said to be based on an “average cost of health insurance” in the Southwest region as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (an “average,” alas, that includes a lot of companies spending “\$0” on health insurance). Contractors will still choose whether to offer benefits, but if they do not, their wage package must include the supplemental pay.



### Who’s Counting?

Superintendent Pat Forgione says the new proposal represents the district’s “best effort,” that including benefits has never been the district’s historical practice (hardly a cause for celebration), and that even this modest adjustment – when combined with newly anticipated material cost increases – is likely to devour nearly half of the \$50 million contingency fund built into the bond package. “I can’t accept any more risk,” Forgione says. “If I open up a roof and there are problems, if we find asbestos that needs removing – we need to maintain that contingency fund for unanticipated costs.” The threat to the contingency fund has been a steady drumbeat in the administration’s

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presentations to the board, eerily reminiscent of the bloody flag of the “fund balance,” waved every time someone suggests that laying off reading teachers might not be the best way to balance the district budget.

Yet it's not even clear that it's necessary to raid the contingency fund to pay for full benefits, variously estimated by the district to be roughly twice the \$9.8 million it now wants to budget for the \$1.36-an-hour health care supplement it would allot for each worker. Forgione acknowledges that an inflation factor for both labor and materials was supposedly built into the cost estimates for the bond package, but all the official estimates treat the base costs as already spoken for, so that any additional labor expenses must come out of the contingency fund. So did the district *not* anticipate increased labor costs when it derived the bond estimates from similar expenses incurred in its last construction bond in 1996?

The district's presentations do not show actual labor costs from its 1996 bond projects, although they were supposedly the basis of its 2004 bond proposal. According to an analysis prepared by the employees' union Education Austin – based on the actual cost of building Akins High School – at an annual inflation rate of 3.5% (24.5% over the last seven years), the recommended wages plus benefits are actually *lower* than the labor costs already built into the bond package and approved by the voters. Maybe EA is wrong – but in all the reports and press releases disseminated by the district, there is not even an attempt to break out the actual costs of labor in the previous projects, or to estimate its growth.

**One Community**

There may be a simple reason. Administrators are understandably concerned about recent alarming increases in materials costs (especially steel), and, even judging from

**ALL THE OFFICIAL ESTIMATES TREAT THE BASE BOND COSTS AS ALREADY SPOKEN FOR, SO THAT ANY ADDITIONAL LABOR EXPENSES MUST COME OUT OF THE CONTINGENCY FUND.**

Hockenyos' latest PowerPoint, are looking for ways to hedge those expenses against labor costs on the upcoming projects – the numbers are always presented together. “If you ask me,” said local electricians' union spokesman Michael Murphy, “I think they're trying to balance their materials budget on the backs of the workers.” Forgione bristles at any such suggestion – “We're a good employer, we only work with good employers, and this is the first real attempt to even include health insurance for all workers” – and responds with his own countercharge. “This was a late hit, after the fact – we had already built our bond package when [the unions] brought up prevailing wages,” Forgione complains. “They should have brought this up in 2003.” He says if the board wants to accept the risks of additional costs, that's up to them – but as a good manager he cannot recommend it.

The “late hit” argument is getting increasingly bitter, egged on by a particularly ill-informed and mendacious April 23 editorial in the *Statesman*, which included an inevitable gratuitous swipe at the unions. “I don't buy it,” says Murphy. “If that was the problem, why didn't Forgione just say that last summer, that he couldn't afford it? Why ask for a labor survey, and then ignore what the survey says? I

said at the time, when we agreed to it, that I feared that the district was conducting the survey only to find lower numbers than the Department of Labor numbers. It's now clear that that was the purpose of the survey – to get our support for the bonds, while they never intended to follow through on the recommendations.”

The AISD board, which is scheduled to vote on the administration's new recommendation this Monday, would do well to make certain it knows all the implications of its action. Not only the numbers – which certainly bear serious additional scrutiny – but whether it risks squandering all the goodwill generated by the bond vote, and the larger community's sense that we support the schools for the simple reason that *we're all in this together*. For good or ill, the AISD contracts become a benchmark for the whole region, and as the labor members of the survey committee put it, adopting a wage schedule that fails to include benefits gives “a competitive advantage ... to those firms who *do not* provide health and retirement benefits to their employees.”

If the board decides to accept Forgione's lowball bet, it can be certain that when it comes time to consider the district's next bond proposal, some voters will have very long memories indeed. ■

**Is this the Austin you want?**



**Toll Roads**



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**Margot Clarke Has a Better Vision for Our City**

“Your vote Saturday, May 7, will decide Austin's future. Decisions that ignore the public, like the toll road plan, damage our entire city. I'll restore real public participation in decision-making and ensure that city spending benefits the people who live here. I respectfully ask for your vote.”

*Margot*

**VOTE SATURDAY, MAY 7**  
**Voting info: 371-8770 or MargotClarke.com**

Endorsed by  
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Photo: PD by the Mayor got Elaine Campaign, PO Box 25442, Austin, TX 78755. This campaign has agreed to comply with the anti-fundation and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Practices.

▶ The endangered **Golden-Cheeked Warbler** and the **Black-Capped Vireo** have more than 433 new acres of old-growth, juniper, and woodlands in which to nest. The Trust for Public Land recently acquired more property from landowner Thomas Penn, whose family had already transferred several hundred acres of their Hill Country land to the trust. The new parcel will be incorporated into the 46,000-acre Balcones National Wildlife Refuge, 30 miles northwest of Austin. Last week, TPL transferred the property over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which purchased the land with money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Balcones National Wildlife Refuge was specifically created in 1992 to conserve the habitat of endangered songbirds that migrate annually to the area from Mexico and Central America. Both the Golden-Cheeked Warbler and the Black-Capped Vireo are listed as endangered species, largely due to a loss of Central Texas habitat resulting from residential and commercial development. — C.S.

▶ City Council approved a resolution last Thursday to adopt a **Community Preservation and Revitalization Zone Program** for a large section of East Austin. Council members Raul Alvarez and Danny Thomas were behind the resolution as well as the program itself, which would offer property tax rebates to businesses that locate in the area between I-35, Manor Road, Riverside Drive, and U.S. 183. The area's poverty and unemployment rates are about twice as high as those of the city as a whole, Alvarez said, so the program's rebates would be partially linked to job creation within the zone, and to the amount of new commercial space within the zone being developed. The city has held several public hearings over the past few months in order to receive input from revitalization-zone residents, among others, on the plan. The resolution, which passed 7-0, directs City Manager Toby Futrell to report back to council in 90 days on affordable housing and small business development strategies for the revitalization-zone area. — C.S.

▶ **Ron Oliveira** didn't stay out of the TV news game for long. Two months after leaving KVUE, Oliveira, 49, one of the most recognizable faces on local television, has signed up with CBS affiliate KEYE, where he will join former KVUE anchors Fred Cantú and Judy Maggio in an all-star lineup of veteran local news readers. "To make a championship team, you need great players, and adding Ron gives us the opportunity to win championships," said KEYE general manager Mike Reed. Oliveira likely won't appear on the air for KEYE until March 2006, due to a one-year no-compete clause in his KVUE contract, although stranger things have happened in the TV news game. No-compete clauses are often challenged. It's also unclear what his role will be, considering Cantú and Maggio currently team for the main newscasts. There is speculation that Cantú may be moved to mornings, where he was successful at KVUE. "Right now we don't know what the configuration will be," Reed said. — Kevin Brass

▶ AISD Superintendent Pat Forgione offered a compromise to the debate over whether the **prevailing wage scale** the district adopts for contracted workers on bond-funded construction projects should include money for benefits. Forgione proposed the district spend \$9.8 million of the bond's \$50 million contingency fund to pay an extra \$1.36 to every worker, which they could use to buy a basic HMO package. The survey of wages and benefits the district used to put together the wage scale — but which they now say could eat up most or all of the contingency fund and potentially cause the district to run out of money with schools unfinished — included much higher benefit packages, however, so several workers were skeptical of the \$1.36 figure. "I'm not sure what type of coverage it will buy," said electrician David Abramson. His health insurance, to cover his whole family, works out to \$3.65 an hour. Ironworker Ira Crofford said benefits should mean more than just health insurance, like apprenticeship programs that teach high school grads skilled trades. "To heck with that kid who didn't go to college, that's what Dr. Forgione said tonight," Crofford said. — Rachel Proctor May

▶ The **Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District** has hired Kirk Holland as its new general manager and chief operating officer. The Austinite is a professional hydrogeologist, environmental scientist, and management specialist who was associated with the environmental services company Radian International for 24 years, 15 as a corporate vice-president. He holds a B.S. in geology from the University of Tennessee and a masters from UT, specializing in the karst geology typical of the Texas Hill Country. — L.N.

▶ In a fairly anticlimactic moment, the City Council authorized staff to "negotiate" (but not yet execute) contracts covering the sale of **Block 21** and the hiring of a development team to work with the city on the transformation of the **Seaholm** tract, both part of the Second Street revitalization plan (rechristened here by Council Member Brewster McCracken as Austin's potential answer to San Francisco's "Embarcadero District"). As anticipated, Block 21 will go to a team led by Stratus Corp., which offered \$15 million (\$6 million higher than any of the competing teams), although the price drops to \$10 million if a subsidized nonprofit entity is included in the plans, as the city prefers. The Seaholm project went to the Seaholm Power group, headed by Southwest Strategies — both projects will return to the council after further work between the bidders and city staff. — Michael King

▶ In the unofficial opening of the budget process, city staff delivered a preliminary budget forecast to the City Council last Thursday, sounding generally optimistic about rising income from sales and property taxes, less so about certain "cost drivers" such as public safety expenses and increases in employee wages and health insurance. The city manager expects to propose an initial budget still several million in the red, but with hopes of being able to find funds to restore some of the previously reduced library hours as well as certain social services. — M.K.

## Happenings

▶ On Friday, May 6, a conference will be held at UT, 9am-4pm, on race and politics in Britain and the U.S. — **Diasporic Dialogues: Race and Politics Across the Black Atlantic**. Caryl Phillips, Gary Younge, and Jayne Ifekwunigwe are the featured guests. The conference is being held at the Moncrief-Neuhaus Athletics Center (immediately south of Royal-Memorial Stadium), Rm. 1.210. 471-4413 or [www.thirdcoastactivist.org](http://www.thirdcoastactivist.org) for more info.

▶ A community forum, **Viviendo Saludablemente (Healthy Living)**, will be held Saturday, May 7, 11:30am-3pm in conjunction with the Cinco de Mayo music festival at the Fiesta Gardens Plaza, 2101 Bergman Avenue. Free and open to the public. Mr. Natural will offer an assortment of free, healthy snacks; the UT Health Sciences Center at San Antonio will conduct activities for children; the Austin Health Connection will offer free health screenings for blood sugar, blood pressure, and pregnancy, as well as childhood immunizations (parent or guardian must be present with an immunization card); and the Clinical Laboratory Science Program of Texas State University and Austin Community College will offer screenings for anemia. Call 237-9547 for more info.

▶ It's **Cover the Uninsured Week!** (And Women's Health Week and National Foster Care Month!) Health care advocates and medical professionals have spent the week fundraising, praying, and caring for our uninsured brothers and sisters. On Saturday, Seton Healthcare Network's Insure-a-Kid staff will conduct free health care eligibility screenings for uninsured families who may be able to get medical assistance or join another type of health insurance program. "Here in Texas, 5.4 million people are without adequate health care coverage," said Sister Helen Brewer, a Seton advocacy consultant. "It is our hope that this week will give us the opportunity to not only raise awareness of the issue ... but also to build support for finding solutions to this problem." The screenings are 10am-2pm at Fiesta Mart at 38th and I-35. 324-2447 for more info.

▶ Tom Mast, author of **Over a Barrel: A Simple Guide to the Oil Shortage**, will talk about why alternatives to oil are so important — May 7, 2pm at Barnes & Noble Round Rock, I-35 and FM 1325. 600-0114 or [www.overabarrelbook.com](http://www.overabarrelbook.com) for more info.

▶ Spiritual and financial supporters of **People's Community Clinic** will celebrate the clinic's 35 years of service at a fundraiser/luncheon on Monday, May 9, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, 9721 Arboretum Blvd. The clinic, one of the oldest independent facilities of its kind in the nation, provides health care to low-income and uninsured children and adults. *Texas Monthly* Editor Evan Smith will emcee the event; Austin writer Sarah Bird will offer a former patient's perspective; former Mayor Kirk Watson will deliver the keynote address, and Clarke Heidrick, chair of the Travis Co. Hospital District Board of Managers, will present the 2005 W. Neal Kocurek Award for Healthcare Advocacy. Tickets are \$100. 322-5135 x610 or [www.pccclinic.org](http://www.pccclinic.org) for more info.

# Should you be concerned about a Rock Quarry in North Hays County?



Not if you don't care about...

- **DIESEL FUEL** in Barton Springs
- **NITRATES** in Barton Springs
- **SEDIMENTS** clogging the recharge channels for Barton Springs

**If** you do care, then you need to be aware of the fact that KBDJ is currently operating a rock quarry directly over the recharge channels in Northern Hays Co. that the City of Austin and private land holders spent \$26 million to protect. This quarry can potentially expose the aquifer to fuel spills and nitrates from its daily operation.

**Support the organizations financially that are fighting KBDJ and trying to protect our environment by contributing to:**

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P.O. Box 506  
Buda, Texas 78610**

Contact your city and state officials and voice your concerns. Donate your time and skills to help fight for the environment. **After all, its your water that needs to be protected.**



[www.StopTheCrusher.com](http://www.StopTheCrusher.com)

# FULL CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE: HERE COMES LATE MONEY

Early last Thursday, April 28, in a brief and emotional statement delivered in front of his Wilshire Woods home, Place 1 candidate **Lee Leffingwell** announced that he will remain in the City Council race and serve if elected, following a week's hiatus after the April 22 suicide of his wife, **Mary Lou McLain**. "My wife, a nurse and a passionate health care advocate, was devoted to serving others," Leffingwell said. "I know in my heart that she would not be pleased if I ended my work to make a difference in our community." Since the campaign is nearly over (election day is Saturday, May 7), there will be few remaining public appearances, and campaign spokesman **Mark Nathan** said he expected most of the remaining work would belong to volunteers and supporters. Leffingwell remains the heavy favorite in the race. "If I am fortunate enough to be elected by the voters," he concluded, "I will serve in honor of [Mary Lou's] memory." (For the full statement, see [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).)

This week, Leffingwell may have had reason to regret his decision, as the following days have been filled with charges and countercharges concerning alleged campaign finance violations and hoodwinking the voters – charges touching in one way or another on several of the major candidates, including Leffingwell.

Most prominently, Place 4 challenger **Wes Benedict** has maintained a steady drumbeat of accusations against incumbent **Betty Dunkerley**, charging that her campaign filings have been inaccurate stretching back to her 2002 race against Beverly Griffith (and others), and that she has accepted over-the-limit contributions, and too much money from nonresidents. On Tuesday, Nathan, who is also Dunkerley's spokesman, said that only a single check of \$100 had to be returned, and that the campaign is systematically attempting to confirm residential addresses for donors who may or may not live within Austin city limits.

On Friday, the campaigns and PACs filed their "eight-days-out" reports with the city clerk, and the reports raised a whole new series of questions – and at least one lawsuit. On Monday, Benedict filed suit against the **Real Estate Council of Austin Good Government PAC** and the **Austin Police Association PAC**, "for failing to disclose contributions and expenditures, for making campaign expenditures in the name of another, and for violating the City of Austin campaign contribution limits." His charges reach back to the 2003 election cycle – when RECA's PAC directly contributed late money to the APA PAC, which spent it to support **Brewster McCracken** in his run-off against **Margot Clarke** – and across the current board to Dunkerley, Leffingwell, and Place 3's **Gregg Knaupe**, all of whom are being promoted by the APA. This time, Benedict's lawsuit charges, "RECA-PAC is bundling the contributions of its officers and directors to the APA-PAC, to disguise RECA's involvement with APA's ads in favor of [Dunkerley]." Benedict's charges are being echoed to a degree by other campaigns, notably Clarke's – Clarke spokesman **Elliott McFadden** commented, "What they're doing is legal, but it seems disingenuous to pretend that the support is coming from the Police Association, when in fact it's coming from RECA." More bluntly, the Clarke campaign's latest fundraising e-mail asks, "Why are the special interests of big developers hiding behind a badge?"

Indeed, the APA's latest filing, which lists more than \$25,000 in new contributions, is virtually a roster of RECA's executive committee, marked by such prominent names as Jackson Walker lawyer **Tim Taylor** (\$1,000), Cencor Urban's **Tom Terkel** (\$500), Cypress Realty's **Steve Clark** (\$1,500), Endeavor Real Estate Group's **Kirk Rudy** (\$250), and a host of other names associated with major corporate or development interests, including a couple of direct corporate contributions – development consultants **Bury Partners** (\$1,500) and **Carter**



JOHN ANDERSON

Wes Benedict (l) and Sal Costello announce their lawsuit against incumbent Betty Dunkerley over alleged campaign finance violations.

**& Burgess Inc. PAC** (\$500). These are all no doubt distinguished citizens, but hardly the first names that leap to mind as notable defenders of the Thin Blue Line. Moreover, the APA's filing failed to list occupations for any of these donors, as is required by state law. (In a related mystery, the **Austin/Travis Co. EMS Employee Association PAC** – which is supporting the same candidates as the APA – reported a \$20,546 expenditure sourced to no donation, saying it's not required to report the contribution until after the election, a curious way to balance the political books.)

In addition, although some campaign scuttlebutt contends that the \$100 limit does not apply to noncandidate PACs – a contention twice reported flatly as fact in this week's *Statesman* – it's difficult to square that interpretation with the plain sense of Article III, Sec. 8(l) of the City Charter, governing noncandidate committees: "No political committee ... shall accept contributions in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) per calendar year per contributor, or from a source other than natural persons." (That provision provides another basis of the Benedict lawsuit.)

Speaking for RECA, **Chuck McDonald** issued a statement strongly rejecting Benedict's lawsuit as a "desperate political ploy" and pointing out that "RECA" had not in fact contributed anything to APA – rather, only Austinites who happen to be RECA members. McDonald continued, "Frankly, our organization cannot understand the criticism of individual members of the business community who have exercised their constitutional rights by legally contributing to and supporting individuals and organizations involved in the political process."

APA President **Mike Sheffield** rejects any notion that the APA's campaign efforts are in any way "tarnished by association with [RECA] folks," adding that he thinks the argument represents an outdated version of Austin's old developer-environmentalist political battles. "I've known most of these folks for years, and it's a democratic system open to everyone to participate," he said. "Some are participating by supporting public safety, through our committee. If we were supporting some clearly pro-development candidate, maybe I could

understand the argument. ... But people like the message that we have – we want a safe Austin and a better Austin." He points out, moreover, that the APA's endorsements were internal association decisions and preceded the RECA-related donations by weeks or months – "so they could hardly be determining or controlling what we've done."

The public safety PACs are acting independently of the campaigns, but spokesmen for Leffingwell, Knaupe, and Dunkerley also rejected Benedict's charges. To the extent that they affect the Place 3 race, Knaupe spokesman **Mark Littlefield** dismissed the claims as sour grapes – "Back in January, all four campaigns were fighting for those [public safety organization] endorsements, and the APA and the others would be raising and spending money to support whomever they chose. We got it, they didn't. ... I'm disappointed they would try to taint the support of police officers with these charges." While the Austin campaign finance law tends to give independent PACs "free rein to do whatever they want to do," said Leffingwell and Dunkerley spokesman Nathan, "we're honored to be endorsed by the police, the EMS, and the firefighters." He also suggested that Benedict should look to his own house, in the wake of charges that the **Austin Toll Party's People for Efficient Transportation PAC** has made in-kind contributions to its endorsed candidates (Clarke, Benedict, and **Casey Walker** in Place 1) in excess of the \$100 limit. "I'm taken aback by the hypocrisy of Wes Benedict and the Toll Party," Nathan said. "They paid thousands of dollars for the petition signatures that created their mailing lists, and they paid [petition campaign chair] **Linda Curtis** as well, and now they say the list is worth less than \$100. Yet they're hell-bent to charge other campaigns with doing something sinister."

On that note, also this week the Clarke campaign posted a corrected filing, recording that it is rejecting the \$91.67 in-kind contribution from PETPAC and will pay "fair-market value" for its one-third portion instead. McFadden said the campaign is calculating its share as a third of an industry standard \$25 per thousand names, or \$188.

– Michael King

## THE ENDORSEMENT ROUNDUP

Here's an update of City Council campaign endorsements that for one reason or another haven't made it into the *Chronicle* yet:

In Place 1, Bicycle Austin has endorsed **Steven Adams**. The Black Women's Political Caucus, the Travis Co. Green Party, La Coalición de Huelguistas Chicanos de Austin, Latinos for Texas, and *The Villager* have endorsed **Andrew Bucknall**. And on top of his People for Efficient Transportation PAC (Austin Toll Party) endorsement, **Casey Walker** has received backing from Independent Texans and AustinVoter.com. For a complete list of **Lee Leffingwell's** endorsements, see [www.leeffingwell.com](http://www.leeffingwell.com). **James Paine** and **Scott Williams** have no endorsements.

In Place 3, **Margot Clarke** has received backing from Latinos for Texas and Bicycle Austin, *The Daily Texan* has endorsed **Mandy Dealey**, and the Austin Apartment Association has endorsed **Jennifer Kim**. (See [www.margotclarke.com](http://www.margotclarke.com), [www.mandydealey.com](http://www.mandydealey.com), and [www.kimforaustin.com](http://www.kimforaustin.com) for complete lists.) To view **Gregg Knaupe's** endorsements, see [www.greggknaupe.com](http://www.greggknaupe.com).

In Place 4, the Travis Co. Libertarian Party and Travis Co. Green Party have endorsed **Wes Benedict**, as has PETPAC (Austin Toll Party). **Jennifer Gale**, **Phillip Byron Miller**, and **John Wickham** have no endorsements. For **Betty Dunkerley's** endorsements, see [www.keepbetty.com](http://www.keepbetty.com).

– Cheryl Smith



**MANDY DEALEY  
HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:**  
*The Austin Chronicle*  
 Austin Women's Political Caucus  
 Austin Lesbian & Gay Political Caucus  
*The Daily Texan*  
 South Austin Tejano Democrats  
 University Democrats

**A VETERAN ADVOCATE  
FOR HEALTH CARE:**  
 City of Austin/Travis County Indigent  
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 Council and Resource Council  
 Mental Health Association of Austin, past  
 Board Chair  
 Planned Parenthood of Austin, Executive  
 Committee  
 Planned Parenthood Federation of  
 America, Board of Directors

***The Austin Chronicle* calls Mandy's vision a "clear one for the city to follow."**

Vote for Mandy Dealey this Saturday, May 7th.  
 For more information,  
 visit [www.MandyDealey.com](http://www.MandyDealey.com) or call 482-0577.

**Mandy  
Dealey**

**for  
Austin City  
Council**

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Mandy Dealey Campaign, P.O. Box 13152, Austin, TX 78711-3152.  
 MariBen Ramsey, Treasurer. This campaign has not agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure  
 limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Ordinance, which means that the campaign will accept no public funds.

# We're Raising Our Voices For a Smoke-Free Austin.



Marcia Ball

**A Smoke-Free Austin will protect the health  
of performers, customers, and employees.**

**Join us in voting for a strong smoke-  
free ordinance this Saturday, May 7.**



Sara Hickman

**Because everyone has the right to breathe clean air.**



Political Advertisement Paid by the Onward Austin Campaign, PO Box 149100, Austin, TX 78714-9100. Rodney Ahart, Treasurer.

# SOME BARS CROSS THE SMOKING LINE

As the May 7 city election approaches, more of Austin's bar and restaurant owners are entering the dialogue surrounding whether to enact a citywide **smoking ban**. Although **Keep Austin Free**, the group of business owners and citizens against the ban, has been steadily adding supporters to their roll call, a few local proprietors and even a barkeep have publicly broken ranks and thrown their support in favor of the ban. Their opinions, in some ways, clash with several of the most repeated anti-ban arguments – especially the ones surrounding economic uncertainties.

**Reed Clemmons**, owner of the **Bitter End Brewery & Bistro**, the **B-Side bar**, **Mezzaluna**, and **Reed's Jazz & Supper Club**, has for months been vocally in favor of the smoking ban for the very same reason many of his Keep Austin Free counterparts oppose it: economic impact. Only one of Clemmons' businesses is eligible for a smoking permit under the current smoking ordinance, which states that businesses generating more than 70% of their overall revenue from food must be designated nonsmoking, unless they install an elaborate and costly ventilation and partition system. Many full-ban opponents argue that the city hasn't given the 2003 ordinance ample time to do its job. But Clemmons says he's had enough of the current ordinance, claiming its unfair financial strain on his businesses. "The big push in the media has been in favor of keeping the current smoking ordinance, the majority [of reporting] coming from live music venues. But no one has brought up certain restaurants at a disadvantage



Reed Clemmons, owner of several bars and restaurants, supports the smoking ban.

JOHN ANDERSON

because of the current ordinance," Clemmons says.

"I'm a businessman. If it were up to me, bars and restaurants would make their own decisions whether to allow smoking and let the market dictate, but with the knowledge that [smoking] ordinances are only going to get tougher, I want to make sure I'm on a level playing field with neighboring bars, especially those with food service." In the Warehouse District alone, Clemmons said, there are five bars with smoking permits serving food. "Since the 2003 ordinance, my happy hours at the Bitter End and Mezzaluna are down 30 to 40 percent." Ironically, he said he lost his best customer – a prominent businessman known to spend \$100 per day on wine alone – after the '03 ordinance took effect to **219 West**, which has a smoking permit and is the nearby restaurant of Keep Austin Free spokesman **Paul Silver**.

Around the corner from Bitter End and 219 West sits **Tambaleo**, another popular Warehouse District destination. Owner **T.C. Leshikar** isn't worried about economic tur-

moil, nor is he worried about the musicians who frequent his stage. Leshikar already has a smoking permit, but has come out publicly in favor of the ban, reassuring fellow owners that a citywide ban in Austin won't create the kind of devastation that's frequently predicted. "Bar owners are not really seeing the big picture or the actual facts; they are succumbing to what they're being told," he said. "I'm definitely for the ban and by no means will it hurt business."

Leshikar bases his conclusions on research he's done in New York City and other full-ban towns. "There will be an initial drop-off, but no one's going to stop going out," he said. After talking to his patrons, he said many guests told him they were social smokers anyway, and not only would a smoking ban not be a nightlife deal breaker, it may even help them kick the habit. "A lot of people said, 'If I couldn't smoke when I drink, I'd probably quit smoking.'" Leshikar said he's amazed that a city as health conscious as Austin is having such a problem with a smoking ban, especially after New York and L.A. did it.

**Thomas Villarreal**, who tends bar at **Paradise** on Sixth Street, welcomes the idea of a smoke-free workplace, noting that few people in his business have a smoke-free option. Bartending jobs are scarce, he says: "It's tough to break into the industry down there unless you know somebody. The money is really good working in bars downtown, and once you're there, it's hard to leave it behind." A UT sophomore, Villarreal, like many college students, works his way through school as a bartender because the hours coincide with his class schedule. But he says he dislikes working around smoke and the way it permeates everything from the shirt on his back to all the clothes in his closet. Paradise co-owner **Frank Salinas** says he wouldn't mind going smoke-free, either, as long as the other bars were doing it. "If everybody else is nonsmoking, it'll be all right. It's a strange bird, but that's the only way I'll stay in business."

Other business owners don't buy the level playing field argument, however. "If bans really didn't hurt businesses and there are these throngs of nonsmokers that **Onward Austin** says will come out, then Reed Clemmons' places should be doing great business," said **John Wickham**, owner of the **Elysium** and a member of Keep Austin Free. The level playing field rationale is nothing more than a crutch Onward Austin uses to counter the argument that situations like the ones at the Bitter End and Mezzaluna are the hurtful product of the current smoking ordinance, Wickham said. And so goes the reasoning, "Reed has been victimized. So to be fair, we want to victimize everyone."

If banning smoking does indeed end up hurting some Austin businesses, there's always old San Antonio. Wickham said he and a few other club owners have received letters from San Antonio property owners and developers offering incentives to transplant their businesses. – *Daniel Mottola*

## EmanciPet Pawing Around for Critters to Fix

Tucked behind the Southeast Austin complex that once housed the Texas School for the Deaf is a building with a blocky stencil of a dog over the door. The dog wears a beret, à la Che Guevara. This is the new headquarters of **EmanciPet**, which since 1999 has been "liberating" Austin animals from the threat of euthanasia by offering low-cost spays and neuters from the back of a tricked-out van. Thanks to a \$1-a-year lease from the city, they have 3,000 square feet of space, a kitchen, and laundry facilities, as well as plans for up to five veterinarians fixing 150 dogs and cats a day. Now they just need some animals.

Veterinarian **Ellen Jefferson**, who launched EmanciPet in 1999 when she was two years out of vet school, stood on a recent afternoon beside a board listing the day's patients. It was full: Sasha, Bailey, Shadow, Kit Kat, and a couple dozen others. But Jefferson wasn't satisfied. "Today looks awesome, but that's misleading," she said. The day before, for example, the clinic had only five appointments, and had to close for the day. "I know the animals are out there," she said, as a couple of vet techs staggered by with an unconscious, 76-pound Great Pyrenees mix, fresh from surgery. "It's just a matter of finding them."

You wouldn't think it would be so hard in a city with a pet overpopulation problem like Austin's. While the city-run **Town Lake Animal Center** finds homes for close to 10,000 pets each year, it also euthanizes about 20,000. That's a number that no one likes, but one that'll be hard to dent as long as people's pets are still churning out litters. That's where cheap spays and neuters come in. While EmanciPet has done about 7,000 surgeries a year for the



EmanciPet volunteers work on Rover.

JOHN ANDERSON

last five years, the number of animals turned over to TLAC has declined 20%. Jefferson figures that if EmanciPet quadruples the number of animals they fix, Austin could be virtually kill-free in two years. "The idea is, let's just do it, get the problem solved, and put ourselves out of business," she said.

But first, they have to find those animals. EmanciPet faces two major problems. First, the main clientele for the mobile clinic was low-income Austinites who paid for their pets' surgeries with city-funded vouchers. To bring in 100-plus animals a day, EmanciPet needs to build a new clientele who will pay the \$22 to \$36 fees themselves. Plus, the location is a bit off the beaten track, located at the Lavender Loop, where Airport Boulevard and Highway 183 come together in Southeast Austin. To publicize the site, they plan to hold dog-friendly events on the grounds of the old school (which is slated to be bulldozed for a new facility to replace the Town Lake Animal Center in 2009 anyway), like a film screening and canine social event the **Austin Film Festival** will hold in June. "It's going to be a weird mix of art and film and dogs," Jefferson said. "It'll be cool."

Despite the challenges, **Missy McCullough** of **Animal Trustees of Austin**, the other low-cost spay/neuter clinic in town, is confident EmanciPet will find its footing. ATA has a four-month waiting list for surgeries, but McCullough remembers when they weren't so busy. "The first couple years were a struggle," she said. Still, she added, "We could probably have 10 places like this, and not take care of everyone. We absolutely welcome EmanciPet and are thrilled they're here." – *Rachel Proctor May*



# City Design Standards Get a Public Hearing

A proposed set of **design standards** for Austin's commercial strips, two years in the works, got its first public hearing at City Council Thursday. Responses were, of course, mixed. Council Member **Brewster McCracken**, who has steered the good ship *Make Austin Pretty* for the last two years, began by explaining the point of the whole effort. Most of Austin's commercial zones are ugly, McCracken said: interchangeable, unwalkable acres of strip malls and parking lots, littered with big, boxy signs. A design standards ordinance would encourage new developments to hide their parking lots, create unique architecture, lighten up on the corporate logos, and build denser, more walkable shopping districts that will encourage alternative transportation, fight sprawl, and look nifty to boot.

"People want a sense of place," he said. "I think what we all know is that the development patterns in our community don't give us that any more."

Nevertheless, months of stakeholder meetings haven't smoothed out all the sticky spots. Of particular issue is what implementing the ordinance will cost businesses. Several members of the sign industry showed up to object to harsh disincentives against pole signs, which they say are necessary to bring people into roadside businesses. In response, McCracken pointed out that other local communities like Westlake and Buda have banned them, but folks are still somehow finding their way to their Whoppers and Go-Go Taquitos. Similarly, **Mary Anne Dosier** argued that the ordinance would hurt her family's "unique, family-owned Austin business, which happens to benefit from the tools that were given to us by national franchise agreements" – that is, their Taco Bell franchise. Dosier's beef was with disincen-

tives against branded architecture. "We love Austin. We want Austin to be beautiful. And we want to continue to develop our business and our employees in Austin," she said. "But we need to keep our brand name and the elements of our brand on the building to identify to our customers who we are and where we are."

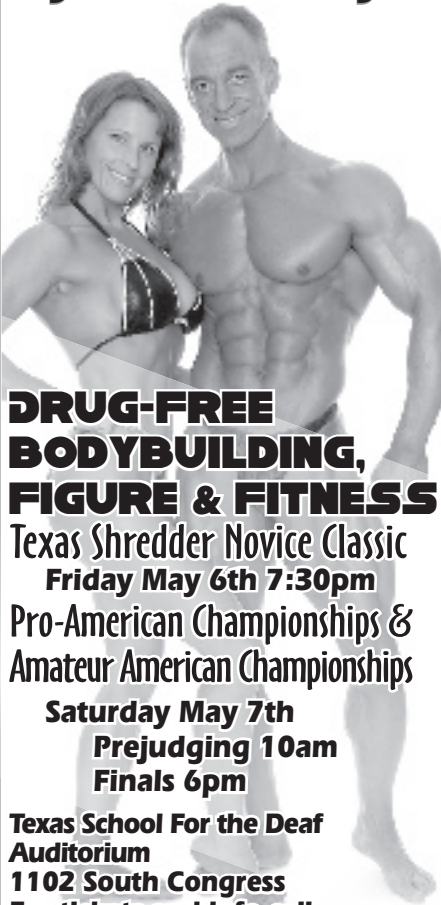
The discussion also touched possible unintended consequences of the ordinance. For example, developer **Tom Terkel** pointed out that the new, pride-of-downtown City Hall would actually be illegal under the current draft of the standards. Say what? The ordinance, he explained, would require downtown buildings to be located within 15 feet of the street – the idea being that storefront parking lots discourage walkability. City Hall's south plaza exceeds the 15-foot limit, and the draft standards allow no exceptions, not even for virtuous public spaces replete with native plants and tastefully arranged boulders.

Glitches notwithstanding, the ordinance received support from such groups as the **Downtown Austin Alliance** and **Liveable City**. "I believe that the standards should be stronger, and in particular that the more stringent standards should apply to a far larger part of the city," said **Cathy Echols** of Liveable City. "But I'm supporting the standards as a truly significant first step in improving the character of the community."

The Council voted to pass the draft standards on to the city manager to start working on official language, and to put together an economic-impact study so businesses large and small will know what all the ribbons and bows might cost. The council will revisit the two remaining sticky areas – development orientation and building design – in two weeks.

– Rachel Proctor May

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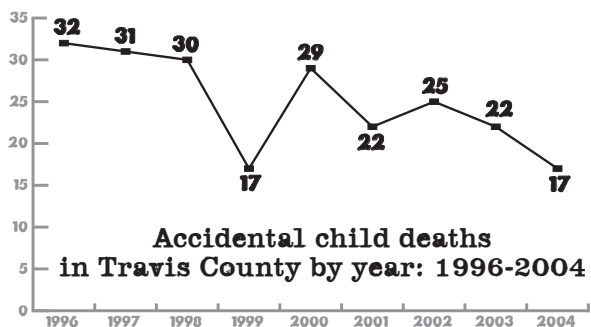
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## TRAVIS CO. CHILD FATALITIES DOWN IN 2004, REPORT SAYS

Child fatalities in Travis County dropped 12% from 2003 to 2004, according to a new report by the county's **Child Fatality Review Team** – 123 children died in 2004, down from 140 in 2003. That's "the lowest number since 2000 but only slightly below the average annual total [127] over the last nine years," according to a Travis Co. Center for Child Protection press release. Some other CFRT report findings:



- Most of last year's child fatalities (100) were the result of natural causes. The report identifies prenatal care as an effective way to prevent such deaths.
- Motor vehicle accidents caused the most accidental child deaths in 2004. Of the 10 children killed in such accidents, seven died in automobiles, two in a small airplane accident, and one in an auto-pedestrian collision. Most of the children who died in automobile accidents were riding unrestrained or unprotected.
- Five infants died from asphyxia caused by unsafe sleeping environments; four died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

- Five children were victims of homicide.
- African-American children are at greater risk of death than other local children. African-Americans made up 12% of the county's child population, yet they comprised 22% of all 2004 child fatalities.

The CFRT report's intention is to provide a basis for government policy regarding child safety and to educate the community about child safety patterns and trends. See [www.centerforchildprotection.org](http://www.centerforchildprotection.org) for the full report.

– Jay Trachtenberg

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# PEPSI BRINGS UNION FIGHT TO CITY COUNCIL

A two-year labor dispute might make Pepsi look a lot less sweet to City Council, which has been mulling over the nail-biter of a decision regarding which soft drink vendor should get the city's exclusive vending machine contract. Labor representatives attended the council's vending machine discussion to urge them to use the city's clout to pressure the **Pepsi Bottling Group** to bargain in good faith with its workers. "We don't want our tax dollars being offered in an exclusive arrangement to a company that is dealing in bad faith with Austin workers and Austin citizens," said **Louis Malfaro** of the **Central Labor Council**.

The saga began in November 2002, when a majority of the roughly 70 blue-collar employees at the Pepsi Bottling Group's Austin office – the folks who deliver the soda, fix the machines, and work in the warehouse – voted to join the Teamsters. (About 100 other employees remain non-unionized.) The workers decided to organize when PBG suddenly changed the drivers' pay scale from an hourly rate to a commission system, which the workers say resulted in a pay cut of around \$7,000 for the same amount of work. (PBG spokeswoman **Kelly McAndrew** says the pay scale is a way to "incent" workers and give them the opportunity to earn more money.)

After employees form a union, the typical next step is to sit down with management and bargain a contract. Even though Pepsi employees in many other states have union contracts, the workers say PBG in Austin has refused to negotiate with them. They describe management blowing off scheduled meetings as well as refusing to "bargain" beyond offering again and again a



JOHN ANDERSON

Labor representatives have picketed local Pepsi offices recently. They want the city to use its clout – via its exclusive vending contract – to pressure Pepsi to bargain in good faith.

contract the unions find unacceptable. "They don't ever come back with any counter offers," said **Gary Whiteknight**, a technician who has served on the negotiating committee. "They've had one offer on the table, and they will reject everything the Teamsters throw at them."

The workers believe PBG is trying to stall until the workers get fed up with the union and vote to disband, or "decertify." (Indeed, PBG's manager **Jim Head** told City Council that some workers had already made the move to decertify.) After all, as the months drag by with no contract materializing, it's logical that some workers may want to throw in the towel – especially when, as the workers allege, management uses the lack of a contract to withhold pay increases that nonunion employees at other PBG locations are getting. "Their strategy is delay, dishearten, and discourage. Wear us down, wear us out, and we'll go away," Whiteknight said. "I'm sure Pepsi is amazed that we're still out there."

According to **Andy Levin** of the national **AFL-CIO**, it's a strategy that works. Nationwide, about a third of the time that workers vote to form a union, they never reach a contract. "This is so much par for the

course, it's sad," he said. "Even when you go through the process, you haven't won anything, because the employer won't negotiate." Levin says employers are able to drag out negotiations indefinitely, because very few consequences exist. Typically, he said, an employer who is found to be negotiating in bad faith is simply ordered back to the bargaining table, and told to play nice this time.

McAndrew insists Pepsi is bargaining in good faith. "There's nothing we're reluctant to agree to," she said, adding, "Every year, PBG successfully ratifies dozens of contracts." However, the **National Labor Relations Board**, sort of a court system for arbitrating labor law disputes between unions and management, has filed five complaints against PBG in Austin, and has two more pending investigations. A "complaint" is akin to having a grand jury decide there is cause to indict – it means the NLRB has decided that the union's charges that PBG is bargaining in bad faith are substantive. As part of the settlement, PBG had to post in the workplace a list of "we wills" and "we will nots" addressing the charges in the complaint: We will not withhold pay increases or promotions based on

employees' union activity, we will bargain in good faith, and about a dozen other promises of good behavior.

McAndrew says that's all water under the bridge. "Those were months and months ago," she said. "Those aren't even an issue. That was last summer. I don't see what relevance that could possibly have in April 2005."

The relevance, says labor, is that PBG is still stalling. In the City Council discussion, Malfaro presented an April 5 memo given to workers attempting to organize at a Pepsi plant in Modesto, Calif. Urging workers to "Just say no to Local 386," it warns that collective bargaining can result in deadlock, citing the Austin impasse as evidence. It also warns that workers can come out of collective bargaining with less than they had before. McAndrew says the "just say no" document was simply a response to workers' questions about what guarantees unions could provide. To Council Member **Daryl Slusher**, however, it raises questions about PBG's intentions, both in Modesto and in Austin. "It could be perceived as a threat to take away workers' pay and benefits if they're associated with the union or if they get behind the union," Slusher said. "That would certainly not be the first time that's happened in the United States or in Texas, but since I'm sitting up here voting on whether to give an exclusive contract to this company, those kinds of practices would concern me greatly."

The council voted to postpone the exclusive vending decision to May 26 to give PBG and the workers more time to reach a contract.   
– Rachel Proctor May

## Convicted Yogurt Shop Murderer Files Appeal

Lawyers for convicted yogurt shop murderer **Michael Scott** last week filed a motion with the Third Court of Appeals, asking that the full court review the three-judge panel's March decision to uphold Scott's conviction in the murder of 13-year-old **Amy Ayers**, one of four teen girls found murdered on Dec. 6, 1991, inside a North Austin yogurt shop. Indictments in the quadruple murder were not brought until eight years later, when the state announced it had hard evidence against four men: **Robert Springsteen** was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death in 2001; Scott was convicted in 2002 and sentenced to life in prison. A third defendant, **Maurice Pierce**, remained in jail until 2003, when District Attorney **Ronnie Earle** dismissed the charges against him, citing insufficient evidence to secure a conviction. The case against the fourth defendant, **Forrest Welborn**, was dropped in 1999 after two grand juries failed to indict him.

The state's case against the four relied heavily on "confessions" that Springsteen and Scott made to Austin police during separate interview sessions in 1999. During those interviews, each man incriminated himself, and the other, as actors in the crime. Although Springsteen and

Scott were tried separately, at each trial prosecutors offered jurors salient portions of the nontestifying defendant's confession, in an effort to corroborate the state's theory of the crime. However, neither defendant could be compelled to testify, and face cross-examination, at the other's trial – that would have violated their Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights. In the end, District Judge **Mike Lynch** allowed the state to introduce portions of the nontestifying defendant's confession – but only those portions during which the defendant incriminated *himself*. That decision satisfied prosecutors, who argue that the arrangement legally circumvents the confrontation clause.

Citing last year's Supreme Court ruling in a case styled *Crawford v. Washington*, the Third Court disagreed with the state, ruling that Scott's Sixth Amendment right to cross-examine Springsteen was violated when the trial court allowed the confession into evidence. In *Crawford*, the court ruled that "[w]here testimonial statements are at issue, the only indicium of reliability sufficient to satisfy constitutional demands is the one the Constitution actually prescribes: confrontation." According to the Third Court, prosecutors were wrong in arguing that the *Crawford* deci-

sion did not apply to the Scott's trial. "[T]he State's labored effort to define a ... statement in terms of what is said ignores *Crawford's* teaching," the court opined. "We believe that *Crawford* means what it says." Nonetheless, the court found that the constitutional violation did not "harm" Scott because the "error did not contribute to the conviction," which "turned on whether the jury believed or disbelieved his statements to the police."

The court also wrote, however, that it "would not hesitate to reverse this conviction if Springsteen's statement were the only corroboration of Scott's statements to police." That caveat is encouraging to Springsteen's attorney, **Mary Kay Sicola**, who notes that there is a dearth of corroborating evidence against her client, whose appeal turns on the same Sixth Amendment challenge. Unlike Scott, Springsteen's statements were less revealing and he did not give police a signed statement, Sicola said. Although Springsteen's appeal was filed more than a year before Scott's, the Court of Criminal Appeals, which considers all death row appeals, has yet to rule on his case.

– Jordan Smith

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# NO STINKIN' ETHICS

THE USUAL LEGE SUSPECTS EXTERMINATE THE LATEST ATTEMPT AT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BY AMY SMITH

How is it that, whenever the political talk turns to ethics, Republicans are always the "victims"?

Last week, House Speaker Tom Craddick, of all people, was "victimized" by a powerless minority that had tried to rescue an ethics bill from an unfriendly committee and shuttle it onto the House floor for debate. It was a futile attempt, of course, because Craddick had already ensured that House Bill 1348 – despite having broad bipartisan support – would die in the Elections Committee, where the votes were stacked against it.

The bill, which boasted 93 cosponsors (not all of whom necessarily wanted the bill to reach the floor for an actual vote), would have tightened regulations banning corporate dollars in political campaigns and clamped down on last-minute attack ads paid for by secret donors. In other words, the legislation would have prohibited the very tactics that were used to pull off the GOP upset in the 2002 state elections. Craddick benefited enormously from those tactics then, as did Elections Committee

Chair Mary Denny, R-Aubrey, and two other committee members.

The corporate-funded sweep touched off a three-year criminal probe that has so far led to the indictments of three associates of U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay – himself a "victim" of alleged ethics violations.

Here in Texas, the leadership's line of thought is that we don't need no stinkin' ethics bill like HB 1348. A related line of thought – not necessarily held by the same people – holds that the bill would have made matters worse for Craddick and others at the center of a criminal probe or civil litigation. At any rate, you'd have thought the sky had fallen when renegade Rep. Tommy Merritt, R-Longview (who really was a victim of attack ads fueled by his own party, in the District 1 Senate primary) sought to save the bill with a motion to suspend House rules and bypass the committee's role.

Austin Republican Terry Keel, a co-sponsor of the bill, took the floor to chastise Merritt and House Democrats for their "PR

JANA BIRCHUM



stunt" – but not before the bill's lead co-sponsor, Rep. Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, made an impassioned plea for its survival: "We are simply trying to make sure that corporate money is limited and real people can have their voice heard ..." *Thwack!* Craddick's gavel cut Eiland short.

## Keel's Stake

Keel took the front mic and read from a prepared statement in response to a comment that Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, had made the day before, suggesting a rescue attempt might be in order for the bill. Keel seemed to relish his role as Craddick's lead defender. "Is this motion a genuine desire by the movants to advance ethics legislation," Keel asked, "or could it be that this is the use of pending ethics legislation as a political tool to take shots at a member of the House?"

He continued: "If you want to really be sure that this bill is dead, if you want to drive a stake right through the heart of this bill and guarantee that it's dead ... vote for the motion that Mr. Merritt is carrying on behalf of Mr. Dunnam ..." Merritt and Dunnam tried to interrupt in protest, but Keel silenced both of them by requesting the back microphone be switched off (the controls are on Craddick's podium). He went on to declare that the move to bypass the committee process "in a bad-faith manner" did nothing more than seal the bill's fate.

The reference to the "bad-faith manner" reminded Democrats of a time not too

long ago – July 29, 2003 – when House Republicans, including Keel, voted to suspend the rules to move a congressional redistricting bill out of committee and onto the floor for vote. At the time, veteran Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, said he had never witnessed such conduct. "We have completely destroyed democracy and become an oligarchy," Moreno said after the unprecedented maneuver.

## No Fingerprints

Fred Lewis, executive director of Campaigns for People, blamed Craddick for killing the ethics bill. "His comments that he wasn't involved in killing HB 1348 are as untrue as his repeated statements that he wasn't involved with TRMPAC," Lewis said, referring to the political action committee of Texans for a Republican Majority, a target of the ongoing criminal investigation. "Is there any bill that Speaker Craddick wants that *doesn't* pass?"

As for Keel, his over-the-top performance on this and other bills this session has set off a swirl of whispers about his political vulnerability in his Southwest Austin district. There is talk of finding a "viable alternative" to run against him next time around.

Meanwhile, it was business as usual at the Lege this week, with the Elections Committee driving the final stake through HB 1348 during a lunch break on Monday. The vote was 4-2, in the brief huddle that had gathered around Chairwoman Denny's desk on the House floor. ■

ON THE LEGE

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# 'Modern-Day Poll Tax' Bill Passes in House

Shortly after Rep. **Mary Denny** presided over a committee vote that killed a bipartisan ethics bill (see "On the Lege"), the Aubrey Republican brought her own election bill to the House floor on Monday for a vote. It passed, of course, even though minority groups and other opponents, including the Texas AFL-CIO, had lobbied long and hard against the "modern-day poll tax," which they say would serve no other purpose than to discourage poor and minority voters from participating in the electoral process.

But maybe that was the idea behind **HB 1706**, which, if passed by the Senate (though that now appears doubtful), would require Texas voters to produce a **photo ID** or two other forms of identification if they expect their ballots to be counted. Before the House tentatively approved the measure 83-63, the **Legislative Black Caucus** called on state leaders to take a stand against it. House Speaker **Tom Craddick** passed on the opportunity to do to Denny's bill what he did to the

ethics bill, so the caucus now looks to Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** or Gov. **Rick Perry** to prevent it from moving forward. That's a long shot, but, as Rep. **Marc Veasey**, D-Fort Worth, pointed out, the bill would put Texas on the map for being "one of the most restrictive places in the nation to vote."

Interestingly, the 93 co-sponsors of the now-defeated ethics bill had at one time agreed that the legislation was needed to curb corporate money's heavy-handed influence in political campaigns. But was a poll tax bill really warranted? "No one can really understand why we need this bill," Veasey said. "There's been no evidence of any type of widespread fraud ... in any elections recently."

Rep. **Pete Gallego**, D-Alpine, summed up thus: "Today, the Texas House made it harder for Texans to exercise their constitutional right to vote, while simultaneously making it easier for corporations to illegally influence our elections." For the House, it was just another day at the office.

— Amy Smith

## LEGE NOTES

► The Texas Senate on Tuesday passed a measure that would reregulate **university tuition** in 2008. The lege deregulated tuition in 2003, and a year later college costs skyrocketed at Texas public universities, with regent-set tuition increasing as much as 37% in a single year at UT-Austin. The reregulation measure, an amendment to Rodney Ellis' SB 1228, requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to study the impact of deregulation, and the Legislative Oversight Committee to present a report and recommendations to the Legislature Jan. 1, 2007. At that point, legislators could move to reauthorize deregulation; otherwise, tuition would automatically be reregulated starting in 2008. "It is time to put the horse back in the barn and require the Legislature to do its job funding Texas universities," Ellis said.

— Rachel Proctor May

► Back in January, Austin Democratic Rep. Eddie Rodriguez vowed to do whatever it takes to win passage of a bill — the first of its kind in Texas — that would allow cities to establish **affordable housing districts** in low-income neighborhoods. Last week, Rodriguez realized that goal when HB 525 cleared the House on a voice vote. In its current form, however, the bill only applies to the city of Austin — a strategic decision that helped avoid prolonged negotiations with multiple jurisdictions, all with different housing needs. Gonzalo Barrientos is expected to carry the bill in the Senate; if it passes, it would allow the city to establish some variation of a Community Land Trust in East Austin. While new to Texas, these types of nonprofit programs have enjoyed a fair amount of success in other states. In principle, CLTs differ from other affordable housing programs because they allow low-income residents to buy their homes while leasing the land underneath the dwellings. The program might be slow to get off the ground locally, but one can be certain that other cities — particularly Dallas and Houston — will be watching Austin's performance on this score.

— Amy Smith

► Hard to believe it's been two years since House Democrats made a run for the border (Oklahoma) to thwart an out-of-left-field redistricting directive from U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. The Killer D's surprise departure delayed passage of the weirdly shaped congressional map and royally

piSSed off DeLay — making the Holiday Inn stay in **Ardmore** all the more delicious. To commemorate that momentous quorum-busting maneuver, former Mayor Kirk Watson will host a celebration to benefit the Texas House Democratic Campaign Committee, a group that grew out of the redistricting effort. The fundraiser takes place May 18, 6:30-8:30pm, at — where else? — the Holiday Inn (this one in Austin), 3401 S. I-35. More info at [www.texasdhcc.com](http://www.texasdhcc.com).

— A.S.

► **Weed Watch:** Despite the valiant efforts of **Texans for Medical Marijuana** and the group's thousands of supporters — including doctors and patients — it appears that Rep. Elliott Naishtat's medi-pot bill, HB 658, is dead. The bill would create an affirmative defense to prosecution for pot possession by patients who use the drug for a bona fide medical condition, and would forbid law enforcement from investigating doctors who have discussed the use of marijuana with their patients. So far, 26 states have passed various laws recognizing the benefits of medi-pot. According to Rep. Terry Keel — who first authored medi-pot legislation in 2001 — Naishtat's bill is just one vote shy of making it out of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee that Keel chairs. But Capitol sources say that securing that one more favorable vote is unlikely at this late date.

— Jordan Smith

► Among several bills introduced this session aiming to boost the state's **Renewable Portfolio Standard** — the amount of overall energy generated from renewable sources like wind, solar, and biomass — SB 533, sponsored by Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, has passed the Senate and will be heard in the House Regulated Industries Committee today, Thursday. Public Citizen's Tom "Smitty" Smith calls the bill "well-intentioned, but woefully inadequate," increasing the state's RPS to about 5% by 2015 from the current goal of about 3% by 2009. "The new goal isn't aggressive enough to make Texas the renewable energy leader it should be," said Smith, nor is it big enough to trigger the construction of new transmission lines needed to transport sizable amounts of cheap West Texas wind power to market in the cities. Public Citizen has long advocated a 10% by 2010, 20% by 2020 RPS goal. Observers hope vigorous debate in the House committee will forge a more aggressive bill, which Smith says would create "more good jobs for Texans, cleaner air in our cities, greater new tax revenues for our schools, and lower electricity costs for consumers."

— Daniel Mottola

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# SENATE BILL THREATENS LOCAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS



JOHN ANDERSON

Mayor Will Wynn left the dais last week to testify against SB 1858, saying Austin could look after its own environmental rules, thankyouverymuch.

In sensitive areas may be similar to SOS. We don't know," Wheelus said. "What we do want to know is that the rules setting the standards are going to be scientific and not be politicized."

Rockwell pointed out that the agency has a staff of three to review plans over the Edwards Aquifer, while the city of Austin devotes a dozen people to the same task. In recent months, however, TCEQ has tried to strengthen its enforcement functions, creating a cross-agency team to review and prioritize investigation procedures. TCEQ has been a frequent target of local government for its lethargic response to environmental violations, but Wheelus said the agency doesn't need to be funded as a

rule enforcer, just as a rule creator, and that's just the kind of authority the state agency has.

Travis Co. Commissioner **Gerald Daugherty** – whom no one has painted as an environmentalist – has hosted a series of meetings in Southwest Travis County with developers and residents, in order to figure out just how much is too much progress. At last week's hearing, Daugherty acknowledged many people would be frightened by TCEQ's taking over water-quality regulations, but he considered it a good move for the region. "I do think that, as long as we have the ability to go to TCEQ – 'we,' meaning the people of Travis County and Austin – I think that we'll have a spot at the table," he said. "I think they do understand that we do have special needs, and I'm confident we'll be able to work with them."

Wheelus sees no dichotomy between SB 1858 and the state's last two rounds of water legislation, which have set up regional planning authorities to assess and implement regional planning. Indeed, the TCEQ could do precisely the same thing, setting up regional water quality standards, dependent upon the environmental sensitivity of an area. Wheelus points to a February decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to turn the protection of the endangered Barton Springs salamander over to the TCEQ. That's a sign that TCEQ can be trusted, Wheelus said. Now it's just a matter of lawmakers deciding who they intend to trust with water-quality decisions.

– Kimberly Reeves

Just as surely as the Colorado River flows to the Gulf of Mexico, Central Texas developers stream into the Capitol every other spring to convince lawmakers that Austin's enviro-activism movement is just a little too cumbersome and a bit too radical.

Austin's **Save Our Springs Ordinance** passed in 1992. It still remains the most progressive, and sometimes punitive, water quality policy in the state, and in the intervening years, the city has had to fight on both the legislative and legal fronts to protect its municipal ordinance, including the notable failure in House Bill 1704. It's as regular as the tides.

So it didn't seem like much of a surprise that Mayor **Will Wynn** would adjourn last week's Council meeting to take an emergency field trip to the Capitol to testify before the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The target was **Senate Bill 1858**, a bill authored by Chair Sen. **Ken Armbrister**, D-Victoria, that is intended to take away any local government's independent authority to set water quality standards. Instead, the **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** would be deemed the great wizard on water quality, seeing all and setting all standards for each region of the

state. "I suggest that folks in Austin and Central Texas recognized the importance of water-quality regulations to our economy and our quality of life and have taken the task of creating those standards very seriously," Wynn told the committee. "We have been lightning rods over the last couple of decades when it comes to water-quality regulations, and we've made some mistakes, but we've also made a lot of progress."

The **SOS Alliance** was infuriated by the bill. **Brad Rockwell** called TCEQ "incompetent" when it came to enforcing water-quality regulations. "They don't have the staff to do it, and they're not doing it," he said. "Local officials and groundwater districts that have the popular support and the budget should be given the power to do it."

But that's the beauty of SB 1858. It's not about enforcement. It's about setting the rules, and for years developers have considered the SOS Ordinance a hill too steep to climb. Attorney **Dan Wheelus**, a lobbyist for the **Texas Landowners' Conservancy**, says no one has ever justified that the 15 to 25% impervious cover limits were necessary to preserve and protect the recharge and contributing zones on Barton Springs. "The standards the TCEQ will set

## SUSPICION VS. EVIDENCE: Earle Rejects Officer's Allegations

Shortly after the *Chronicle* went to press last week, Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle** released a statement saying that there is "no evidence" to support the allegations of wrongdoing by city officials that were made by Austin Police Detective **David New**.

On April 13, New testified that APD Chief **Stan Knee** and City Manager **Toby Futrell** may have compromised an ongoing criminal investigation into the business dealings of city contractor **Bonding and Technical Services**, or BTS. According to his sworn deposition – taken in connection with APD Detective **Jeff White's** 2002 whistle-blower lawsuit – New believes that in September 2003, Knee and Futrell may have inadvertently, or even intentionally, alerted BTS that police investigators were planning to execute search warrants at company offices, several days before the warrants were carried out. New, one of the lead investigators in the BTS case, testified that police found at

least one empty file cabinet at one of the BTS offices, which caused him to believe that the investigation had been compromised. New said investigators reviewed city phone records that showed a call from Futrell to two city executives several days before the warrants were served, and then a string of seven phone calls from the city to BTS over the two days prior to the execution of the warrants, which led him to believe that BTS had been tipped off about the warrants. Futrell and lawyers for BTS each denied the allegations. (See "Did Knee and Futrell Leak APD Warrants?" April 29.)

Last week police failed to return numerous calls requesting comment; finally, on May 2, an APD spokesman sent the *Chronicle* an e-mail saying only that "Chief Knee will not be commenting on anything Officer New said in court or the ongoing BTS investigation." One aspect of the BTS investigation (regarding charges of illegal corporate campaign donations in city elections) is the subject of an ongoing investigation by the DA's office, but that didn't keep Earle from weighing in last week in a two-page statement that rejects New's allegations. Earle wrote that

his office "reviewed whether any city employee, including [Futrell], inappropriately used any information from the [police] criminal investigation" to tip off BTS to the impending warrants. "[Futrell] and her employees were questioned about this matter and we concluded that no information was disclosed or otherwise inappropriately used by any City employee." Earle said that his office also reviewed New's deposition and "found no evidence or factual basis to support the allegations over leaked information. ... There is a difference between suspicion and evidence. The purpose of an investigation is to gather evidence to answer questions raised by suspicion."

But **Austin Police Association** President **Mike Sheffield** took exception to Earle's characterization of New and his testimony. "When I read the deposition, it was easy for me to determine when Detective New was stating suspicions, when he was stating opinions, and when he was stating facts," he said. "I've known Detective New for many years, and I have always found him to be a very honest person and a very capable investigator."

– Jordan Smith

NEWS

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# Hinojosa Goes After 'Rogue' Task Forces

On April 28, the Senate passed a bill that would eliminate the state's few remaining "rogue" **drug task force** operations and would provide for a portion of funds seized by DTFs to be set aside to fund drug treatment programs. Although some consider all multijurisdictional drug task forces rogue operations, **SB 1125**, by Sen. **Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa**, D-McAllen, concerns itself only with those DTFs that have so far refused to have their operations overseen by the **Department of Public Safety**. In the wake of the Tulia drug-task-force debacle, Gov. **Rick Perry** tapped DPS to act as the state's DTF watchdog. Submitting to state oversight is optional, but failure to do so results in an inability to receive state-administered federal **Byrne Grant** funding, the DTFs' main outside cash cow.

Of course, cutting off access to federal grants isn't necessarily a deathblow to task force operations, since many of the DTFs keep their operations in the black with county funds or with profits from seized property and cash, which prompted a handful of

DTFs to remain free from state oversight. SB 1125 would put an end to that, which hasn't made everyone happy – least of all the

**South Texas Specialized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force**, whose leader, Cmdr. Jamie R. Garza, last month told reporters that the bill

was filed in retaliation for an October traffic stop of the senator by one of his task force officers. Hinojosa "was trying to say that we are a bunch of rogues, that we don't report to anybody, and my answer to that is 'Hell, no,'" Garza told the *McAllen Monitor*.



Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa



Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon

Hinojosa was heading south on US Hwy. 281 on Oct. 7, when he was pulled over by a cop who said that Hinojosa's tinted windows were too dark, and that he thought Hinojosa "swerved toward the shoulder when he waved to the officer," Garza told *The Monitor*. Reportedly, Hinojosa got a warning for the windows and for an expired insurance card. But according to Garza that was enough to prompt Hinojosa to attack his task force – conveniently, Garza's view of the situation overlooks the fact that Hinojosa has long been a foe of unregulated task force activities.

In other Texas drug-related news, San Antonio Democratic Rep. **Ruth Jones McClendon**'s bid to bring enhanced **drug-free zones** to Bexar Co. has made it out of committee and onto the House floor. As originally filed, HB 65 would allow San Antonio's city council to designate

one or more geographic areas within the city as a DFZ and would allow the city to banish an individual from that area based on an arrest or conviction for a drug-related crime. Rep. **Jose Menendez**, D-San Antonio, offered a revision in committee, making the DFZ measure a "pilot program" (set to expire in 2015) and shifting the power to create a geographic DFZ over to the county's district court judges, who may designate a DFZ in order to "abate a public nuisance" – presumably an attempt to shut down crack and/or meth lab houses. Unfortunately, the revision still allows judges to ban from the designated DFZ any individual even arrested on drug charges. Violation of expulsion terms would result in either civil or criminal penalties – including the possibility of up to a year in county jail.

Although DFZs are commonly used to enhance criminal sentences for drug defendants caught in certain places – like near schools or police stations – free-floating DFZs of the sort proposed by McClendon and Menendez are nearly unprecedented. Portland, Ore., is the only city that authorizes floating geographical DFZs, and last month, a Portland public defender challenged the constitutionality of the law in court, claiming the DFZs violate due process rights by excluding people from the zone based only on arrest, and that they violate equal protection law by disproportionately impacting minorities. According to the city's public defender, 60% of the 800 people cited for entering the DFZ while banished were black, reported *Willamette Week*. On April 22, Circuit Judge Michael Marcus tossed the equal protection claim, but cautioned the city on their use of the DFZ ordinance, which he said had been used to rid areas of the city not only of drug dealers but also of homeless, poor, and mentally ill individuals, reported *The Oregonian*.  
– Jordan Smith



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# THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

## CONGRESSIONAL LIFESTYLE SLUSH FUNDS

Members of Congress like to claim that they're just regular folks. But I don't know many ordinary Americans who have political slush funds to pay for life's little necessities, do you?

These funds, called "leadership PACs," are created by various lawmakers ostensibly to collect money to help elect or re-elect other politicians of their particular stripe. Many of the congressional leaders, however, have been doling out big chunks of their PAC money to the politician they favor the most: themselves!

Take Michael Oxley of Ohio, who chairs a powerful committee. Corporations needing legislative favors are delighted to shove money into Oxley's leadership PAC, but this "leader" is diverting much of it to pay for his own royal lifestyle. In the past two years alone, for example, his PAC paid for \$25,000 worth of chauffeured limousine rides around Manhattan. It also covered 47 trips on chartered jets, plus financing his annual ski jaunt out to Vail, as well as golfing trips to Arizona and Florida.

Other members even use their leadership PACs for some of the more mundane purchases that you'd think they'd cover themselves. Tom DeLay, for example, uses his PAC fund to buy cigars, Roy Blunt billed his PAC for tickets to a Fleetwood Mac concert, and Sen. Rick Santorum even charges his PAC for the cups of coffee he buys at Starbucks. Note that all of these Congress critters are archconservatives who are constantly giving speeches about fiscal responsibility and personal integrity.

Both Democrats and Republicans play this self-serving slush-fund game, and both rush to defend their expenditures by saying that the practice is perfectly legal. Well, yes, but guess who wrote the law that makes it legal?

If the managers of, say, a union PAC were caught self-dealing, they'd be indicted. But then, they don't get to write laws to legalize their own immoral behavior.

## GUARD YOUR NUMBER

There's a "magic key" that computer hackers can use to open every door to your personal records – including your bank account, credit cards, job history, health insurance, and ... well everything. That key is your Social Security number.

So, you might think that, surely, this number is highly guarded to keep government agents, thieves, or whomever from opening the door to your personal life. Sure it is, Pollyanna. How poorly guarded is it? Practically anyone can buy your very own personal Social Security number from various Web sites for a pittance. For example, Secret-Info.com will sell your number for \$35, InfoSearch.com offers it for \$45, and Gum-Shoes.com promises prying clients that "if the information is out there, our licensed investigators can find it."

The truth is that our Social Security numbers are everywhere, since all sorts of government agencies and corporations collect the numbers like they are nothing but statistical lint. Some insurance companies use them as account numbers and print them on the insurance card you carry in your wallet, and many universities use them as student ID numbers.

There's now a burgeoning, sometimes shadowy industry of data brokers, private investigators, and others that collect and sells all of our "magic keys." Some of these outfits claim to have all sorts of screens and safeguards to keep our numbers out of the hands of, say, thieves. But *The Washington Post* approached three of these providers anonymously, and two gave up the full Social Security number of a reporter within 24 hours, with no questions asked.

What we have here is an unregulated system that relies solely on the diligence of data providers, who have a financial disincentive to be diligent. No law prohibits the sale of your Social Security number. But Sen. Charles Schumer is sponsoring legislation to ban any such sale without an individual's permission. For information, call his office: 202/224-6542.

*Jim Hightower is the bestselling author of Let's Stop Beating Around the Bush, on sale from Viking Press. For more information, visit [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com).*



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**“I HAVE ALWAYS GONE OFF LIKE A ROCKET WHENEVER I SEE THESE BOUNTY HUNTERS.”**

**– FORMER CO. JUDGE BILL ALESHIRE, ON TAX COLLECTION FIRMS**

**“IT HURTS MY FEELINGS, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE LOGICAL CONCERNS [ABOUT PRIVATIZATION].”**

**– FORMER CO. ATTORNEY KEN ODEN**

# THE RANGE WAR AT COMMISSIONERS COURT

**OFFICIALS TAKE SIDES OVER LAW FIRM'S PROPOSAL TO PRIVATIZE TAX COLLECTIONS** BY AMY SMITH

**W**hen Travis Co. Judge Bill Aleshire left public office in 1998, few people believed that the county's most colorful political maverick would quietly fade into private life, although there were undoubtedly many hoping – even praying – that he would. “Peace and quiet is not my top priority,” Aleshire told the *Chronicle* before retiring to pursue a law degree at age 49. “I do take pleasure in agitating.”

Now a private practicing attorney specializing in administrative law, Aleshire has characteristically thrown himself into a Travis Co. scuffle or two in the years since his departure. Yet nothing compares to his current muckraking crusade to derail a well-

oiled lobby campaign to privatize the county's delinquent tax collection system.

In this battle, Aleshire is working against a longtime friend and political ally, former County Attorney Ken Oden, who left office two years ago to work for the Austin-based law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, the largest private collection contractor in Texas and among the top firms of its kind in the country, with collection contracts in Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and New Orleans – everywhere, it seems, except its hometown. The firm has lusted after the county's lucrative delinquent tax business for many years, only to get run off by Aleshire and other county officials. Now, as we first

reported last week (“Linebarger to Travis County: Have We Got a Deal for You?”), with Aleshire out of the picture (sort of), and armed with Oden's wealth of institutional knowledge, Linebarger Goggan has embarked on its most elaborate privatization push yet. Five years ago, Oden himself spurned a similar pitch from the same law firm. Now, as a member of that firm, he's leading the effort to nab a piece of the county's collections business – a move that is testing the loyalties and friendships he forged during his 17-year run as county attorney.

As a veteran public servant, Oden is more accustomed to being associated with the “good guys” rather than the folks he once

angrily denounced as “money-grubbing whores.” (He says he doesn't recall uttering those words, but that if he did, he did so in jest.) He defends his role in the firm's current privatization endeavor, and says he wouldn't be seeking the county's business if he didn't believe in the merits of what his firm is offering. To this end, in what could be unprecedented in the realm of local public-private courtships, Oden's firm has fashioned a sort of quid pro quo offer that carries a unique economic development incentive: In exchange for the county's delinquent tax collection business, Linebarger Goggan would anchor its first national call center in

*continued on p.36*

NEWS

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The main reason given by AMD's press statements to justify moving from east and north Austin to the Barton Springs watershed in southwest Austin is to serve employees' convenience. But which employees?

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Austin, which would serve as the lifeline of the firm's collection business.

The center would locate roughly in the vicinity of the firm's flagship office in South Austin, just east of I-35, and would hire about 130 employees to start, Oden says, with 100-300 additional hires within 24 months. "This is a proposal that is not just motivated by financial gain but by the desire to do something good for the community," he says, explaining that there is a "day-and-night difference" between this proposal and the one he turned down as county attorney. "I would not ask the county to approve a proposal that I rejected while I was in office," he says. "I didn't think the private sector ever came to the county with a package that justified full privatization of the collection service." The economic incentive is, Oden says, "the cherry on top" that the firm needs to really wow the commissioners.

Commissioner Karen Sonleitner was immediately skeptical. "It's entertaining, but it sounds like a diversion," she says. "I'm interested in the merits of the entire package, which we haven't seen. This is not going to be the basis for making a comparison to the county's record." County Judge Sam Biscoe, on the other hand, said the proposal is worth serious consideration. "It's new and different, but the question is whether the [entire proposal] beats our in-house effort."

At first glance, it's hard to beat the county's overall property tax collection rate, which includes more than 80 taxing jurisdictions and yet stands at a respectable 98.5%. But "it can be beaten, and we can beat it," Oden says. And he offers new information showing his firm with a 99% collection rate for the Round Rock Independent School District. In 2002, the county collected 98.53% of taxes owed, leaving a delinquent balance of \$3.8 million; in 2003, a 98.56% collection rate left a balance of \$4.1 million (some of which is collected in subsequent years). The dollar amount represented by a



JANA BIRCHUM

## “MY JOB IS TO COLLECT THE TAXES. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER WAY TO DO THAT MORE FAIRLY.” — COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR NELDA WELLS SPEARS

.5% difference in the delinquent balance would vary from year to year, but in each of those two years, it would have exceeded \$1 million on the more than \$250 million annually collected in property taxes.

Biscoe has said he won't act on any proposal from a firm whose numbers come within a whisker or two of the county's rate. Nor does he want to go against the wishes of the two people responsible for the program — tax assessor Nelda Wells Spears and County Attorney David Escamilla — both of whom want the system to remain under the county's control. "But if the facts show there is a substantial advantage [to privatize]," Biscoe goes on to say, "then I think they'll come around." He recalls that when the privatization issue came up five years ago, Oden "acted like any county attorney would — he balked at it. But I think toward the end he starting coming around."

Oden indeed has come full circle since his initial opposition to privatization. Armed with inside knowledge of the county's collections program, he has crafted an argument that lays out how a private firm could save taxpayers more than \$10 million over five years because, Oden argues, it would automatically whittle the number of lawsuits the county brings against overdue taxpayers, and would allow the county to reduce the number of in-house attorneys and other costs associated with filing the lawsuits. (See "Collecting the Delinquents," p.38.) County Attorney Escamilla takes issue with these claims of his mentor and former boss. "Even if there are more lawsuits, that's not a bad thing — it just means we're enforcing the law." For the most part, though, he adds, "Our emphasis is not so much on lawsuits but on working with taxpayers to promote compliance."

### We Get Letters

The Linebarger Goggan privatization effort began earlier this year, much the way most other lobby efforts begin — very quietly. Commissioners Margaret Gomez and Gerald Daugherty (who accepted more than \$14,000 in political contributions from the firm in 2002) accepted the bait and, without so much as a courtesy call to Escamilla or Spears, rushed the item onto the county commissioners' March 8 agenda, and thus set the privatization wheels spinning.

In one of the sillier but revealing moments of the get-out-the-vote drive, several prominent citizens, among them former Mayor Gus Garcia and KVET radio host Bob Cole, let themselves get roped into a letter-writing campaign that had them taking a sudden interest in the wonky workings of the county's tax collection system — one of the few times in its 25-year history that anyone outside of county government gave this particular policy matter as much as a passing nod. In their letters, all of which looked to be wrought upon the same template, they expressed concerns about the existing tax collection structure and encouraged commissioners to consider other alternatives —

that is, privatization. The letters, Oden now acknowledges, were written at the request of his firm, which provided the talking points used to call into question, among other things, the number of lawsuits the county brings against minority taxpayers living in East Austin neighborhoods (see box below).

"That is not a fair thing for anyone to say," Spears shot back. "It is a blind system — there's no way to tell if [the delinquent taxpayer] is a minority." Moreover, Spears says, her office targets delinquent taxpayers beginning with high-dollar accounts and working down the economic ladder. A review of properties by ZIP codes does show a greater concentration of delinquent accounts in East Austin than in the rest of the city, she says, but the report also shows the vast majority of East Austin property owners pay their taxes on time. People who aren't able to pay can make installments over 36 months. "My job is to collect the taxes," she says. "I don't know of any other way to do that more fairly. This is the money that taxing entities need to operate on."

After the initial frenzy for privatization, the time line laid out by County Judge Sam Biscoe effectively slowed the process. First, the county issued a prebid "request for information" from Oden's firm and two other potential bidders, to determine whether a private collector's services could outperform the existing operation. This week, a committee of county number-crunchers began evaluating the firms' responses and will make a recommendation to the commissioners within the next week or so.

### Eliminating the Competition

Travis is the only major county in Texas that has resisted privatizing its delinquent property tax collections. Both Spears and Escamilla argue that the reasons for keeping the system in-house boil down to two things: 1) accountability to the public, and 2) the county's consistently high tax collection rate. "I'm not opposed to the county going out and looking at what private firms can offer," Escamilla says, "but this business is extremely competitive and scandalous at times. I want to make sure the county and the [commissioners] court have a well-planned, open-government process." And as he sees it, the importance of an open process was made more crucial by the fact that commissioners have already made one bad move by allowing "at least one of these firms too much influence in setting the agenda."

If the Commissioners Court decides to go the privatization route — over Aleshire's dead body — such a contract could fetch millions of dollars a year for the lucky law firm that picks up the most lucrative component of county government. "I think it's wrong, and I think it's scummy," Aleshire says, unconvinced that a for-profit firm can outperform Travis Co.'s overall tax collection rate. Aleshire bristles at the notion of a for-profit firm milking the very system he created and honed as part of his campaign promises to voters during his tenure as county tax assessor, in the early Eighties. By most accounts, he modernized and computerized what was then an antiquated collec-

## LINEBARGER'S FAN LETTERS

**In the weeks preceding the Travis Co. Commissioners Court's consideration of the delinquent tax collection system, commissioners received letters from prominent "concerned citizens" about the issue. The letters had a couple of common themes: criticizing the current system for "excessive lawsuits," and suggesting that the current system somehow works to the particular disadvantage of poor and minority homeowners. Not addressed in the letters is how a 20% surcharge to be charged by a private firm would help those same homeowners.**

*"Hispanic business and community leaders understand these types of excessive lawsuits have a disproportionate effect on minorities and all homeowners whose properties are less than the average appraised value." — J.R. Gonzales, CEO of JRG Communications and former chair of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

*"The property owners that are hardest hit by the increased costs of a lawsuit are those whose homes are below the average value." — Charles Urdy, board chair of the Austin Revitalization Authority and former City Council member*

*"... If we could get the collections done with fewer suits it would be more efficient and less costly for the taxpayer. The present process seems to be especially unfair for people whose homesteads are valued at or below the average appraisal." — Bob Cole, KVET-FM talk-show host*

*"[The current process] ... appears to be dependent on the use of lawsuits, a system that appears to be unfair, particularly for citizens whose homesteads are valued below the average amount." — Gustavo Garcia, former Austin mayor*

ions office operating in the Dark Ages of giant ledger books and hand-scribbled entries. He continued keeping close tabs on his "baby" during his iron-fisted reign as county judge, a seat he held for 12 years before heading off to law school at the University of Texas.

When it comes to political rhetoric, Aleshire has never been a shrinking violet, but in this instance it's also clear that the very nature of the collections industry gives him the creeps. "I have always gone off like a rocket whenever I see these bounty hunters," he says, sounding just angry enough to spit. The term "bounty hunters" is not just metaphorical, because state law allows only private attorney contractors – not taxing entities – to impose and pocket a 20% "bounty" on every delinquent taxpayer, regardless of whether they perform actual legal functions in a given case, such as filing lawsuits to recover what is owed. By contrast, the law holds a tighter rein on public taxing jurisdictions by limiting their bounties to collecting attorneys' fees and court costs in *successful* lawsuits.

Clearly, state law is written for, and too often by, private firms like Linebarger Goggan, which maintains a well-armed team of lobbyists and plenty of friends in the Legislature to carry the bills it needs. Rep. Fred Hill, R-Richardson, has a well-established reputation as a conservative Republican, but is no friend of the collections industry. He can usually be counted on to cast "pro-government" votes – especially pro-local government – in a chamber that has turned decidedly anti-government in the past two years. In 2003, Hill sponsored a bill that would have wiped out the monopoly that private firms have on the business by allowing county attorneys the option of imposing up to a 20% markup on delinquent property taxes. Unlike the private firms, though, the money raised from these fees would go directly into the county treasury. Not surprisingly, Hill's legislation passed out of a House committee but died, predictably, in the Calendars Committee – the last checkpoint before major bills move to a floor vote, if they're lucky.

In this session, a few sentences buried in a massive housekeeping bill pertaining to the property tax code (HB 3071) threatened to stamp out altogether the practice of county attorneys collecting court costs and fees on successful legal claims. Aleshire and others immediately suspected Oden's firm of "holding a gun to the county's head" to force it to move to privatization. The offending language has

*continued on p.38*



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since been removed from the bill (Oden says his firm was wrongly accused of foul play), but there is still the lingering fear of its reinsertion as an amendment on the House floor. Another bill, HB 3255, could mess with the county's collections system by adding new restrictions on what the county could charge other jurisdictions to collect their property taxes.

### Herding the Official Cats

There is yet another obstacle to the privatization bandwagon, although its effect on the current maneuverings remains unpredictable. If Linebarger Goggan does manage to pick up the county contract, the value of the new account could substantially deflate if a number of key taxing entities respond by opting out of the county's umbrella. The Austin Independent School District – the largest taxing jurisdiction in the bunch – has already notified the county that it would seek a waiver from its contract “to select its own legal counsel” should the county decide to partner with a private firm. The city has also weighed in on this matter, as has Lago Vista ISD. All three advocate maintaining

the status quo. As AISD general counsel Mel Waxler wrote in his April 18 letter, “The district respectfully wishes as a courtesy to be directly involved in the consideration of any possible change in current practice, a practice with which AISD is extremely satisfied because of its efficiency, tax collection rate, and treatment of taxpayers.”

Similarly, Barbara Qualls, the Lago Vista school superintendent, told the *Chronicle* she sees no reason to change from the existing system when her district's overall collection rate has increased from 88% to almost 93% in the last two years. “It's still not as high as we would like, but I've seen an improvement in services under David Escamilla and [chief collection attorney] Elliott Beck,” she said.

In response, Biscoe tried to allay the concerns, responding to Waxler: “I believe your alarm is premature, as the [process] is informational, and will simply enable us to determine whether another collection model would generate substantially more dollars for our residents and help us do a better job of meeting other appropriate public policy objectives.”

## COLLECTING THE DELINQUENTS

**Most Travis Co. residents pay their property taxes on time; those who can't make other payment arrangements – and those who won't be subject to legal action from the county attorney's office. Last year, the county's enforcement work generated about \$3 million in court costs and attorneys' fees, and that money was deposited into the county treasury.**

**Former County Attorney Ken Oden argues that the county spends too much money pursuing these claims and says his firm could save taxpayers more than \$10 million over a five-year period if granted a contract to take over the county's delinquent accounts. Such a contract could be worth additional millions to a private, for-profit firm because the law allows private attorneys to impose a 20% markup fee on late taxpayers.**

**Proponents of keeping the system in-house, including County Attorney David Escamilla, defend both the county's enforcement action and its overall collection rate,**

**which averages 98.5%. The number of lawsuits increased after Oden left the county (he resigned in February 2003), Escamilla says, because the county beefed up legal staffing and other resources to tackle a backlog of delinquent accounts. (The number of agreements for partial payment also increased during the same period.) Here's a five-year review of the county's enforcement history under Oden and, starting in the 2002 tax year, Escamilla.**

Tax Year	Partial Pay Agreements	Lawsuits Filed	Civil Fees Collected
1999	2,871	3,426	\$1,260,490
2000	3,244	2,947	1,623,636
2001	3,919	3,702	2,101,827
2002	5,248	5,328	3,367,503
2003	4,826	2,940	2,950,015
Total	20,108	18,343	\$11,303,471

Source: Travis County

## KEN ODEN IS LEADING THE EFFORT TO NAB A PIECE OF THE COUNTY'S COLLECTIONS BUSINESS – A MOVE THAT IS TESTING THE LOYALTIES AND FRIENDSHIPS HE FORGED DURING HIS 17-YEAR RUN AS COUNTY ATTORNEY.

### Friendly Fire

In the last week, the loud privatization arguments subsided somewhat as a review committee began weighing the proposals from competing law firms. But murmurs of protest persist, along with mounting fear of a last-minute, anti-county floor amendment on any tax-related bill considered in the final days of the legislative session. Unlike the Austin City Council, where the prevailing centrist consensus tends to limit the public feuding, there is sufficient ideological division on Commissioners Court to make visible the ongoing squabbles, which tend to play out in full color on Cable Channel 16 like family feuds. Two of the commission's March meetings were entertaining cases in point: Tax Assessor Spears laid into Commissioner Gomez for blindsiding her on the privatization proposal; Sonleitner nettled Oden for changing his stripes after leaving the county for the private sector; Daugherty went on a tirade against an unnamed person [Aleshire] for sending commissioners a borderline-condescending e-mail that questioned why they would “wreak havoc on the best tax collection system in any county in Texas.”

Oden, for his part, says it's no fun being on the receiving end of taunts and allegations of would-be profiteering at the expense of county taxpayers. “It hurts my feelings, but I understand that there are logical concerns [about privatization]. I know that [Aleshire] created this system and mothered it along over the years. But I have said all along there is nothing good or evil about which process you choose.” Still, Oden says he's surprised by the level of acrimony that has shaped the debate. “I came up in politics, so I'm a little toughened to it, but it has surprised even me.”

To add even more irony to the political context, Oden was hired as Linebarger Goggan's ethics czar and assigned the task of restoring the firm's integrity in the wake of a 2002 bribery scandal involving a former name partner, Juan Peña, who ran the firm's Edinburg office. “They wanted to make a serious effort to ensure that that kind of conduct didn't happen again,” Oden says. “We established a standard of ethics at the firm that's one of the highest standards in the country.” Whatever the history of his move to Linebarger, Oden does acknowledge that he knew when he joined the firm that he'd eventually return to his old turf to solicit its rich delinquent tax business. As it happened, Peña was sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined \$1 million dollars on March 31 – two days after Oden and Dale Linebarger went before the commissioners seeking the county's business.

There is understandable resistance to Oden or anyone else taking that business. Aleshire is continuing to bombard county officials and news reporters with lengthy e-mails documenting the evils of “scummy bounty hunters.” The feud has splintered Oden and Aleshire's friendship; they haven't spoken since they got into a huge row over drinks at the Brown Bar last month, which ultimately concluded in a prolonged debate over the telephone. “Oh, it was ugly,” Aleshire recalls, sounding mildly remorseful.

Oden says he expects the two to make amends when all this is over. “Bill's never let facts stand in the way of a good witch hunt,” he says, chuckling a little. “But I would never forsake a friendship over a damn government contract.”

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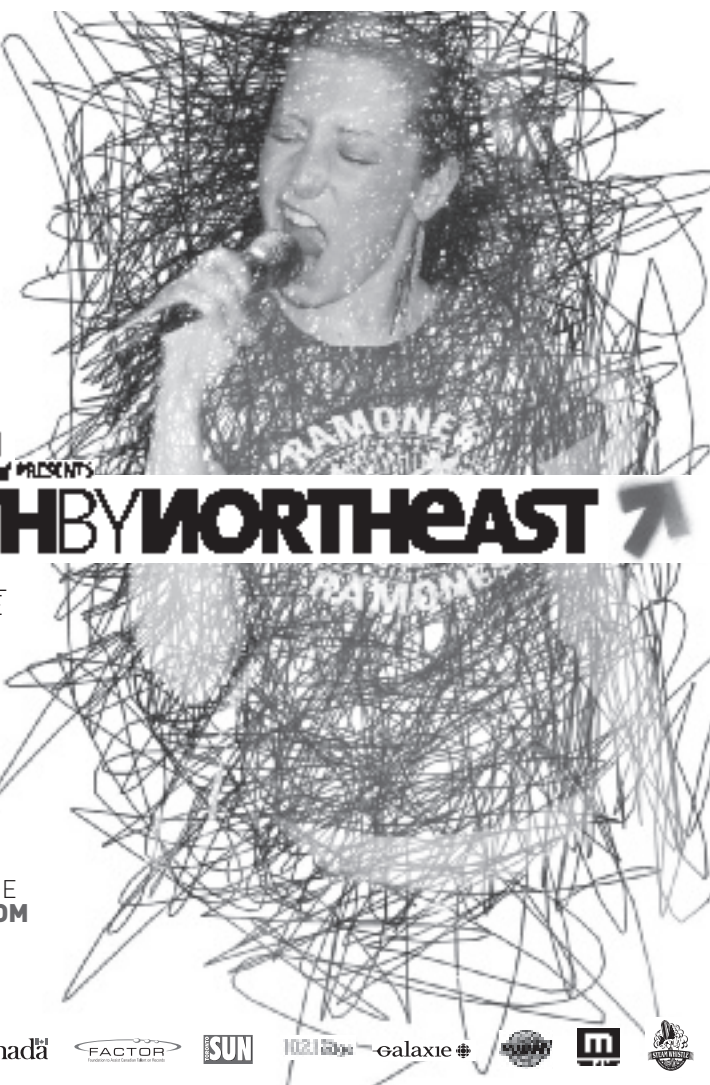
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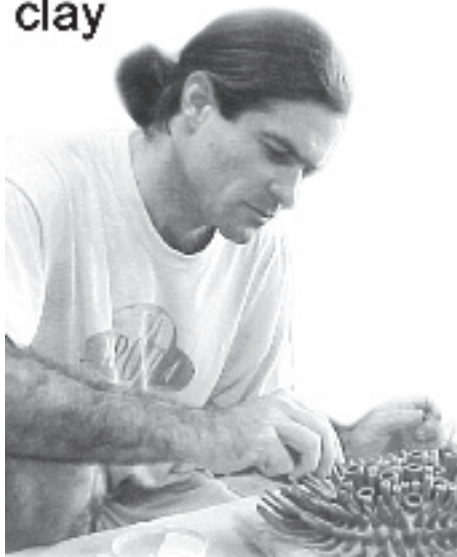
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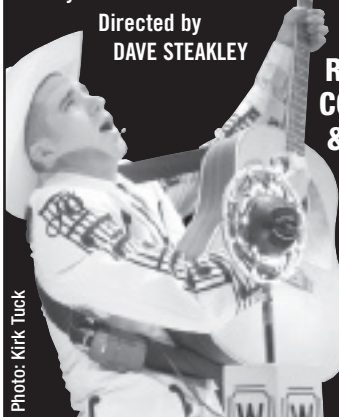


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# START TREKKIN'

The Heroes of Comedy boldly go where no troupe has gone before

by Wayne Alan Brenner

You know what improv comedy troupes do, basically, right? How they take audience suggestions and turn them into a narrative onstage, performing the whole thing off the cuff, on the fly, right before your incredulous eyes? And you know how these shows can run over an hour, with however many scenes it takes to reach, they hope, a conclusion?

This can be tough going, especially when there are more than two performers trying to mesh their speech and actions toward a unified goal. But when the going gets tough, that's often when it also gets the funniest. The Heroes of Comedy – the house troupe at downtown's Hideout Theatre – feature eight performers tough enough, inventive enough, to restrict themselves not only to audience suggestions, but to set the resultant story firmly and hilariously in the Star Trek universe. And that's the original series, thank you, as first sprung so Roddenberrily on an unsuspecting America in the 1960s.

My teenage daughter – ignorant of the premise, save for two hastily rented DVDs of original-series episodes – and I caught a recent performance of the Heroes' *Start Trekkin'*, and we're thanking our lucky stars that we did.

The cast of eight, working their narrative from the suggestions "android," "Cleveland," "abortion," and "non-existent," wove a tale of insurrection via the weaponizing of a deadly "bio-robotic" virus. Scene after scene, with different combinations of characters, shamelessly low-tech set changes, and impressively impromptu lighting and sound, drove the story of how the captain (a charismatic and astonishingly clever Shatner-channeler named Ben Sterling) and crew of the Starship Dead Bird struggled against the evil machinations of a power-mad, virus-wielding synthetic human who'd taken over a space station as a prelude to galactic conquest. That the virus was called, ridiculously, Quarantine; that the android's robotic clone-sister was also a Dead Bird officer; that the ship's engineer happened



to have an identical twin brother aboard the space station: These were just a few of the wilder revelations that surprised the audience and the players. David Lampe as twinned engineer Cliff Engineer was a constant, fleet-of-mind delight, as was crypto-robotic science officer Kacey Samiec and android terrorist Jay Michael. The rest of the cast worked valiantly to keep up with these improv warriors and their sensei Sterling, provoking even more laughter accidentally as on purpose, all of them transporting the audience to a depraved new world of improvisational entertainment. We'll be going back, at warp speed. ■

*Start Trekkin'* runs through May 28, Saturdays, 9pm, at the Hideout, 617 Congress. For more information, call 443-3688 or visit [www.heroescomedy.com](http://www.heroescomedy.com).

## REVENGE OF THE RETURN OF THE SON OF THE GRAPHICS GIVEAWAY BEGINS!

Scrooge McDuck isn't ordinarily one to give things away, but this Saturday he's giving away millions and is happy to do it, as are his fellow gazillionaires Bruce Wayne and Veronica Lodge. What they're being so generous with are their own adventures, of course. They're on the front lines of what has become an annual freebie of, well, heroic proportions. Yes, it's Free Comic Book Day, Part IV.

Just as those comic-book movies keep on comin', so does this promotional event for the four-color literature from which they spring. Launched in 2001 to take advantage of the opening of the *Spider-Man* film, the giveaway generated a large enough response – getting thousands upon thousands of people jam-

ming into their friendly neighborhood comics shop – that the industry's publishers and retailers felt justified in cranking out a sequel. And another. And another. Once again, more than 30 comic publishers and some 2,000 retailers will participate, offering plenty of capes and cowls for your crime-fighting entertainment, but also a host of nonsuperhero material, everything from a samurai take on Robin Hood to the Riverdale gang in high school hijinks to GI Joe kicking terrorist tail to a *Simpsons/Futurama* free-for-all to *Star Wars* and a classic Carl Barks Uncle Scrooge duck tale. More and more of the giveaways appear aimed at all ages. DC Comics has a new all-ages Batman book based on



the latest animated series, while Marvel is giving away a *Fantastic Four/Spider-Man* book for younger readers. Naturally, those publishers also have their eye on promoting their superheroes on the silver screen this summer: *Batman Begins* on June 17 and *Fantastic Four* on July 8.

– Robert Faires

## 'NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL - PHOTOGRAPHS'

This week offers a rare chance to objectify pure evil here in Austin. In conjunction with Alamo Drafthouse Cinema's screening of the documentary *Metal Storm: The Scandinavian Black Metal Wars* on May 9, photographic portraits of satanists taken by former Austin resident Peter Beste will be on display at the Space on Airport Boulevard. This series of photos shows various Norwegians doing a darn good job of looking scary. Most have long hair, spiky bracelets, and lots of heavy-metal man jewelry. The look of choice is like Kiss make-up after they've sweated through it. Squinting eyes glare out of black eye sockets that drip down, while red drips below the mouth and nose. Alice Cooper looks like a golfing wimp next to these guys. Is it Halloween? Hell no. Apparently satanists are busy worshipping the devil right now. Beste interviews his surly subjects and asks them how they came to worship the devil.

One chap, Frost of Satyricon, recalled visiting a store in Oslo called "Eurononymous" or Hell, and let's just say he felt at home there. On actually becoming a satanist, Frost of Satyricon says, "I had never really understood anything before, but this was my path – my kind of style," and then, "It could be that kick in the back that pushes you into realizing a bigger potential." So the dark church pushed him to dig deeper in life, that's cool. Not cool was the violent rash of 22 church burnings that coincided with rises in the general movement. Beste's Web site says that "in the early 1990s, these self-proclaimed satanists burned 14th-century wooden churches, desecrated graveyards, and incited blood feuds as part of their campaign to rid Norway of Christianity and revert to ancient Viking customs." Doesn't sound much like a "take a liking to a Viking" Rotary club but more like a very marginalized group of men, some of whom are in heavy metal bands. Beste will be present for the exhibition's opening on Saturday, May 7, 7pm-midnight, at the Space. A book of his Norwegian black metal photographs will be released this year in Japan.

– Rachel Koper

*"Norwegian Black Metal - Photographs"* by Peter Beste is on display May 7-21 at the Space, 4803 Airport. For more information, visit [www.peterbeste.com](http://www.peterbeste.com).

*Metal Storm: The Scandinavian Black Metal Wars* screens Monday, May 9, 9:45pm, at the Alamo Downtown, 409 Colorado. For more information, visit [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com).



PETER BESTE

## The Comics

The following comic books will be available at all participating stores:

*The Batman Strikes!*, by Bill Matheny, Christopher Jones, & Terry Beatty (DC Comics)

*Marvel Adventures: Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four*, by Todd DeZago and Michael O'Hare (Marvel Comics)

*Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*, by Miles Lane and Nicola Scott (Dark Horse Comics)

*Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge*, by Carl Barks (Gemstone)

*Gimme! Gimme! Giveaway!*, by Matt Groening (Bongo Comics)

*Betty & Veronica*, by Dan Parent (Archie Comics)

*Devil's Due Special Edition*, by various (Devil's Due Publishing)

*Ronin Hood of the 47 Samurai*, by Jeff Amano & Craig Rousseau (Beckett Comics)

*Flight Primer*, by various (Image Comics)

*Impact University*, by Will Eisner, Dick Giordano, Vincent Giarrano, David Okum, Lea Hernandez, and Peter David (Impact Books)

Dozens of other comic-book publishers will be providing free titles as well, covering the entire spectrum of genres and styles. There will be something for everyone, no matter their age or interest.

## The Locations

Austin Books, 5002 Lamar, 454-4197  
Bee Cave Comics & Games, 3636 Bee Caves #109, 306-9114

Capitol Comics & Collectibles, 2525 W. Anderson Ste. R-5, 302-4090

Cool Comic Collectibles, 2121 W. Parmer Ste. 114-B, 339-4251

Comics and More, 2104 S. Lamar, 440-7373

Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, 6111 Burnet Rd., 454-2399; 1601 S. I-35 #360, Round Rock, 512/279-8888; 302-A University, San Marcos, 512/353-4386

First Federal Comics, 8440 Burnet, 419-0044

Funny Papers, 2025 Guadalupe #132 (Dobie Mall), 478-9718

Junior's Comics and Cards, 2110 W. Slaughter, 282-1302

Southside Comics & Sport Cards, 6400 S. First, 326-8525

Thor's Hammer, 12636 Research, 326-4332

For more information, visit [www.freecomickbookday.com](http://www.freecomickbookday.com).

# In Creative Hands

HOW ARTISTS SHAPE THE ANCIENT MEDIUM OF CLAY INTO WORKS OF STUNNING VARIETY

BY RACHEL KOPER

I find something deeply satisfying about drinking my coffee out of a cup made locally by a hand I have shaken. The necessary daily use of dishes gives

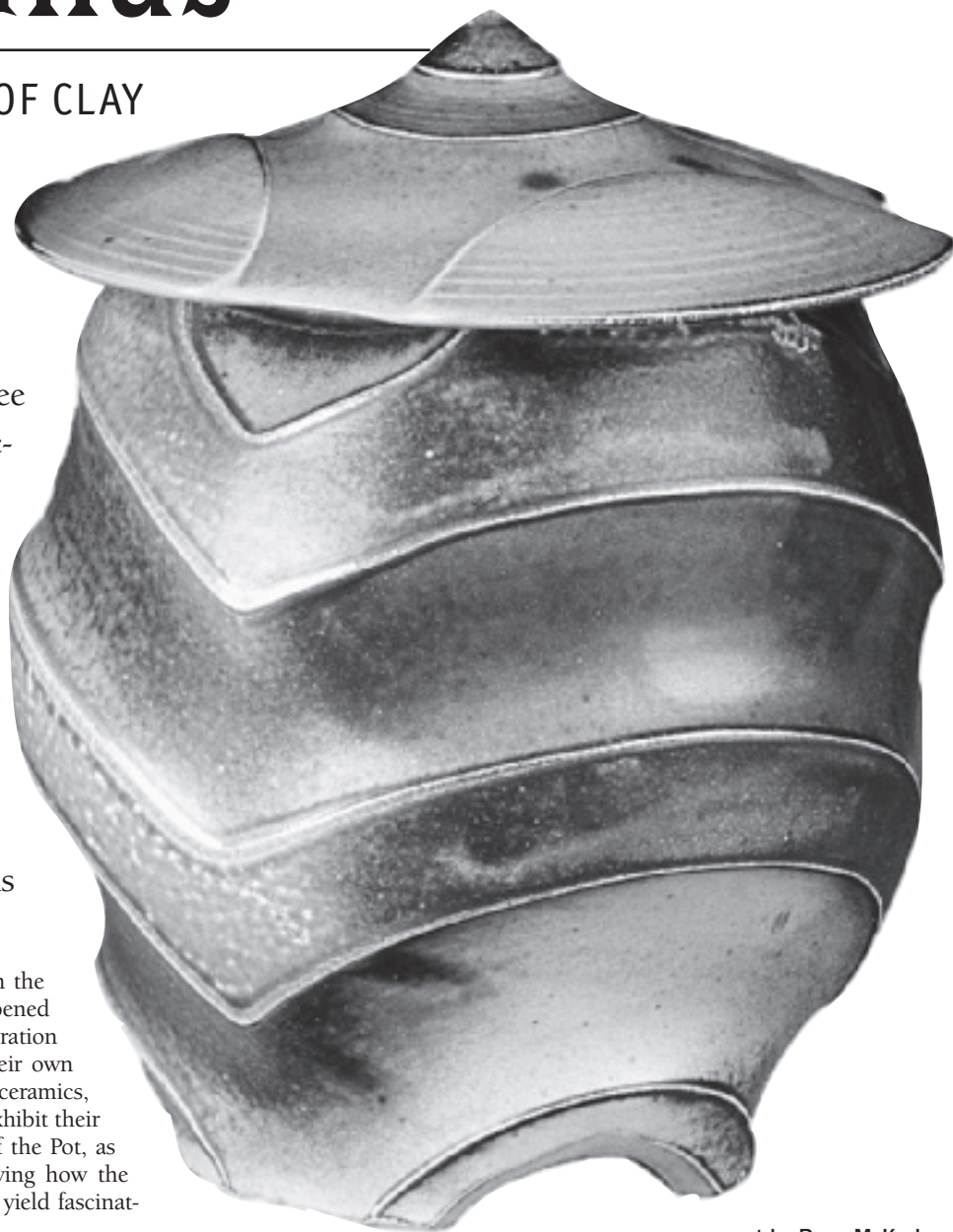
us all the more reason to surround ourselves with objects we actually enjoy, and Art of the Pot gives us a unique opportunity to get more familiar with what local potter Lisa Orr calls “art you put in your mouth.”

Last year Orr and four of her colleagues in the world of pottery and ceramic sculpture opened their studios to the public for a two-day celebration of their art form. In addition to showing their own dinnerware, vases, planters, and functional ceramics, they invited 11 nationally known potters to exhibit their work side by side with them. The first Art of the Pot, as the weekend was called, succeeded in showing how the ancient and rather plain medium of clay can yield fascinating variations when it's in creative hands.

This Mother's Day weekend, those five artists – Rebecca Roberts, Claudia Reese, Marian Haigh, Ryan McKerley, and Lisa Orr – are back with Art of the Pot 2005. The five founding members are proud to host in-state and national potters, and this year they've invited: Christa Assad, Dee Buck, Leanne McClurg, Jenny Lind, Allan Walter, Jason Hess, Peter Beasecker, Michael Corney, Liz Lurie, Billy Ray Mangham, and Susan Filley. As this is an artist-managed endeavor, the studios will be cozy with lots of character. What follows is an introduction to their work through a look at the different materials and processes these artists use.

One of the classic types of clay is porcelain, which is ground very fine and smooth. It's white, so every mark on it shows up crisply. It's also strong and is frequently spun fairly thin to give pieces a delicate look. Several Art of the Pot artists use porcelain, including Ryan McKerley, Peter Beasecker, and Marian Haigh. All three employ a limited color palette and in parts of the work allow the white porcelain to show through the glaze. Just as painters use transparent layers to achieve color, potters pay careful attention to any raised edge on their pieces. A certain thin lip on a cup will be a thin light version of the glaze color. The white shows through the glaze that pools at the bottom during firing. This thin lip is used to get the maximum tonal range out of one glaze color. The desired effect is a gradient fade almost like airbrushed art. The white of the porcelain is used efficiently as coloring and form. Stoneware is a similar material, with a bit more texture and speckled in the color.

Peter Beasecker is a badass, a real master of the potter's wheel. His forms are thin and strong. The lines are immaculately purposeful. His fin-



pot by Ryan McKerley, Austin

ished texture is more like a cold-waxed matte than a high-glossy mirror. Repeated forms of cups line up like perfect little soldiers. Their sides wobble upward in a natural line that is smooth but not mechanical.

Another potter who uses stoneware and porcelain to sweet effect is Ryan McKerley. McKerley is adroit at spinning consistently formed pieces day after day. His glazes are earth tones and sedated greens and blacks, similar to Beasecker's in their subtlety. He employs a fairly complicated glazing process. When the vessel is completely dry, he applies wax with a brush. It dries quickly, then he uses a wet sponge to scrub the exposed surfaces. In a reductive process akin to bas-relief or batik, just enough clay is removed so a resist edge is created. These physical edges are key to the delicate effects of the glaze coloring. When he chooses to soda-fire, McKerley will heat the kiln to Cone 10, approximately 2,400 degrees. This is hot enough to vaporize sodium from rock salt or baking soda. Baking soda is dissolved in water, then sprayed into the kiln, where the sodium in the vapor combines with the silica in the clay body or glaze to create a sodium-silicate glaze. Why the extra step? The glazes are affected in a different way each firing, allowing for surprises and happy accidents. McKerley's designs also function efficiently. They are light but durable. They sway up into your hand, and your fingers grip on the resist pattern. They're smooth but not slippery.

Marian Haigh also uses porcelain and stoneware. This pale, delicately ground clay is an elegant and refined material in itself, but she makes it still more elegant by using it as a ground for subtle coloring

continued on p.44



cup by Christa Assad, San Francisco, CA

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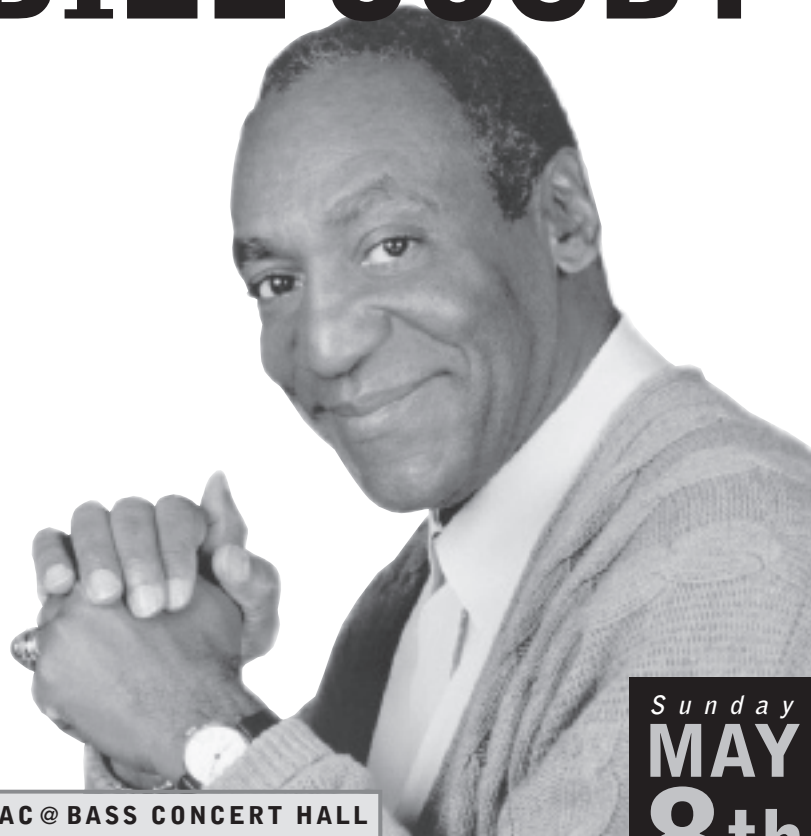
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and drawings of birds, whose necks echo the long lines of the form. She cleverly uses the bird imagery in the form and as a decorative surface treatment. In a series of pitchers or vases, the spouts are darkly tinted into beaks of ducks, and foreground birds peek up around the base. Her forms are completely hand-built. Her primary tool: a regular ol' rolling pin. The edges of her vases are straightforward and clean. The electric kiln firing she uses is capable of bright Day-Glo hues, but she chooses understated earth tones. These pieces are soothing and woodsy.

No matter what type of clay is used, many artists will keep a supply of press molds around. Once the basic structure of the piece is established, dollops of clay are pressed into clay or plaster molds. Haigh has molds of architectural details from gravestones – little flowers or lambs, for example. Other works by Haigh display a light touch and delicate sensibility. She has a nice sense of romantic tenderness. In her artist's statement she wrote, "I watch the rhythms and patterns of the natural world. Smooth river rocks, eroded mud banks,

spiraling leaves falling to the ground, and birds that look up."

Sometimes hand builders use slabs to generate structures, and at other times coils. Rebecca Roberts does both. She builds up porcelaneous stoneware vessels, then electric kiln fires them. She likes the clay to look like clay, not disguised with bright colors. Her early building process when the clay was really wet is still visible in the final piece. The texture is organic, reminiscent of fabric or folded paper. Drawing on her background in printmaking, Roberts embosses the surface of the clay with textures, stamps, and hatching. Internally glazed to be functional, much of the decorative exterior surface is left naturally brown. The lack of disguise used by Roberts gives her work a classic resonance. It's pregroovy, because the clay is fired with a smooth glaze inside, but the shell is left rough. Its barky character is a facade; it seems a tough face put up against a hard natural force. The 100% natural clay here is completely manipulated to be utterly easy to clean inside, yet mimicking a paper that is hatched or etched or fauxed into granite.



pottery by Rebecca Roberts, Austin



pottery by Jason Hess, William, AZ

When it comes to displaying ceramics in the home, if you like it, build a shelf around it. Let's say you paint a mint or light blue square on your boring wall and add two shelves. You've achieved a clean grid – then plunk! You set down the ceramic vessel made by Rebecca Roberts. It looks like a chocolate mud leaf or a paper sailboat. The rich dark foreground character emerges, monolithic in its new home. The vessel is slightly curved, but next to the right angles it looks even more so.

White earthenware is a common choice for materials. Claudia Reese electric fires her clay with colored engobes and black and clear glaze. Engobe is a colored slip, in her case darker than the white earthenware. She mixes smooth and carved surfaces and hand builds. She uses machines for rolling slabs, which are then laid on plaster hump molds. She also has a hydraulic ram to smash lumps

of clay into plaster molds. These are known as ram-pressed vessels. This is a handy way to create plates and trays, instead of on the wheel. While the white earthenware is the core ingredient here, the colored slip is added to change the outer appearance. Reese is well-versed in slip-cast vessels and objects. She will also use deflocculated slip (liquid clay) and pour it into plaster molds to create vases, teapots, and cups. One of the techniques she favors is sgraffito – carving through a colored engobe on the surface of the vessel to reveal the clay white body color below. She makes dramatic patterns within the clay itself. Reese layers colored engobes to create the illusion of depth on her functional wares.

One person who expresses herself in an original way is Lisa Orr, whose pieces remind me of fancy cake decorating. They

*continued on p.46*

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are baroque fantasies. White earthenware is covered with a red terrazigilata, then electric fired to 2,000 degrees. She mixes and matches technical processes. She will throw slabs inside a bowl mold, like a jig on the pottery wheel. She also presses slabs into carved molds. This keeps the form fresh. Her molds do not speed up the production process. They slow it down. She says the press mold aesthetic is derived from metalworking, which was more expensive and therefore desirable, so ceramic artists began to mimic the more stately material. She is influenced by the celebratory nature of French 18th-century porcelain, particularly the extravagant serving trays made by Bernard Palissy, and colorful Mexican ceramics.

Orr lets each aspect of her process remain evident in the final finish of these heavily colored pieces. The design of these is all about the eye candy rather than hyperefficient functional design. The dishes come in a consistent color scheme of orange-brown, golden yellow, turquoise, and whites, which helps make them accessible for everyday use; since no two pieces are alike, replacements are easily integrated. She adds sprigging – little wormy squiggles – to the outside of a loosely pressed mold and simple stamps extra twists and twirls around the petite handles. When added to your china cabinet, her works add a nice Alice-in-Wonderland-when-she's-10-feet-tall aspect, spicing things up pleasantly.

A pleasant man, Billy Ray Mangham lives in the boondocks outside Austin. If he got the memo that said "pottery should be functional," he didn't let it influence his work too much. His humorous work results from a very additive process: He starts with a vessel and just keeps adding animalist totem characters until it won't really function anymore. It looks cool and is sure to be a conversation piece. A prolific and colorful artist, Mangham is known for sharing his ample studio space, which is a magnet for talented area artists. He fires large outdoor electric kilns for his work, which is often really big and really bright. Political imagery mixes with cute animals, skulls, and guns – anything to make you look twice and scratch your head. But it is honest work, and Mangham seems to really enjoy exercising his freedom to free associate.

# ART OF THE POT STUDIO LOCATIONS

**Ryan McKerley**, 2710 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-4776

**Lisa Orr**, 1502 Alta Vista, 445-4124

**Marian Haigh**, 2600 Bridle Path, 477-6112

**Rebecca Roberts**, 205 Canyon Rim, 329-9113

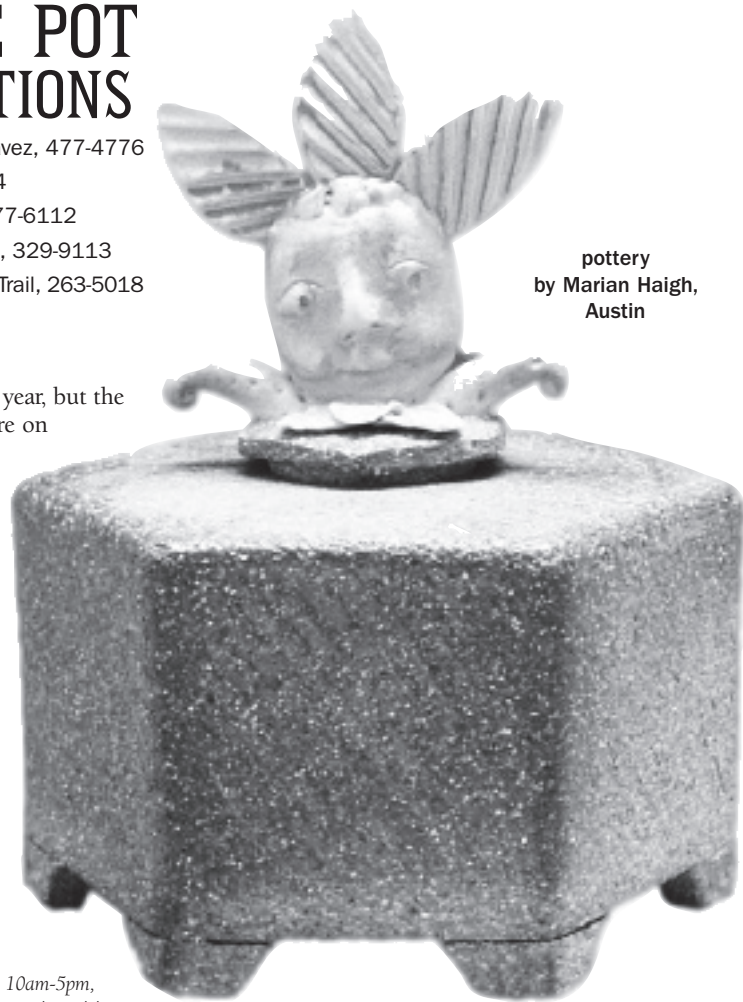
**Claudia Reese**, 709 N. Tumbleweed Trail, 263-5018

Art of the Pot is only in its second year, but the founders see it as a permanent fixture on Austin's arts calendar, with room for expansion. McKerley suggests in the future it could feature educational lectures and merchandise, "a franchise of the AOTP tour for other cities, a line of underwear, T-shirts, cozies, golf club bags, surfboards all with the AOTP logo, and an AOTP TV show – think *Antiques Roadshow* and *The Real World* mixed together."

He's joking. He clearly prefers the ancient art of handmade dishes to any mass-produced schlock.

As should you. No need to be bored with your dishes, to hate your china cabinet, when you could be drinking from and eating off art.

*Art of the Pot 2005 takes place May 7 and 8, 10am-5pm, at various studios around Austin. For more information, visit [www.artofthepot.com](http://www.artofthepot.com).*



pottery  
by Marian Haigh,  
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**RANDOM THOUGHTS:** "A dresser has been brought in for the business of the daily dressing of **Michael Jackson**," said a Jackson source to the **New York Daily News**. "You have to remember Michael Jackson is not used to making daily public appearances. This is a real challenge to come up with an outfit every day." Yeah, I know, having to dress yourself every day is cruel and unusual punishment... Of course you'll want to look into the new **Evolution by Margarita** bra; it provides a desperately needed public service by making you look like you have breast implants even when you don't... The results are in: On **AOL**, 74,000 children between the ages of 6 and 12 have voted for whom they think would be **Cooliest Mom**. The winner is **Jessica Simpson** in first place, followed by **Jennifer Lopez**, **Gwen Stefani**, and **Britney Spears** in last place. These frightening results illustrate why we don't let children vote until they're 18... From **Cindy Adams'** column: "You know what they call Washington, D.C.? The work-free drug place."... Presumably with a straight face, **US Weekly** presented something called the **Young Hot Hollywood Style Awards**, starring Jessica Simpson, **Jessica Alba**, **Nicole Richie** (combined age, 73), and **John Stamos**, 42. If 42 is now young and John Stamos is now hot, our future is dim, indeed. Be afraid... I guess that **George W. Bush's** hunt for **Osama bin Laden** is going as well as **O.J. Simpson's** hunt for **Nicole Brown's** killer...

**THE LATE SHOW:** I've discovered true delight in the middle of the night: the **Trinity Broadcasting Network**, which broadcasts turgid biblical dramas without interruption. I happened to be flipping through the usual arid network desert of late-night talk shows and infomercials, when suddenly my screen was filled with the lurid Technicolor posturings of **David and Bathsheba** starring **Gregory Peck** and **Susan Hayward**. Peck does his best as David, who can't keep it in his pants. Amazingly, Hayward illustrates how to bear children without gaining an inch. Full of soggy dialogue and eye-popping cinematography, any relationship to the Bible is in name only. Surely accuracy is not a top priority for TBN? Another night, they showed **Solomon and Sheba** with **Yul Brenner** (with hair) and **Gina Lollobrigida** (clearly wearing **Revlon's Matching Lips and Fingertips** in the popular **Fire and Ice** color). Brenner replaced **Tyrone Power**, who died during the filming of this, but I'm sure he felt there was no other way to get out of this ridiculously overwrought (yet so plush!) Old Testament drama. Though exactly where the **Queen of Sheba** bought her 1950s couture in the time of the Pharaohs remains a mystery, all cynicism ends when Sheba converts and the crowds call poor Sheba a "pagan slut," then try stoning her to death. Fortunately ol' Solomon returns just in time for Sheba to make a deal with God that if he spares Solomon's life, she will return to her own country and the spawn of their lust

will rule Sheba. Surely there's a lesson there ... if only I could find it.

**SOCIAL DIARY:** Jewelers to the stars **Anthony Nak** hosted a reception for architect **MJ Neal** ([www.mjneal.com](http://www.mjneal.com)) at their MJ Neal-designed store on Brazos. The store, of course, is gorgeous, creating a strong yet peaceful presence that understands it is designed to show off jewelry, yet is loaded with the same razor-sharp edge with which Neal imbues all his designs. Neal's glamorous and vivacious wife, **Viviane Vives**, producer and star of the award-winning indie film **Dear Pillow** ([www.dearpillow.com](http://www.dearpillow.com)), was also present. She and I both raved about the good works done by the **Austin Film Society**, which helped finance the film... We left there to go to the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden Party**, a very well-attended benefit for the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum. I don't know why I haven't dragged myself out of my chair to attend this before; they've always been so kind about inviting me, so I swore I'd go this year. Now that I have, I have to say that this event ranks as one of the most beautiful parties I've ever been to. The sculpture garden itself is a jewel box of beauty, with Charles Umlauf's works tucked in among the trees, ponds, and bridges. Using tiny lights and torches, the organizers, chaired by **Laura Merritt**, created a magical setting along the trails, and 20 of Austin's finest restaurants offered delicious food and wine, as the **Nash**

DARCIE SITERI/INNOVATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY



One of the dozens of pots painted and planted by local celebs (this one by artist Nathan Jensen) for the auction at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden Party

**Hernandez Orchestra** serenaded. Honorary Chair **Anne Elizabeth Wynn** was in attendance; she dresses so beautifully that I now have two fashion icons to look up to in Austin. The highlight of the event is the auction of pots decorated by such Austin luminaries as **Evan Smith**, **Kathy Womack**, **Mr. Fabulous**, **Toni Price**, **the Gourds**, and the gorgeous and glorious **Sara Hickman**.

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



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**SXSW. Amy Simmons-Amy's Ice Cream. Austin Tejano Democrats.**

**Bob Cole. BOMA. Brewster McCracken. Will Wynn. Louis Black.**

**Carl Tepper. Dart Assoc. David Jabour-Twin Liquors. Del Castillo.**

**George Devore. Jackie Goodman. Jim Knight. Titus Runyan.**

**James White-Broken Spoke. Kevin Fowler. Kinky Friedman.**

**Libertarian Party. Lori Cervenak-Renteria. Sammy Allred.**

**Mary Guerrero-McDonald. Austin Warehouse District Assoc.**



Those on this list have contributed to Keep Austin Free or declared that they are against the Smoking Ban.

# THE EMPRESS

## AUSTIN RESTAURATEUR SUZI YI SHARES HER STORY BY MICK VANN

Suzi Yi, mogul-matron of the Suzi's Chinese restaurant empire, is either a very crafty businesswoman or the luckiest lady in Austin. We know she's crafty, but there is probably at least a touch of luck involved, as well. Spunky, effervescent, and blessed with drop-dead good looks, Yi emigrated to the U.S. from South Korea with her parents and siblings in 1977 to join extended family and friends that had already established a foothold here in the States.

She had history with the family's cafe back home, and her first job here was at Taiwan Restaurant on William Cannon at South First. She worked there for eight years, and was the de facto favorite waitress of all of the regulars. We used to eat there regularly (it's still open and still good, by the way), and we'd always make sure we sat in Yi's section. She exhibited an innate ability to lift spirits and make you laugh, knew what you wanted to order before you did, and through the years developed a huge fan base.

One of those regulars was Frank Seely, a local contractor who specialized in restaurant development and construction. "I never had any intention of opening a place," she says, "but it just seemed like Frank and so many others kept bringing it up, so I figured it was supposed to happen. There was an old thrift store on Lamar that was vacant, and when we looked at it, I really started to think that maybe this was meant to be.

"For the first six months, I was there every single hour it was open, seven days a week – meeting all of the customers, making sure everything was perfect. It had to be fresh, and the sauces had to be clean – just the way I like it. It was important for customers to identify me with my place and my food. I needed to know the regulars: If they didn't show up at least once a week, I was going to have

to call 911. After six months of constant effort, it turned the corner. We got some good reviews, and I started seeing a steady stream of regular customers."

Those six months turned into years of consistent business and happy diners. Yi was able to bring her siblings into the fold to help her run the place, and she paid off her investors and turned a nice profit. Seely became like an older brother and in 1997 approached Yi with another vacant location: Anderson Lane at Shoal Creek. "I never thought I'd open a second restaurant ... it just fell in my lap," she says. "Somehow, the financing worked out, and it just happened. It was bigger and a little bit nicer, so we were able to add a grill and expand the menu. Business just took off. It was a lot easier the

second time. People already knew who I was, I had trained people to help me, we won some *Chronicle* awards, and we had eight years of history to rely on."

In 2002, her sister in Colorado Springs found a good location and wanted to open her own place. Yi came up with the capital for start-up, and helped her get it open and off the ground. "It's doing good, and my sister is putting out great food. And she's paying me back," Yi laughs.

Last year, Seely found another spot, this time in Rollingwood. "My brother and his wife wanted to run their own place, but after they discovered how hard the restaurant business is, especially while raising two small kids at the same time, they decided to move to Dallas," she says. "I never planned on having three places, well, it's really four, I suppose, but I guess it just happens." When asked if she has any plans for future expansion, she demurs. "I just want to do my best and make all of the restaurants I have even better. Besides," she chuckles, "I've run out of family."

**"No husband, no kids, no tattoos ... my business is my husband." – Suzi Yi**



JOHN ANDERSON

Yi is not married, but admits to dating "a chef. ... No husband, no kids, no tattoos," she says. "My business is my husband."

For insight on how Yi thinks, consider this: Commenting on her menu's moderate price range, and the fact that she had achieved an elegant look at the Shoal Creek restaurant without spending a fortune doing so, she says, "If you spend a million bucks just opening a place you'll fail. You have to keep costs low, quality high, and prices fair. I want to see my customers four times a week instead of once a month." Yi might have good luck, but she's also smart, energetic, and persistent. Restaurant empires don't just happen on their own. ■

## FOOD-O-FILE BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

**REALITY COOKING** Those of us of a certain age got our first taste of food television watching episodes of *The French Chef* with **Julia Child**, brought to us in grainy black-and-white splendor by the Boston PBS affiliate WGBH. The newest cooking show from the venerable New England station couldn't be more different. In *Cooking Under Fire*, Julia's innate charm is replaced with the fast-paced, nerve-jangling rattle of pots and pans as 12 finalists vie for the title of America's Hottest New Chef. Presiding over the competition are TVFN chef/personality **Ming Tsai**, award-winning cookbook author **Michael Ruhlman**, and celebrity chef/restaurateur **Todd English**. Many potential contestants had live auditions in major cities around the country, while others submitted videotapes for consideration. Twelve finalists were chosen, and they are competing for the position of executive chef at one of English's New York City restaurants. Each week, the aspiring chefs are faced with a variety of tasks and cooking challenges as the judges decide who gets eighty-sixed and who moves forward – think *American Idol* with knives and skillsets. The first two episodes debuted at 7pm on Wednesday, April 27, and the remainder will air on Wednesdays at 7:30. The first episode set up the premise, revealing some of the contestant auditions and introducing the finalists. The second show threw the contestants into the heat of a Los Angeles restaurant kitchen, and the first casualty was identified by his response to adversity. For more information on *Cooking Under Fire*, go to [www.pbs.org/wgbh/cookingunderfire](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/cookingunderfire). At this point, I haven't identified a favorite candidate, and I'll have to admit, I'm really more curious about whether the reality/competition cooking show will draw much of an audience. I'd love to hear what readers think about this program. And for those who like their cooking reality shows with a distinct British flavor, deliciously profane English celebrity chef **Gordon Ramsay** is back with *Beyond Boiling Point*, the BBC's inside look at the workings of a busy London restaurant kitchen. For more info about Ramsay's schedule, go to [www.bbcamerica.com/genre/home\\_living/beyond\\_boiling\\_point/beyond\\_boiling\\_point.jsp](http://www.bbcamerica.com/genre/home_living/beyond_boiling_point/beyond_boiling_point.jsp).

## EVENT MENU MAY 5-12

🎯 **Hello, Birdie!** is a major fundraiser thrown by the folks at **Big Red Sun** (1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688) for the **Sustainable Food Center** (236-0074, [www.sustainablefoodcenter.org](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org)) with two very popular components. The first night offers a benefit gala and silent birdhouse auction hosted by **Kinky Friedman** with food, cocktails, live music, and an auction featuring birdhouses designed by local Austin artists and celebrities. Tickets for the gala are \$50. The second event is a Family Festival with a day of children's birdhouse building, face painting, a petting zoo, plenty of refreshments, and live entertainment all day long. Tickets for the festival are \$10 for adults, with kids younger than 12 getting in free. Gala and auction, 7-10pm, Thursday, May 5; Family Festival, noon-7pm, Saturday, May 7.

🎯 The **TDS Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion** is the site of the sixth annual **Wine Tasting and Auction** benefiting **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** ([www.mobileloavesandfishes.org](http://www.mobileloavesandfishes.org), 328-7299), a social outreach ministry that provides food and clothing to Austin's homeless and working poor. The event features samples of wines from around the world, food catered by **Don Strange** of San Antonio,

live music, and auction items such as vacation packages, fishing trips, sports memorabilia, and theme baskets. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. Tickets to the general event as well as a special vintage tasting in one of the Ranch private lodges are \$200. For more information, contact **Melanie Harris** at 241-0016; 7-10pm, Saturday, May 7.

🎯 Perhaps Mom would enjoy a classic romantic comedy and a great Italian meal to celebrate her special day. In that case, there might still be time to make reservations to take her to see *Roman Holiday* at the **Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar** (1120 S. Lamar, [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com)) this Sunday. Share a champagne toast with Mom before a delicious three-course Italian meal while **Audrey Hepburn** and **Gregory Peck** evade the paparazzi in Roma. Reservations are \$28; 1:30pm and 6:30pm, Sunday, May 8.

🎯 **Ed** and **Madeleine Manigold**, owners of **Spicewood Vineyards** (830/693-5328, [www.spicewoodvineyards.com](http://www.spicewoodvineyards.com)) suggest you bring Mom for lunch at the vineyard, catered by **Beth Pav** of Austin's **Cooking by Design**. The luncheon will include a delightful three-course spring menu designed by Pav paired with a glass of Spicewood's award-winning wines for \$30. Reservations are necessary, and a \$10 children's menu is available; 1pm, Sunday, May 8.

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Suzi Yi took a brave step entering the fray of Asian restaurants in the West Lake-Rollingwood area. First, she picked an area that has seen countless other Asian eateries come and go nearly as often as the stock market has rumbled up and down. Then she picked a spot up on a hill and a little hard to find. Then, to show her courage, she planted her restaurant close to the perennial favorite Bistro 88, firing a canon shot over chef Jeff Liu's celebrated restaurant. Her reward for taking these risks has been brisk business and an already loyal clientele.

Inside, the restaurant is cool and modern with a clean and efficient feel and an emphasis on quick service. Don't go expecting white tablecloths and a quiet corner to while away a romantic evening. Suzi's bustles with cheery energy. The service, as in all of Suzi's restaurants, is friendly. The menus are quite extensive and offer inventive fusion food leaning toward Americanized dishes.

We started with the sushi menu, which is chock-full of rolls of every possible description. We were more interested in the quality of the fish, so we ordered simple nigiri formulations – uni (sea urchin roe), toro (fatty tuna), hamachi (yellow tail), unagi (eel), and sake (salmon). Our Occidental waiter seemed a little confused about the order and got some help from an Asian waiter. After about 10 min-



JOHN ANDERSON

utes, he came back and said they had no uni and wanted to know if I wanted to change the order. I said no, thanks. A few minutes later, he came back and said they had no toro and wanted to know if I wanted to change the order. I told him just to add another piece of hamachi. When the plate finally arrived, it was just hamachi and unagi, no sake, either. We decided to just enjoy what we had, and it was delicious. The hamachi (\$2.50 per piece) was rich and buttery; the unagi (\$2 per piece) was sweetly flavorful. And, always the true test of a sushi bar, they had the rice perfect: just sticky enough to hold together and with the ideal blend of sugar and vinegar.

Our next order was Suzi's Chicken Lettuce Wrap (\$5.95), an appetizer worthy of a full meal. On one plate, you get a half head of iceberg lettuce, and on the other, a delicious

concoction of diced chicken in a spicy brown sauce. Take a leaf of lettuce, dab a few spoonfuls of chicken in the middle and roll it up like a taco. Delicious. One serving makes about six of these rolls, so it's plenty of food for the money. A bowl of Won Ton Soup came with our meal, and it, too, was huge, with two big won tons stuffed with mushrooms, chicken, shrimp, and pork, sitting in a deliciously simple bowl of chicken stock. The Egg Drop Soup, which also came with the meal, was a good example of the care taken in the kitchen. Instead of the usual gloppy and bland soup you get at most Chinese restaurants, Suzi's had distinct flavors and a silky texture.

The main courses were ample servings, as well. Kung Pao Chicken (\$6.50) was hot and spicy with tender chicken and a large number of crispy peanuts. The crunchy textures of the vegetables and peanuts and the silky sauce were delicious. We also tried the Beef With Broccoli (\$6.75), which featured thin slices of what tasted like beef tenderloin and crispy broccoli in a savory brown sauce. Both dishes are classic Chinese restaurant fare for Americans, and we've all had mediocre versions. Suzi's food excelled in being fresh and crisp and having distinct flavors and textures.

Yi's foray into West Lake is daring, but she brings good food, a clean and modern look, reasonable prices, friendly service, and years of proven skill in keeping Austin diners happy. I think her China Grill on Bee Caves Road will be another winner.

– Wes Marshall

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Forget what you know about fast-food and takeout joints. The geography of takeout in this century is an entirely new landscape from the one forged along the interstate system of golden arches and plastic big boys. Today's takeout is smart, self-aware, and worldly.

Parallel, a new Austin eatery that defies categorization, is pushing the limits of takeout even further. The first tenant in the new Burnet Road shopping center at 47th Street, Parallel triangulates its position somewhere among retail, coffee shop, and personal catering. The store dabbles in a little of everything: Along the back wall, there's the food – individually packaged meals, cheeses, and snacks. Then there's the wine and coffee bar that serves fresh-brewed coffees and wines by the glass. A high-toned, Wi-Fi-enabled common space allows those who want to surf the Net and savor a glass of chardonnay the ability to do so in elegance. Shelves and display cases arranged throughout the store peddle cute, gifty merchandise: pretty glass bowls, colorful bags and purses, and stylish house wares that look as though they were lifted straight from the pages of *Dwell Magazine*. There's also a food case for kids, overflowing with individually packaged homemade mac 'n' cheese, PB&Js with the crusts removed, carrot sticks with ranch dressing, yogurts, and homemade butter cookies, which, with their delicately scented lemongrass and cardamom flavor, are really more of a treat for mom than for kids.

This is a business that is actively seeking out its niche, trying on styles and genres to see what fits best. Owners Geoff Helt and Carolyn Carlson are local residents and would like to see their business rooted in a neighborhood clientele. Parallel is basically their experiment in food and retail. A DJ spins dreamy Europop for the bar crowd on Thursday evenings, while Saturday mornings are devoted to kids story time.



JOHN ANDERSON

Helt and Carlson have hired Scott Collins away from his most recent posting at Louie's 106 to helm the kitchen at Parallel. The small kitchen staff turns out an impressive selection of daily specials that are then packaged in individual-sized portions, ready for pickup, or for dining in. Busy people who love fine cuisine, but who can afford neither the time to cook nor the money and energy to get it at a stuffy restaurant, will find an answer to their prayers in Parallel. The food is exceptionally good.

Parallel publishes a new menu once a week. The offerings change daily and vary from hearty comfort foods to Haute Nouveau American. Breakfast items include quirky tacos stuffed with such ingredients as egg, broccoli, and St. Andre (it was delicious), or chicken and red peppers. Lunches and dinners range from sinful crawfish and cream lasagna to perfect Roasted Pork Tenderloin With Miso Gravy and Edamame (\$6.50). Small side dishes include risotto cakes, Cauliflower Flan (\$4), or simple roasted potatoes. Each dish is its own culinary excursion.

Prices at Parallel are not cheap: A typical lunch and dinner dish runs about \$6.50 and really requires a side (\$3-4) to make it a complete meal. But I think the quality and convenience do make it worth the stop. This will be especially true once Parallel offers larger quantities designed to feed families or groups, as they intend to do in the coming weeks. This nascent business is still trying to decide what it wants to be when it grows up. But its youth shows real promise.

– Rachel Feit

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# RESTAURANT ROULETTE



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RECENTLY REVIEWED

**AMERICAN CAFE: THE DRISKILL**

A very proper and delicious tea is served here with all the trimmings. Three dainty courses of sandwiches, pastries, and petit fours are served with two teas and style. **604 Brazos, 474-5911 \$\$\$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: GO GO**

**GOURMET** An inviting selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, entrées, and side dishes awaits you. Eat in or take out. **3505 N. I-35, 542-9860 \$\$\$**

**DOWNTOWN**

**CHAIN, DELIVERY, PIZZA, TAKEOUT: HOEK'S PIZZA** Of the many Sixth Street pie dealers, this wins for the most fun to say. And they have the best lighting. **320 E. Sixth, 708-8484 \$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: KATZ'S DELI & BAR** New York, New York! Austin's own posh-nosh, a sit-down deli for the late-night crowd. **618 W. Sixth, 472-2037 \$\$\$**

**JAPANESE: KYOTO I** This elder statesman of Japanese restaurants offers scrumptious sushi and other Asian fare. Nonsushi items cover the basics in Japanese cuisine, but don't expect surprises. **315 Congress, 482-9010 \$\$\$\$**

**MEDITERRANEAN: LOUIE'S 106** Crisp, elegant, multiterred setting for Austin's original tapas. **106 E. Sixth, 476-1997 \$\$\$**

**SEAFOOD: MARISCOS SEAFOOD GRILL** This place features a full Mexican menu in addition to their delicious seafood with a Mexican twist. **211 E. Sixth, 474-7372 \$\$\$**

**ITALIAN: MEZZALUNA** The stylish, quasi-industrial bar and dining area stay packed with downtown hipsters who know their regional cuisine. **310 Colorado, 472-6770 \$\$\$\$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: MIKE'S PUB** Climb the winding staircase and indulge in one of Mike's legendary greasy hamburgers. Loyal clients wear they are the best. **108 E. Seventh, 479-6424 \$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: PARADISE CAFE** Its downtown location and hearty menu have led to its success as a lunch destination as well as a nighttime spot. **401 E. Sixth, 476-5667 \$\$\$**

**CAJUN/CREOLE: SHOAL CREEK SALOON** A Cajun oasis next to Shoal Creek, with great South Louisiana chow, ice-cold beer, and a warm and fuzzy ambience. It's the friendliest sports bar in town. **909 N. Lamar, 474-0805 \$\$\$**

**STEAKHOUSE: SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE** The perfect meal here is the 24-oz. Cowboy Ribeye along with their justifiably famous Wedge of Iceberg, slathered with a decadent blue cheese dressing. **300 Colorado, 495-6504 \$\$\$\$**

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE HIDEOUT**

**COFFEEHOUSE** With goodies, coffee, tea, beer, films, performance art, bands, and a great view of the Congress goings-on, this storefront gathering spot is a major find. **617 Congress, 476-0473 \$**

**AMERICAN CAFE: WINK** If you're looking for an exemplary meal crafted from fresh ingredients and served in a loud, friendly atmosphere, this is your kind of place. **1014 N. Lamar, 482-8868 \$\$\$\$**

**EAST**

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

**TEX-MEX: LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT** By the smells and bright brick and tile interior you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. **2944 E. 12th, 472-4841 \$**

**THAI: LITTLE THAILAND** A cozy family joint located east of the airport, offering spectacular authentic Thai food in a funky, relaxed setting. **4315 Caldwell, 247-3855 \$\$\$**

**TEX-MEX: MI REY MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CAFE** "My King" boasts *guisado de puerco en chile colorado*, plump chile rellenos, and light, tasty gorditas. **1505 E. Seventh, 476-4211 \$\$**

**TEX-MEX: NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT** Cavernous, friendly restaurant offering cheap combination plates. Decorated almost exclusively in pink and green, adorned with Texas-shaped mirrors and many Christmas lights. Serious date potential. **1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097 \$\$\$**

**BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ** Wonderful slow-smoked brisket, chicken, mutton, and hot sausage topped with a sauce that makes the meat sing. **2000 E. 12th, 478-0378 \$**

**TEX-MEX: VIVO** Try their affordable San Antonio-style Tex-Mex fare and margaritas on the decks. **2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300 \$\$\$**

**LAKE**

**FINE DINING, STEAKHOUSE: BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE AND GARDEN BAR** More than a steak house, it's a darn good restaurant, and so it seems a shame to limit oneself to steak when visiting. **21814 Hwy. 71 W., 264-2223 \$\$\$**

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

**CHINESE: PAO'S MANDARIN HOUSE** Open 24 hours a day Monday through Friday, this Mandarin restaurant offers daily lunch and dinner specials. **2300 Lohmans Crossing #130, 263-8869 \$\$\$**

**BARBECUE: R.O.'S OUTPOST** A complete barbecue menu is available, as well as chicken-fried steak and fried quail. No matter how much you eat, you must save room for the pies. **22112 Hwy. 71 W. #2, 264-1169 \$\$\$**

**NORTH**

**CHINESE: DIN HO CHINESE BBQ** A menu long on fresh seafood and meats, all authentically prepared, served, and priced. The best roast duck and *char siu* roast pork around. Get them to go or eat them there. **8557 Research #116, 832-8788 \$\$\$**

**SOUTHWESTERN: IRON CACTUS NORTH** In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and Interior-Mexican spices. **10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778 \$\$\$**

**INTERIOR MEXICAN: MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS** Continues to be our favorite place for value-priced drinks and half-priced appetizers at happy hour. **10201 Jollyville Rd., 345-1042 \$\$\$**

**PIZZA: OASIS PIZZA** Start with crumbled feta, biting radish slices, and parsley garnishing a basket of hot flatbread. Kabob plates are another option, with tender meats and lightly charred vegetables. **14735 Bratton #105, 251-5777 \$**

**JAPANESE: OSAKA** Here you'll find friendly service in a folksy, neighborhood setting, large portions of impeccably fresh fish, and prices that won't topple the average budget. **13492 Research #160, 918-8012 \$\$\$**

**INDIAN: SHALIMAR** Fine Indian, Bangladeshi, and Pakistani cuisines for fans of South Asian dining. Their daily lunch buffet has an enormous variety of chicken, goat, and vegetable specialties. **9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700 \$\$\$**

**CHINESE: SUPER CHINA** The old China Garden location still offers spiced-up standards that leave you red-faced and satisfied. **11657 Research, 527-8888 \$\$\$**

**VIETNAMESE: TAM DELI & CAFE** Authentic and exquisitely crafted Viet noodlehouse fare: particularly strong on appetizers, *bun, pho*, and desserts. Nice portions, good service, low prices. **8222 N. Lamar, 834-6458 \$**

**STEAKHOUSE: WILDFIRE** Cozy steak house and grill with a pleasant atmosphere. The menu features oak-grilled steaks, chicken, seafood, and wild game with an interesting Southwestern twist. **812 S. Austin Ave., 869-3473 \$\$\$**

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6-11PM

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continued on p.56

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**NORTH CENTRAL**

**TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA** There's a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satellite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience here, but staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate. 7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070 \$

**TEX-MEX: EL POLLO FELIZ** Tender, juicy rotisserie chickens by the plate, whole bird, or party pack paired with reliable side dishes will make your wallet happy. 6801 Airport, 323-6604 \$

**TEX-MEX: FREEBIRD'S WORLD BURRITO** Fresh ingredients; a fun, casual atmosphere; and their patented "Bad Ass BBQ Sauce" make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when lines are out the door. 1000 E. 41st, 451-5514 \$

**STEAKHOUSE: J.C.'S BAR & GRILL** Superlative cheeseburgers, and steaks that are above average, at slightly less than average prices. You definitely get your money's worth at J.C.'s, and you'll leave with a contented smile. 5804 N. I-35, 407-9393 \$

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

**JAPANESE, KOREAN: KIMCHI SUSHI** Simply decorated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features a menu of Korean favorites. 6406 N. I-35 #2343, 453-4111 \$

**PIZZA: THE PARLOR** Fine pizza, flowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965 \$

**SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD** It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Great for lunch or an early dinner. 5621 Airport, 454-5827 \$

**SOUTH**

**TEX-MEX: AZUL TEQUILA** Offers both Tex-Mex dishes and Interior specialties like Albondigas en Chipotle and Enchiladas de Pipian. Go with a crowd, listen to the music, and have some fun. 4211 S. Lamar, 416-9667 \$

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: BAKEHOUSE** Features a menu studded with specialties, from stir-fry to filet mignon to chicken Florentine. Classic diner food, designed for those who crave the honest, homemade flavors of mama's cooking. 5404 Manchaca, 443-5167 \$\$\$

**PACIFIC RIM: BISTRO 88 WESTLAKE** Offerings include some of the more popular Pacific Rim dishes, plus an array of continental meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetarian items blended with ingredients from around the Pacific Rim. 2712 Bee Caves Rd., 328-8888 \$\$\$

**TEX-MEX: CASA GARCIA'S** Offers a wide selection of traditional Tex-Mex favorites as well as an enticing array of Interior Mexican dishes. The cabrito is worth a return visit. 1901 W. William Cannon, 441-9504 \$

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

**KOREAN: D.K.'S SUSHI BAR & SEOUL RESTAURANT** Blending sushi with Korean and Japanese standards, they have developed a loyal following of South Austin regulars over many years. 6400-C S. First, 326-5807 \$

**CHINESE: FIRE BOWL CAFE** Asian stir-fried rice bowls featuring your choice of veggies, beef, chicken, pork, shrimp, or salmon. 5601 Brodie, 899-8998 \$

**AMERICAN CAFE: FREDDIE'S PLACE** Go there for burgers, chicken-fried steak, Frito pie, chili-cheese dogs, nachos, barbecue, homemade desserts, and a full bar. Great deck and backyard area in an old oak grove. 1703 S. First, 445-9197 \$

**TEX-MEX: HABANERO MEXICAN CAFE** Fans of Dos Hermanos: The restaurant with the new name on the same site is actually a spin-off. The recipes, friendly atmosphere, and kind service stay all in the family. 501 W. Oltorf, 416-0443 \$

**CHINESE, VIETNAMESE: HAO HAO** Features a mix of popular Chinese dishes coupled with their Vietnamese menu. They really shine with the blackboard Vietnamese specials, particularly the vegetarian dishes. 1901 W. William Cannon, 447-8121 \$\$\$

**CHINESE: HUNAN** A neighborhood favorite, serving reliable and spicy Chinese food for decades. Lunch is an incredible deal, and at night the portions get even bigger. 1940 W. William Cannon, 443-8848 \$

**INDONESIAN: JAVA NOODLES** Find exotic Indonesian fare and a menu demanding exploration by the adventurous. Lunch and Sunday brunch are among the best bargains in town. 2400 E. Oltorf, 443-5282 \$

**TEX-MEX: LA FERIA** This boisterous hotspot offers free tea with the lunch specials - we suggest the burritos. Live mariachi on Thursdays. 2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301 \$

**TEX-MEX: LITTLE MEXICO RESTAURANT** One of our favorite things to do is enjoy a chile relleno or a plate of carne guisada and listen to the mariachi bands that play here weekly. 2304 S. First, 462-2188 \$

**CHINESE: MARCO POLO** It lures quality-lovers in with the promise of a never-ending lunch buffet, but diners are seduced by the surprisingly fresh choices laid out every day. 2200 S. I-35, 445-5563 \$

**JAPANESE: SHOGUN** Specialties of the house include sukiyaki, tempura, teriyaki, teppanyaki, udon, and soba. The menu also features some interesting salads. 1807 Slaughter #225, 292-1580 \$

**JAPANESE: ZEN JAPANESE FOOD FAST** You have to work pretty hard to spend more than \$7 here. When we want fast, fresh, and tasty food we head to one of their three locations. 1303 S. Congress, 444-8081 \$

**UT**

**JAPANESE: BANZAI SUSHI & GRILL** Part of a new wave of world-wise fast-food eateries. Tasty, accessible, and inexpensive Japanese food is offered here. 3914 N. Lamar, 323-2151 \$

**DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, DELIVERY, TAKEOUT: LONGHORN PO-BOYS & FALAFEL** It seems unlikely, but this tasty and unassuming sandwich shop makes some of the city's best and cheapest falafel. Famous for their stuffed grape leaves. 2901-B Medical Arts, 495-9228 \$

**PIZZA: MANGIA CHICAGO STUFFED PIZZA** Delectable and deceptively filling stuffed pizza at a reasonable cost. Now going cross-cultural with breakfast tacos. 3500-B Guadalupe, 302-5200 \$

**DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MOMOKO** Sushi, Japanese treats, and trendy bubble tea can be found at this popular spot. 705 W. 24th, 469-0232 \$

**FINE DINING: STARLITE** White-clothed tables and a menu with Asian and eclectic, continental-cum-New American cuisine mean meals that you can taste and puzzle over without losing interest or appetite midstream. 624 W. 34th, 374-9012 \$\$\$

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD** The bright, comfortable dining room is populated with students enjoying Hyde Park Fudge Cake, Hobbit Bread, hearty sandwiches, soups, and salads. Great for breakfast. 2900 Rio Grande, 499-0544 \$

**THAI: THAI NOODLES ETC. HOUSE** A good selection of Thai street foods, including Thai noodle soups, dry noodle bowls, and stir-fry noodles. 2602 Guadalupe, 494-1011 \$

**CHINESE: YEN CHING NOODLE HOUSE** Get your noodle fix with homemade noodles and fantastic Ma Po Dofu. 2910 Guadalupe, 472-4754 \$

**WEST**

**TEX-MEX: CHUY'S NORTH** Hubcaps, colored lights, and a Velvet Elvis; this is Austin-style Tex-Mex at its tacky, funky best. Almost always busy. 11680 Research, 342-0011 \$

**TEX-MEX: EL ARROYO** The extensive menu at this longtime Austin favorite offers everything from breakfast tacos to late-night entrées. Don't miss the rollicking happy hour. 1624 W. Fifth, 474-1222 \$

**INTERIOR MEXICAN: FONDA SAN MIGUEL** Popular Nueva Cocina cuisine, which takes traditional Mexican ingredients and gives them a French spin. Try the white cheese queso. 2330 W. North Loop, 459-4121 \$\$\$\$

**BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE KITCHEN DOOR** The Kitchen Door is always open to catering, but come in for lunch anytime. Offers delicious salads as well as cold and hot sandwiches. 2504 Lake Austin Blvd., 236-9200 \$

**KOREAN: KOREA HOUSE** The selection of sushi is small and priced very fairly, and it's also worth giving the marvelous Korean food a try. 2700 W. Anderson #501, 458-2477 \$

**AMERICAN CAFE: THE OMELETRY** Before there was Magnolia or Kerbey Lane, there was the Omelettry, beloved for its eggs, flapjacks, and home fries. Same as it ever was. 4811 Burnet Rd., 453-5062 \$

**PIZZA: ROUNDERS PIZZERIA** Their pies are hand-tossed into a thin crust and baked until crispy. Fresh salads, made-to-order calzones, and an abundance of available ingredients are sure to please. 1203 W. Sixth, 477-0404 \$

**THAI: SATAY, THE ASIAN COOKERY** A Thai-owned operation blending culinary influences from Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines, it also offers a successful line of Thai condiments and sauces. 3202 W. Anderson #205, 467-6731 \$

**JAPANESE: SUSHI SAKE** They take their sake seriously, serving premium brands cold (as their makers intended). Second, they have a long sushi bar with some of the most beautiful fish in Austin. 9503 Research #500, 527-0888 \$\$\$

**THAI: THAI SPICE CAFE** Owned and operated by female chefs Vicki Vicha and Orasinee Ratana-Apron, both locations have similar menus, offering fresh, fast, reliable versions of traditional Thai dishes. 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 330-0203 \$

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With loyalty to such cinematic emperors as Fellini, Pasolini, and Antonioni, the Criterion Collection's devotion to post-war Italian masterpieces is serious business. Seriously *buffo*, *comico*, *spiritoso* in the case of neo-realist Pietro Germi's *Divorzio all'Italiana* (1962). A companion to Criterion's *Big Deal on Madonna Street* (1958), Mario Monicelli's eternally endearing caper film farce, this Best Original Screenplay Oscar winner laughed all the way to the international bank on the beautiful poker face (and timing) of Marcello Mastroianni. With gigolo eyes for his nubile first cousin (Stefania Sandrelli), Baron Ferdinand Cefalù – Fefè – must first rid himself of the unibrow-and-moustache sharing his bed for the past 15 years (Daniela Rocca). Like Preston Sturges' *Unfaithfully Yours*, a June Criterion release, the Barone's murderous daydreams accelerate the comedic pace until you, too, know how to mutter strumpet (*sgualdrina*) and cuckold (*cornuto*) in Italian. Screenwriter Ennio Concini, in a second disc of supplements, affirms that the statute the Baron discovers, wherein crimes of passion could be plea-bargained under the sanctity of marriage, did in fact exist. "The Man With a Cigar in His Mouth," a 40-minute documentary on Germi, chisels the taciturn actor/director's name into the marble of Italian legend with testaments ("He invented an almost Joycean type of interior monologue") and with comparisons to Billy Wilder, who considered Germi a genius. Having established his meticulous art with early social dramas like *Four Ways Out* (1950) and *The Railroad Man* (1956), it was Germi's latter comedies, *Divorce, Seduced and Abandoned* (1964), and *The Birds, the Bees, and the Italians* (1966) that made him world-renowned. "None of us really thought Germi had a sense of humor," marvels one colleague. "He could've been carved all of one piece, with a hatchet." – Raoul Hernandez



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Not doing anything Friday night? Oh, yes you are: You're going to the second annual TriPartite Film Festival, a nine-film minifest screening at Jo's (1300 S. Congress) at dusk (8:30pm) with all proceeds benefiting Austin SafePlace. "TriPartite is a foundation to encourage culture and art in Austin, while at the same time supporting a needy cause," says Ryan Cox, who co-directs the fest with founder Sean Ripple. "And besides helping out local charities like SafePlace, we just think there's a lot of great, unrealized filmmaking talent here, particularly regarding short films, and this is a really good avenue for exposure." Local filmmakers whose work will be screened include Kat Candler ("Pilot & Olo"), Stacy Schoolfield ("Barney"), and Angela K. Pires ("The Color White"), among others. And, of course, being at Jo's, there's plenty of caffeinated goodness to soak in while you bask in the reflected glow of Austin's burgeoning film community and do your good deed for the week. – Marc Savlov

**ALSO OUT NOW**

**I Vitelloni (Criterion):** Before Barry Levinson's *Diner*, there was Fellini's 1953 directorial breakout, a bittersweet autobiographical ensemble piece about a group of provincial loafers, complete with carnival sequence and Nino Rota's *Fantasia*-like score. Luminous poetry of image and visage.

**La Commare Secca (Criterion):** Bernardo Bertolucci's adaptation of his mentor Pier Paolo Pasolini's story treatment *The Grim Reaper* (1962), which recounts in flashback the alibis of suspects in a *puttana's* murder. The 21-year-old director's detached lyricism matches his debut's pedigree in the wake of Pasolini's own peerless debut, *Accattone*.

**WALKING ON SUNSHINE**

TODD SOLONDZ'S FEEL-BAD MOVIE OF THE YEAR

It's been 10 years since *Welcome to the Dollhouse's* Dawn Wiener skulked into view, an anniversary director Todd Solondz marks by opening his new film, *Palindromes*, with her funeral. *Dollhouse* is a jumping-off point and periodic reference, but *Palindromes* belongs to Dawn's cousin Aviva, a motherhood-obsessed 13-year-old whose parents force her to have an abortion, after which she journeys through an almost allegorical – though also deeply awkward and funny – middle America, coming to rest in a foster home where the manically Christian Sunshine family takes in unwanted children, cultivates a pop group of disabled youngsters, and plots against abortion doctors. She ends, like a palindrome (and like Dawn), where she started: back in New Jersey, at an uncomfortable backyard party.

Deprived of what Solondz has taken to calling (at his South by Southwest 2005 panel, among other places) the "narcissistic high" that comes from identification with the attractive, noble (or at least terribly clever) heroes of filmic convention, some critics have reacted badly to *Palindromes*. Not content to simply stir up the usual charges of misanthropy and soul-killing bleakness (especially egregious in our current culture of life), the director not only wades into the abor-

tion debate but invites further claims of art-damaged alienation by using different actors of wildly varying type to play tweener Aviva. As usual, Solondz imbues his treatment of incendiary subjects with ambiguity and wicked fun, but *Palindromes* is to date his most overtly experimental and philosophical work, traits bound to inspire accusations of artless provocation and unsuccessful storytelling.

But that's not how he sees it. "On the simplest level, for me [it's] the heart-breaking story of a young girl on a quest for love," said Solondz in a pre-SXSW phone interview. "And all the politically charged and morally difficult aspects of the film rest on that simple storyline. ... For me, she is an innocent, and I'm moved by her plight." Moreover, the Aviva-switching serves a purpose beyond disruption. "For all these changes that are constantly taking place with all of us," he said, "we are also at the same time paradoxically remaining the same. ... And that could be in some sense illustrated by this conceit. ... The hope was that the cumulative effect of all of these people, in a sense the universalizing of this character and this experience, would be greater than had I just used one person."

Stasis can be an outgrowth of ambivalence, of course, and if nothing else



JOHN ANDERSON

Todd Solondz at SXSW 05

Solondz seems to be trying to conjure a little more ambiguity than is currently available in the entrenched camps of the abortion debate. "I want the audience to have to reassess what it means to take on these positions, that it's very easy and just sort of glib to just sort of walk around with these slogans and placards," he said.

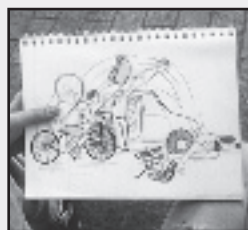
"Which is why I say, who's my audience?" he continued. "My audience are those with an open mind. And that doesn't always, of course, coincide with a liberal one." – Cindy Widner

*Palindromes* opens Friday in Austin. For a review and showtimes, see Film listings, p.90. See [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-11/screens\\_feature6.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-11/screens_feature6.html) for an expanded interview with Solondz.

**SHORTS FOR SAFEPLACE**

THE SECOND ANNUAL TRIPARTITE FILM FESTIVAL

Not doing anything Friday night? Oh, yes you are: You're going to the second annual TriPartite Film Festival, a nine-film minifest screening at Jo's (1300 S. Congress) at dusk (8:30pm) with all proceeds benefiting Austin SafePlace. "TriPartite is a foundation to encourage culture and art in Austin, while at the same time supporting a needy cause," says Ryan Cox, who co-directs the fest with founder Sean Ripple. "And besides helping out local charities like SafePlace, we just think there's a lot of great, unrealized filmmaking talent here, particularly regarding short films, and this is a really good avenue for exposure." Local filmmakers whose work will be screened include Kat Candler ("Pilot & Olo"), Stacy Schoolfield ("Barney"), and Angela K. Pires ("The Color White"), among others. And, of course, being at Jo's, there's plenty of caffeinated goodness to soak in while you bask in the reflected glow of Austin's burgeoning film community and do your good deed for the week. – Marc Savlov



Aaron Marshall's "When the Cat's Away"

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For more information, see [www.tripartitefest.net](http://www.tripartitefest.net).

**BURNT CHURCHES AND BACKSTABBING**  
'METAL STORM' WRACKS THE ALAMO

Ah, Norway. Land of beautiful, vast fishing villages, cod liver oil, and black metal. In fact, it may be what Norway is best known for, albeit in its satanic, black-mass-attending, animal-sacrificing, church-burning form. The history of Norwegian metal is as twisted and dark as the country's landscape. As part of the Alamo's Music Mondays, *Metal Storm: the Scandinavian Metal Wars* takes a look at the scene 10 years after murder, arson, and suicide forced a burgeoning lifeblood back underground.

The film centers around footage from a Norwegian documentary called *Satan Rides the Media*, which traces the tumultuous history of black metal through the early Nineties, when a string of church burnings turned the nation's eyes toward a small group of sinister metalheads. More specifically, the film spotlights Varg Vikernes of the one-man band Burzum, and his involvement in the burning of the historic Fantoft stave church in Bergen. After a journalist interviewed Vikernes (who later changed his name to Count Grishnackh) and he confessed, the media went buck-wild with the satanist slant, and they portrayed the metal scene as black-clad, evil-obsessed devil worshippers with no remorse and a penchant for hoarding animal heads. Vikernes adored the media attention,

and even used photos of the churches he burnt (three in all) on the cover of a Burzum album. (This would become briefly popular, as the band Mayhem used a photo of bandmate "Death" on the cover of an album, shortly after he blew his brain out with a shotgun.) Vikernes, however, had a more traditional reason for burning the churches. "The church [in Norway] has behaved so disgracefully," says a clean-cut Varg from prison. He reasons that he was just trying to save Norway from Christianity and return it to its pagan (not satanic) roots.

But in-fighting and shit-talking within the metal scene soon turned to backstabbing, literally. When Mayhem singer Euronymous was found stabbed to death in his Oslo apartment in 1993, it didn't take long before Vikernes confessed, and the scene all but disappeared for the remainder of the Nineties. Still, the spirit of metal still burns in the hills and forests of Norway.



– Audra Schroeder

In conjunction with the Monday, May 9, 9:45pm Alamo Drafthouse Downtown screening of *Metal Storm*, photographer and former Texan Peter Beste presents his collection of black metal portraits at the Space (next to I Luv Video on Airport) on Saturday, May 7. See Arts, p.41, for more.

INSIDE ...  
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62 TV EVE

# Shorts on a Shoestring

THE TEXAS DOCUMENTARY TOUR PRESENTS 10 UNDER 10 BY ANNE S. LEWIS



The rules of engagement for the fourth annual 10 Under 10, the program of UT student short films produced by documentary filmmaker (*Troop 1500*) and associate professor Ellen Spiro, are simple: a budget under \$10 (oomph) to make a film under 10 minutes long. "I want to promote the idea that debt is not sexy," Spiro explains, "and that one does not need a trust fund to make incredible films." More importantly, she selected films with an eye for those that "push the boundaries of the documentary genre." The program ranges from the intensely personal to the socially conscious – from funny to serious – with a lot of quirkiness in between. So often, explains Spiro, students put an amazing amount of time, energy, and passion into works that turn out to be little gems, but then they move onto other projects without having had an opportunity to show their shorts. The 10 Under 10 program aims to remedy that omission. Come to think of it, at a time when we're worn down by films that go on way too long (and cost far too much), a well-made short film made on a shoestring could be one of life's few remaining small pleasures.

## **Invincible** Josh Kinney

The fast-growing and elusive crime of identity theft is analyzed by a professional investigator and a thief who tells all. We gain an insight into how the process of identity theft and the mind of the thief work and also learn how, from the criminal's point of view, we can protect ourselves. "Working with a criminal for a confession of their activities and their methods on camera was an intricately tricky process," Kinney explains. "It required a massive amount of trust, confidence, and deal-making on both sides, which is ironic considering that I was dealing with a thief. To balance these demands with the technical intricacies of creating a good film was the most difficult part of making 'Invincible.'"

## **K-Town, Texas** SunHee Cho

What do 3,000 Korean women living in Killeen have in common? They left everything they knew behind and came to a whole new world with their American husbands. In this documentary, two women, Pong and Shin, guide you to the Korean women's community in the town of Killeen, home of Fort Hood, the biggest military training base in the U.S.

**"I want to promote the idea that debt is not sexy, and that one does not need a trust fund to make incredible films."**

**– Ellen Spiro**

## **Toilet Seat King** Caroline Hoffman

Barney Smith, 82, has been creating works of art from toilet seats for 30 years and has more than 700 differently decorated toilet seats housed in the Toilet Seat Art Museum in San Antonio. His museum collection is affectionately portrayed here.

## **Luke** Naiti Gamez

An intimate portrait of a young man's struggle with mental illness and the failings of the criminal justice system. In 2003, 24-year-old Luke Ashley was sentenced to serve time at a drug and mental health rehabilitation center in Round Rock. But because no beds were available, he was sent to the Williamson County Jail to await a bed, despite the fact that he was mentally ill. The results were tragic. This film explores Luke, his life, and his family's struggle to get him adequate care despite the flaws in the criminal justice system. "I am interested in exploring the ways in which mental illness affects people, those afflicted as well as their families, in a personal and immediate way," Gamez explains. "I set out to make this personal portrait of Luke – as someone's son and brother – rather than as a statistic."



DEB E. LEWIS



"Brian and Lazzio"

## **Sophie's Story** Jeanne Stern

"Sophie's Story" explores the imagination of a little boy and his friendship with a mermaid that lives in the faucet. This story was passed down from the filmmaker's great-grandfather and is a symbolic tale about his lonely life in a foster home and the death of his mother.

## **My Life as the American West** Douglas Perkins

This film documents a personal journey through an inner landscape that resembles the American West, a place of dreams and the last great frontier on earth. "My film," Perkins says, "is a reaction to a homeland which encourages world conquest without physical exploration. It is a survey of myself and where, as an American, I fit into the global landscape."

## **Brian and Lazzio** Karem Sanga

"Brian and Lazzio" playfully explores the awkward and funny development of a college romance.

## **Spiral** Jeanne Stern

"Spiral" is a poetic exploration of the way in which time seems to go faster as we age. A grandmother tells her story as the camera passes from the point of view

of a little girl to the mother and then to the grandmother. The three characters simultaneously represent a matrilineage and a single woman at different points in her life.

## **Holy Crap** Devon Ryan

"Holy Crap" follows the filmmaker, a longtime nonpracticing Catholic, as she trudges humorously through Catholicism after she vows to give up skepticism for Lent in an attempt to rekindle her belief in God. The film also explores the mind of a nondevout Catholic: the doubt, the frustration, the guilt, and the absurdity. "If Jesus were around today, I think he would be very perplexed all the time," Ryan says. "He would walk up to people and poke them in the chest and ask a lot of questions. That's what I'm trying to do in my film."

## **Paydirt** Berndt Mader

Armed with a local legend, a backhoe, and a sophisticated gold-detecting device, rancher/businessman George Broady and National Sniper Champion Todd Hodnett set out to find lost Spanish gold at the bottom of a dried-up Texas lake. ■

The 10 Under 10 program screens at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown on Wednesday, May 11, 7pm. Admission is \$4 for Austin Film Society members and \$6 general. For more information, see [www.originalalamo.com](http://www.originalalamo.com).


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# WEDDING STORIES

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

When Rachel Green (**Jennifer Aniston**) is introduced in the first episode of *Friends*, she's a woman on the brink of a nervous breakdown. Standing in the middle of the coffee shop in bridal regalia, disheveled and glassy-eyed, she's a runaway bride played for laughs. But it's also a statement of her emancipation – the beginning of a character's evolution which viewers would observe as the series unfolded.

But that's, as they say, just TV. In the real-life story of Jennifer Wilbanks, the runaway bride from Georgia, the commentary on her behavior and the cross-country hoopla around her search were almost as stunning as the amount of time CNN, MSNBC, the Fox News Channel, and other sources spent presenting her story as news.

But in TV land, this was news. An attractive young woman from a prominent family, she had it all. A handsome fiancé, a high-end Southern wedding with 600 invited guests. Since it's unfathomable that she'd walk away from all this, something terrible must have happened to her. Her family issued a plea on TV and other media to find Wilbanks. Prayers were uttered, vigils were held, pleas to the camera for whatever big, bad evil spirited her away were issued.

And then there were the talking heads, the so-called news people who went far beyond reporting this "news." CNN's Nancy Grace, whose apoplectic self-righteousness would be laughable were it not devoured by a large audience, turned this story into another "Endangered White Woman" piece.

Eeek! A precious, affluent white woman is lost! Eeek! Evil looms around every corner, and the biggest victim of all? ...

I was going to say white women, but really, it's any TV news viewer with half a brain wondering what is really going on in the world.

When Wilbanks surfaced on Saturday (her wedding day), the story came clear. She got cold feet. She boarded a Greyhound bus and hit the road without telling a soul. When she resurfaced she told the FBI a couple in a blue van had abducted her. Moments before this bit of information was revealed, I said to myself, "At least she didn't say it was a black couple." A heartbeat later it was revealed that she said it was a Hispanic couple that took her.

Sigh.

Now, in spite of Wilbanks' dissing Hispanic couples in blue vans, there's a part of me that

felt sorry for her. TV, for one, is stuffed with messages, overtly and otherwise, that promote the same fantasy wedding scenario and, more egregiously, the "natural" longing all woman have for one.

In the aforementioned *Friends*, Monica Geller (**Courteney Cox Arquette**) explains to her brother why the wedding, not the marriage, is an important rite of passage for women. Similar language ("the most important day of her life," "the day every woman has been waiting for") appears so often in TV fare from *Sex and the City* to *Everybody Loves Raymond* to several reality shows that it appears as if TV writers must consult the same *Big Book of Definitions*, under Women and

Weddings: They all need it, want it, got to have it. Expensive wedding dress and small dramas necessary; happy ending required.

That wedding story, conflated with the TV news narrative of the endangered white woman, was a curious, well, marriage. How interesting (but not surprising, I suppose) that everyone, from Wilbanks' family to the media to law enforcement, assumed their roles so effortlessly. As if they'd all read the same *Big Book of Definitions*, too. This time, the entry was Missing Women. Because she didn't end up on a coroner's slab, the response was less

than compassionate. No, the reaction, most notably from Minneapolis-based criminal profiler Pat Brown, was to pillory Wilbanks as a conniving, evil woman. When it was suggested that Wilbanks was merely "troubled," Brown wouldn't have any of it, accusing Wilbanks of everything from duping the government to being a lousy American. All because she had a very public meltdown about walking down the aisle, the thing she's supposed to want more than life itself.

Seems to me that there's a whole other narrative there, more complex than the runaway bride, the "happily ever after," or the "you complete me" narrative. Whether this narrative ever makes it into the *Big Book of Definitions* we all know by virtue of watching TV and movies remains to be seen.

I'm not holding my breath.

## Don't Miss ...

Austin's own Sublime Stitching goddess **Jenny Hart** serves as a judge on *Craft Corner Deathmatch* on the Style Network (reruns on E!). She appears on episode No. 106, with none other than **Eartha Kitt**, and No. 110. The original airing was last week, but will repeat throughout May. For those not in the know, *Craft Corner Deathmatch* pits craftster against craftster in a timed challenge to see who can come up with the most awesome DIY craft project armed with little more than a glue gun and a theme. Celebrity craftster judges name the winner. New episodes air Thursdays at 8pm. Check local listings for other air times.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at [tveye@austinchronicle.com](mailto:tveye@austinchronicle.com)



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### This Month

#### **Sparrow Village**

Sunday, May 8, at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 11, at 8 p.m.

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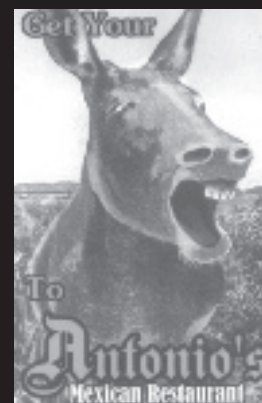
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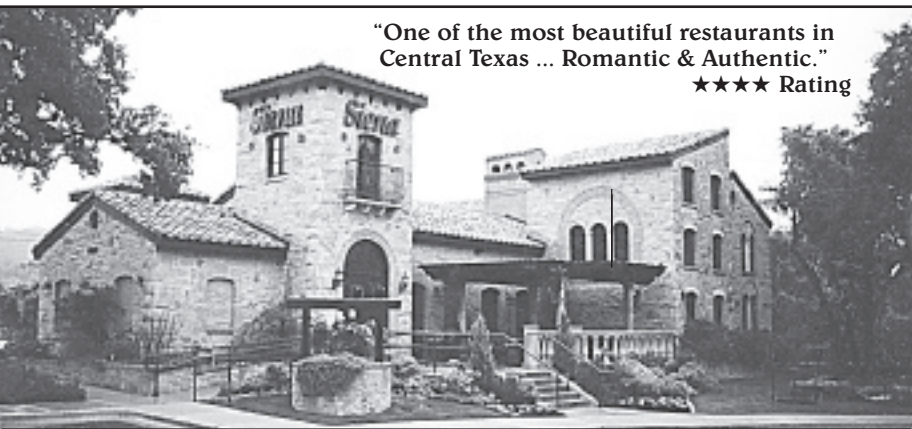
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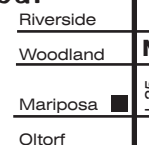


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BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

## FIELD OF DREAMS

Remember this equation: Lollapalooza plus **Lucinda** equals the 2005 ACL Music Festival. It's not quite that simple – you first have to factor in a lot more hippies and legends like **Buddy Guy** and **Jimmy Cliff** – but it's clearer than ever that the local festival is now comfortably among America's elite. Coming to Zilker Park, Sept. 23-25:

**BUZZ BIN:** **Wilco**, **Arcade Fire**, **Death Cab for Cutie**, **Bob Mould**, **Built to Spill**, **Sleater-Kinney**, **Tortoise**, **Black Keys**, **Walkmen**, **Rilo Kiley**, **Secret Machines**, **Decemberists**, **the Bravery**, **Mates of State**, **Fiery Furnaces**, **M83**, **Ambulance LTD**, **Tegan & Sara**, **Blue October**, **Eisley**  
**BRITPACK:** **Coldplay**, **Oasis**, **Bloc Party**, **Franz Ferdinand**, **Futureheads**, **Kasabian**, **Keane**, **Doves**, **Frames**, **Aqualung**, **Jet** (Australian branch)

**NAPPY ROOTS:** **Widespread Panic**, **Black Crowes**, **Allman Brothers**, **Robert Randolph & the Family Band**, **Buddy Guy**, **Jimmy Cliff**, **Gov't Mule**, **Zap Mama**, **Mike Gordon & Leo Kottke**, **Kermit Ruffins**, **Dirty Dozen Brass Band**, **Slightly Stoopid**, **deSoL**, **Mofro**

**TWANG THANG:** **Lyle Lovett**, **Lucinda Williams**, **John Prine**, **Kevin Fowler**, **Dierks Bentley**, **Asleep at the Wheel**, **Steve Earle & the Dukes**, **Robert Earl Keen**, **Bruce Robison**, **Rick Trevino**, **Mindy Smith**, **Kathleen Edwards**, **Split Lip Rayfield**, **Bobby Bare Jr.**, **Dave Alvin**, **Lost Trailers**, **Ruthie Foster**

**AUSTIN STORIES:** **Spoon**, **Grady**, **Zykos**, **Soundteam**, **Pong**, **Weary Boys**, **Asylum Street Spankers**, **Oliver Future**, **Real Heroes**, **South Austin Jug Band**, **Hairy Apes**, **Bukka Allen**, **Kacy Crowley**, **Maneja Beto**, **Casey McPherson**

Full list and ticket info available at [www.aclfestival.com](http://www.aclfestival.com)

## ELEVENTH HOUR

Since the smoking-ban ballot initiative is all he (and every other bar owner in Austin) has been thinking about, Beerland's **Randall**

**Stockton** is amazed to discover some people haven't even heard of it. "You don't understand how many people live under a rock here," he sighs while canvassing UT's West Mall. "Even people in the hospitality industry don't know about it." So, once and for all: *There's an election Saturday. It's very important.* If you didn't vote early, locate the voter-verification part of the Travis County Tax Office Web site ([www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do](http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do)), find out where your precinct votes, and go. Don't plead a hangover, either: Polls stay open until 7pm.

Curious from an outside perspective, and already on the phone with **Rilo Kiley** drummer **Jason Boesel** (see "Music Listings"), TCB asked him how California's 1998 indoor smoking ban has affected the L.A. scene. His answer reflected what many in Austin already suspect: Certain clubs would be in immediate danger, but the scene itself would live.

"I would say the only effect it's had is all the clubs that have survived have set up outdoor smoking areas," says Boesel. "There's one called Spaceland that's converted this glassed-in room to a smoking room. They've all evolved and adapted."



Bloc Party @ SXSW '05

MARY SLEDD

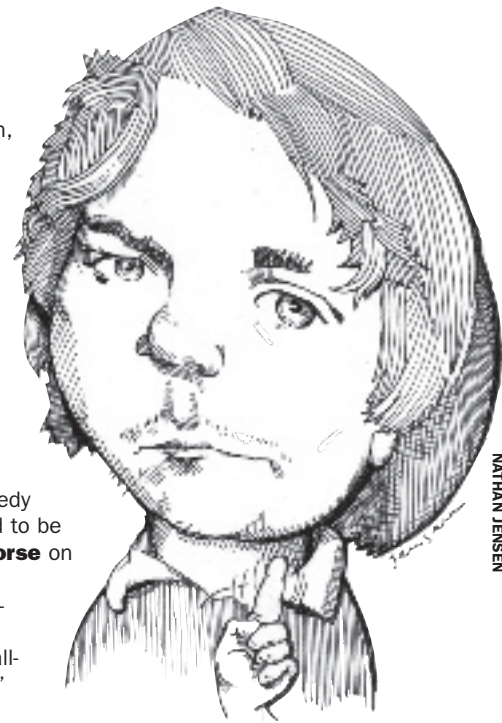
# RESERVATIONS

Houston is many things: world-class port city, strip-club nirvana, Atlanta's only serious rival for Southern hip-hop capital. Unlike Austin, though, it's hardly prime **Wilco** territory. Space City's oft-lauded appreciation of the arts doesn't usually extend to brainy, difficult rock bands.

En route from Jazz Fest to Coachella, the Chicago sextet's April 23 show at the sold-out Verizon Wireless Theater downtown was that much more remarkable, not least because it nearly fell apart. Frontman **Jeff Tweedy** was visibly on edge all night, later to cite his deficient sound equipment and nicotine patch, and he finally snapped late in the main set, interrupting "Reservations" to exasperatedly entreat a fan down front to "shut the fuck up."

It was a jarring breach of performer-fan decorum, and yet completely understandable: She was hooting incessantly for *Being There's* "The Lonely 1." For a moment, the earlier triumphs of "Hummingbird" and "Jesus, etc." hung uncertain in the air, until Tweedy essentially shrugged his shoulders and finished the song. It seemed to be all the catharsis he needed, because the band burned like **Crazy Horse** on formidable finisher "Spiders (Kidsmoke)."

Fittingly, the crowd – half Houstonian, half Austin and Dallas week-enders – screamed itself hoarse. Tweedy came back out, sheepishly gave a quitting-smoking spiel, and everyone had a good laugh. The all-rock remainder ("The Late Greats," "I'm a Wheel," "Passenger Side," "Kingpin," "Misunderstood") didn't feel conciliatory at all, more like both band and crowd could finally relax. Perhaps there's hope for Wilco in H-town yet.



NATHAN JENSEN



GARY MILLER

## ANGELS OF THE ALAMO

No, that's not a new *Austin City Limits* backdrop framing the **Arc Angels** (above). It's the real Mission San Antonio de Valero, slightly better known as the Alamo. It's at least famous enough to be one of a dozen sites chosen for the *Wonders of the World* DVD concert series, alongside the Eiffel Tower, Gorky Park, Mount Rushmore, and – paging **Gang of Four** – the Great Wall of China.

Monday's \$100 tickets were steep even for an Arc Angels show, but they also bought **Los Lobos**, **Lyle Lovett**, pained multiculti comedy from emcee **Paul Rodriguez**, and – solving the dilemma of awarding the last slot to Mexico or Texas – an unbilled appearance by the **Gipsy Kings**. Los Lobos had white and brown alike dancing the cumbia, but Lovett (below) was the most visibly affected, reading **Col. William B. Travis'** "Victory or Death" letter before whipping out crowd-pleasing swinger "San Antonio Girl."

**Charlie, Doyle II**, and **Double Trouble**, meanwhile, conquered early sound problems to deliver dependably stout versions of "Sent by Angels" and "Livin' in a Dream." Fun fact: The word "alamo" means "cottonwood" in Spanish. Fun rumor: **ZZ Top** was approached to play, but wanted too much money up front.



GARY MILLER

## AIR RAID

TCB took over the KLBJ-FM studios for an hour Monday afternoon as part of their new monthly "Maniac Monday" promotion. The damage:

"Rocky," **Thin Lizzy**  
 "Obstacle 1," **Interpol**  
 "The Day John Henry Died," **Drive-by Truckers**  
 "Love and War 11/11/46," **Rilo Kiley**  
 "Darts of Pleasure," **Franz Ferdinand**  
 "What I'm Trying to Say," **Stars**  
 "The Rest Will Follow," **Trail of Dead**  
 "I Turn My Camera On," **Spoon**  
 "Theologians," **Wilco**  
 "Another Wound," **Ponys**  
 "Fast Car," **U2**  
 "Ace of Spades," **Motörhead**



♪ Saints preserve us: **Eric Johnson** has finished an album, *Bloom*, due June 14 on **Steve Vai's** Favored Nations label. Featuring a cover of **Bob Dylan's** "My Back Pages" and a tribute to **Jerry Reed**, *Bloom* is a springboard to summer dates with **Buddy Guy** and a turning of the hour-glass toward counting the years until the next one.

♪ Honky-tonk smoothie **D.B. Harris** confirms he's pulling up stakes for Music Row. "Yes, I'm sadly leaving for Nashville in June for some songwriting opportunities and to continue my act there. I'll be coming back to Austin at least every six months though! We're planning to stay in Nashville for hopefully no more than five to seven years and getting back to Texas ASAP!" Say farewell Friday at the Continental Club.

♪ It's prom season, kids, and being out of high school doesn't mean mothballing that corsage. KVRX promises photographers and chaperones Saturday at Iron Gate Studios, 2205 E. Fifth St., plus music from **Clap! Clap!** and station deejays. 8pm; \$5.

♪ Enrollment for the much-discussed Health Alliance for Austin Musicians is going on now. Get an application at MusicMakers, Waterloo Records, Ruta Maya, or online at [www.healthallianceforaustinmusicians.org](http://www.healthallianceforaustinmusicians.org). Then call the SIMS Foundation at 322-5177 to set up an eligibility interview at their spanking-new headquarters at 54 Chicon St.

♪ Loose ends from last week: The **Octopus Project's** **Erik Bogle** turned out to have an especially pernicious stomach virus, but was fit as a fiddle at Saturday's Emo's homecoming. And the Arclight Records album with the litany of guests is the new **Book of Knots**, not **Players Club**, although they do share a member.

INSIDE ...  
 66 JIMMY LA FAVE  
 70 PHASES & STAGES



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# RIBBON ON THE HIGHWAY

## THE OTHER SIDE OF JIMMY LAFAVE

BY DAVE MARSH

Here comes Jimmy LaFave. Maybe he's walking onstage to sing or slipping into the back of the Cactus Cafe to hear an old friend. Or lounging in a hotel lobby between gigs. Maybe he's walking up your driveway. The setting makes no difference. He's Jimmy LaFave wherever he goes.

He's about five ten, neither slender nor chunky. Wears a chambray work shirt over a T-shirt and jeans. A blue beret tops him. He doesn't wear it like a French intellectual. He wears it the way UN peacekeepers or Green Berets wear theirs. Either way, that cap's not gonna budge. It belongs to a man who knows how to keep it tight. On his face, a goatee and a slight grin. His sideburns are long, and a little dirty-blond hair peaks out from under the beret. A pendant bearing the image of a bison hangs around his neck.

You'd expect to find boots on his feet, but he's almost always wearing sneakers. Hard to say why. Maybe they're more casual.

LaFave greets just about everything in life with immense casualness. Or maybe it's that he can't stand killing animals. He's been a vegetarian since childhood, not for health or religious reasons, but because he didn't like the idea of dead critters. Still doesn't. If he's wearing a leather belt, the untucked T-shirt hides it, befitting a guy who used to have a paunch. He's not much on guitar straps, either.

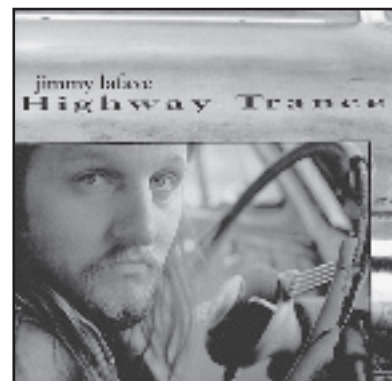
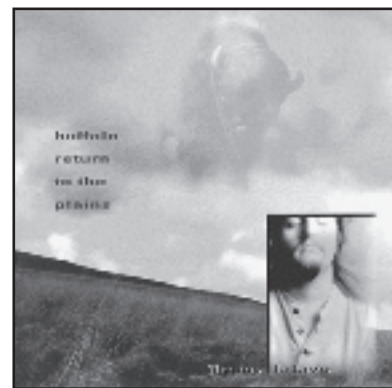
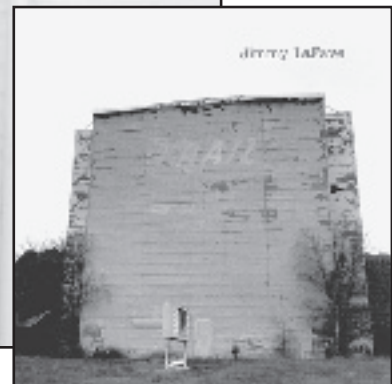
He looks like a truck driver, the kind of guy who might take on some impossible

**There's no other singer in Austin, or Americana, who can do as much with a ballad, whether written by him or someone else.**

task: Get these oil rig parts from Stillwater to some place up in Montana you'll need a topographical map to ID, and do it by tomorrow night, no matter how often you have to leave the highway and go cross-country. He looks like the kind of guy who'd make it on time, too, Lynyrd Skynyrd or AC/DC blasting all the way, wisecracking cynically at the truck stops where he flirts with just enough intensity and manners to have all the waitresses primping when they see him walking in from the parking lot.

Jimmy LaFave used to have that job, driving for his father, who was a parts supplier, first based in Wills Point ("that's in Van Zandt County," the singer points out), then when he was a high school sophomore, in Stillwater, Okla., where his family relocated. LaFave's still got a long-hauler's instinct for wisecracks, though since getting married, the flirting's toned way down. He's still a dedicated driver; his agent, Val Denn, says he insists on driving to a lot of gigs even when it'd be cheaper and easier to fly. Friends in Oklahoma talk about scary runs on red dirt roads, flying through intersections in a pickup piloted with the legendary LaFave confidence. Driving is part of what defines him. He says he does a lot of his

*continued on p.68*



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best writing out there, picking up images from road signs, for instance, because he once heard Bob Dylan did that.

### Emotionally Yours

LaFave got to Austin exactly 20 years ago, when he was 30, during what he describes as “the golden age of singer-songwriters in Austin.” He’d been visiting since a high school road trip got him to the Armadillo. It suits him to look like a don’t-give-a-damn cheeseburger guy, and at least some of the time, it suits him to act like one. Here’s the catch. There’s this other Jimmy LaFave. That cynical exterior masks a remarkable degree of empathy and good taste.

This LaFave pops out of that carefully maintained dishevelment when called upon by the master of his fate, who is, to an amazing extent, Jimmy LaFave himself. When a friend needs a boost, LaFave turns on his warmth, not necessarily charm, just plain and powerful empathy. All his friends say something similar to Bob Childers, LaFave’s songwriting mentor: “Jimmy’s a really sensitive guy, but he spends a whole lot of time making sure nobody knows it.”

“Singing is very emotional,” allows LaFave. “You get obsessed with a lot of stuff. There’s a sense of loneliness you have as an artist. That’s why I close my eyes when I sing, because I like to go somewhere and find that place in everybody.”

LaFave’s notoriously generous with other performers, especially up-and-comers. He’s had a hand in some significant careers – Abra Moore and Michael Fracasso come to mind – beginning locally by co-hosting open mics with Betty Elders at the long-departed Chicago House on Sixth Street, which uncovered a lot of talent, including Todd Snider.

For the past couple of years, he’s led the Woody Guthrie roadshow (Ribbon of Highway, Endless Skyway), whose cast includes Childers in the role of narrator (inevitable given his quintessential Okie accent), locals Fracasso, Eliza Gilkyson, Slaid Cleaves, as well as Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion, Joel Rafael, Ray Bonneville, and the Burns Sisters. Together with Nora Guthrie and Val Denn, LaFave put together the show, based entirely on songs and writings by Woody. He makes no star turn, ensuring the show isn’t about anybody but its subject, an atmosphere that creates the sort of musical community Guthrie loved, onstage and off. LaFave is currently completing production on a Ribbon of Highway disc, a live set culled from 45 to 50 hours of recordings.

Empathy is why, even though LaFave pens most of the songs on his albums, he’s best known as an interpreter of other people’s material. That may be changing: His latest, *Blue Nightfall*, contains 11 originals, and they’re by far the best he’s written, particularly “River Road,” “Shining On Through,” and the extraordinary “Rain Falling Down.” Nevertheless, he’s one of the few contemporary singer-singers who work covers into their sets because they belong there – because he loves them and they’re well-suited to his singular voice. He’s got a gritty midrange, a thrilling ability

to hit high notes, phrasing so adept that he can sing quasi-art songs like Jimmy Webb’s “The Moon’s a Harsh Mistress” as easily as “Oklahoma Hills” or “Have You Ever Loved a Woman.” His is a pronounced vibrato, uncontrolled, but he can still shake a note ’til it almost breaks.

His forte is ballads; there’s no other singer in Austin, or Americana, who can do as much with a ballad, whether written by him or someone else. His version of “On a Bus to St. Cloud” caused its writer, Gretchen Peters, to say that although she knew it was her best song, she hadn’t understood it completely until she heard LaFave sing it. The version on his 2001 LP, *Texoma*, revels in phrasing so legato you can’t tell if he really intends to come in behind the guitar. He luxuriates in the space created by the song’s rhythms, even while recounting a tale bounded by madness and suicide. One of the things that makes his new songs so good is that he’s given himself similar spaces to manipulate, as on “I Wish” and “River Road.”

LaFave can get to the heart of ballads because he has such a magnificent sense of time. He commands the stillness between

phrases even more than the lyrics themselves, which makes it seem as if every line is being uttered for the first time, after due consideration and from a place deep inside. His upbeat material has always been a little more problematic; he’s best as a straight-up blues singer, doing something like “Key to the Highway,” though he can rev up stomping Southwestern rock & roll. But truck drivers are loners, even or especially the most romantic ones. To turn that loneliness into art is a beautiful gift all by itself.

Maybe that’s what makes him such a fine interpreter of Dylan songs, having recorded 18 (by my count) since his 1992 debut, *Austin Skyline*, including “Positively 4th Street,” “Emotionally Yours,” “Girl From the North Country,” and “Buckets of Rain.” He hasn’t just run through them, either. No one, not a single singer, has ever sung Dylan with as much grace and insight as Jimmy LaFave. There was a haunting night at the Cactus Cafe a few years ago, when he dedicated a song to a close friend who had just suffered a genuinely tragic loss of a loved one. He sang “Emotionally Yours” as if it were his best friend who’d been killed, and he sang it

not only without flaw but from deep, deep inside what the words mean. Sitting there in the dark, you could forgive yourself for thinking it was the first time anyone at all had sung those words to that melody.

### Woody’s Road

LaFave’s been a champion of Woody Guthrie since he discovered the dust bowl prophet when his family moved to Stillwater, about 70 miles from Okemah, Guthrie’s hometown. He’s a scholar about the man.

“People don’t understand what a genius he was,” says LaFave simply.

He proudly plays a Guthrie guitar borrowed from the EMP museum in Seattle for the Ribbon of Highway shows.

“I want to let that guitar speak again. I think Woody would like that. It seems like he really loved his guitar,” explains LaFave.

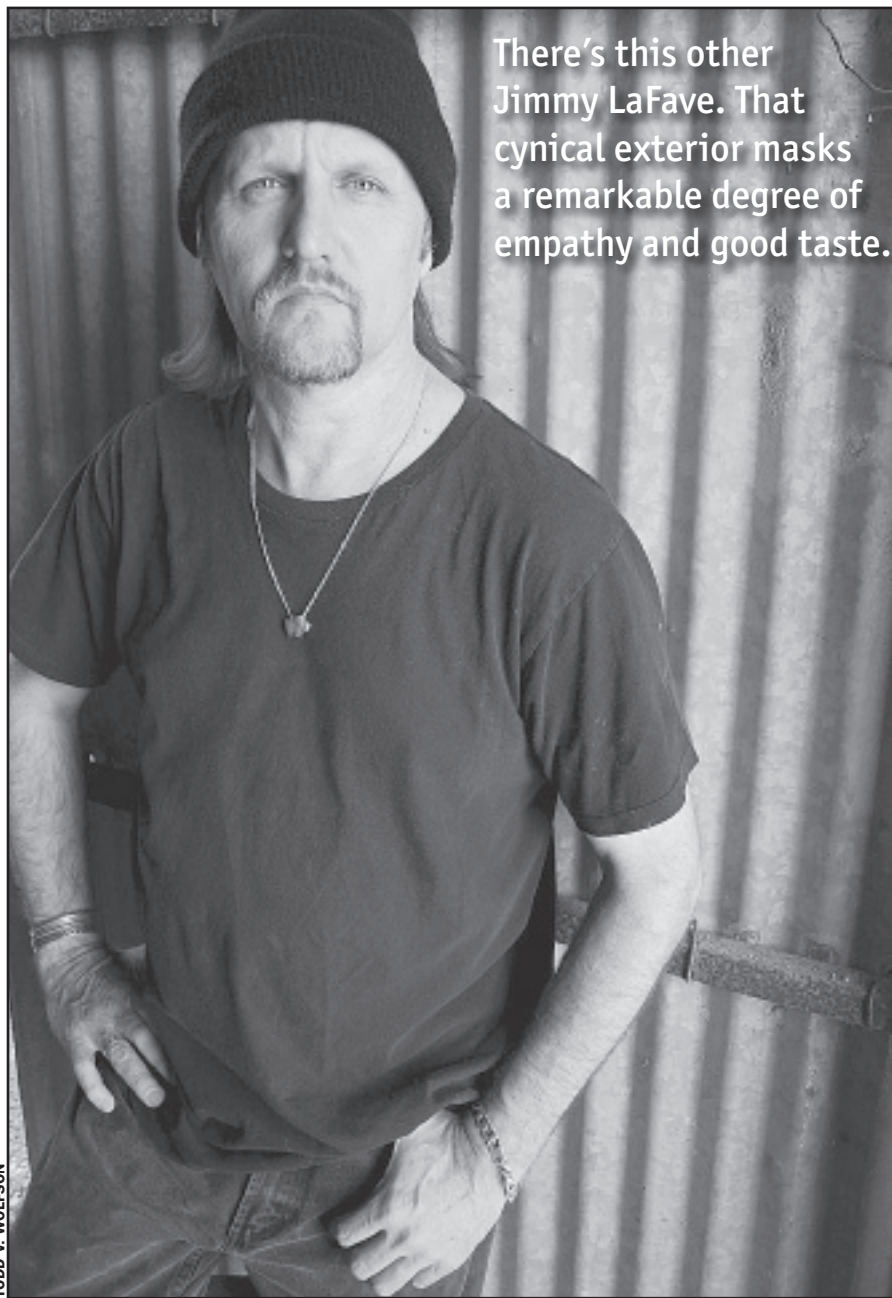
Now that’s empathy. In his own show, LaFave sings few Guthrie songs, other than a rousing “Oklahoma Hills.” He also does Childers’ “Woody’s Road,” the consummate tribute. LaFave identifies with Guthrie’s enthusiasm, his determination, his fundamental optimism. He’s not particularly interested in singing about mass social strife, and it’s just as well. When empathy reaches out to the multitudes it can get pretty sappy.

The title *Texoma* sums up the Guthrie that got under LaFave’s skin. The latter connects it to living in Oklahoma: “There’s a vibe there that’s not in Texas or anywhere else I’ve found.” Lots of folks agree, and given its size, Oklahoma has an astounding track record of producing one-of-a-kind musicians – Guthrie, Charlie Parker, Bob Wills, Webb, J.J. Cale – but LaFave goes the limit. He notes that Oklahoma possesses “a frontier spirit, with an Australian edge to it” and that “you can hardly see a band in Austin without an Oklahoma musician.” It’s the desolation that makes Oklahoma beautiful, “like the Delta before you get to New Orleans.” For LaFave, such statements form a kind of gospel. Rather than allegiance to ethnicity, religion, or class, Jimmy LaFave is a patriot of Oklahoma. If you mention Skynyrd, you’re going to be reminded that Steve Gaines was from Oklahoma.

Onstage and on his albums, in his song writing and song choices, LaFave eschews Guthrie-style politics in favor of intricate commentaries on romantic love, human connections, and the delights and sorrows of rambling. The closest he’s come to writing about issues is a series of metaphoric songs about Indians, most plaintively on “It’s Gone,” from *Blue Nightfall*, most definitively with “Buffalo Return to the Plains,” the title song of his 1995 album.

It isn’t as simple as passion and obsession, influence and raw talent, either. LaFave wouldn’t let it be. He has a mulish streak. For instance, he’s the only one of the five kids in his family not to go to college, even though Stillwater’s a college town. He was already playing bass in rock bands like Night Tribe. He explains this as the practical choice: “Once I discovered music, I didn’t want anything to fall back on.”

Then there’s record producers – he hasn’t worked with one since a semidisastrous,



There’s this other Jimmy LaFave. That cynical exterior masks a remarkable degree of empathy and good taste.

TODD V. WOLFSON

together unproductive pairing with Dylan associate Bob Johnston. "We did a lot of songs," he says, "but it was a bad experience." He has a thing about record labels, too. He worked with Johnston when both of them had a deal with Tomato Records, home to Townes Van Zandt. He quit Tomato, and refused to consider other labels even though there was interest, vowing, "I'm never gonna sign with a label again," an attitude he describes as "jaded," though it's more like naive. Or maybe not; he didn't turn down a publishing deal with Polygram.

He came close to not having a record company with his first six albums, which were released on Colorado-based indie Bohemia Beat. In 1992, Mark Shumate, a fan LaFave says wanted to be a patron of the arts, "loaned me the money to do some live recordings at La Zona Rosa, and that led to *Austin Skyline*." Shumate created Bohemia Beat to release it, but showed little interest in being a label executive (one album came out without a copyright notice), let alone a promoter or marketer, though he did hustle up distribution through Rounder. Shumate did much better as a patron of the arts, releasing Abra Moore's solo debut and two albums by Michael Fracasso.

Denn, who's as close to a manager as LaFave has ever come, says his recalcitrance extended to an adamant refusal to so much as hire a publicist when he put out his double-disc live compilation *Trail* in 1999. "We had a real disagreement about it," she says. "I thought he was making a huge mistake, but in the end, the record outsold his others. Jimmy always acts like he knows exactly what he's doing. The thing is, he usually does."

### It Takes a Train

Somehow, each of the Bohemia Beat albums sold 40,000-50,000 copies, numbers helped enormously by LaFave's popularity in Europe, particularly Holland. LaFave mentioned this in an interview, knowing most singer-songwriter albums are lucky to sell 10,000, but he wasn't bragging. The number simply slipped out.

*Blue Nightfall*, his first new album in four years, came out this spring on Red House ([austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-18/music\\_phases3.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-03-18/music_phases3.html)), the Minnesota-based label whose roster counts veteran singer-songwriters Eliza Gilkyson, Greg Brown, John McCutcheon, and Guy Davis. It's his seventh album, but the first on anything that might be described as a real label. Still no producer, but he did let Red House owner Bob Feldman choose the track sequence. It's the best sequenced of his albums.

More than ever, this other LaFave can be heard in the songs on *Blue Nightfall*, all but one of which is an original. "Don't want to get out of this car, I just want to drive and drive," he sings in the opening lines of the title track, then goes for it all: "Into the fading light, and pretend I'm alive." With spare accompaniment by keyboardist Radoslav Lorkovic and a pulse rather than a beat, LaFave comes to territory mined by Bruce Springsteen and Patty Griffin and stands shoulder to shoulder with them, largely because, like them, he's as devoted to performance as to writing.

The gain can be attributed to that four-year layoff, or more precisely, to the events that resulted in it. They began while LaFave was still touring behind *Texoma*. Barb Fox was pregnant, and she and Jimmy decided to get married. (He'd had a brief first marriage back in Stillwater.) But the same squeamishness that made him a vegetarian made Jimmy jumpy about being present for the child's birth. So he was in Montreal when Fox bore their son, Jackson, on May 12, 2002.

Jackson clearly changed his father's life, and in every way, the change was positive. LaFave kept working, but he only went out for a week or two, occasionally three, not the long rambling stints he did before his son was born. He wanted to be home for those first few years. He wasn't in any hurry to make an album: "I did what I always do, make an album when I have 12 good songs and I'm ready." One more crucial thing happened: His mother was diagnosed with cancer.

When Bob Childers wrote "Elvis Loved His Momma," he tapped into one of the secret truths of rock & roll: They're all mama's boys, from Elvis to the Beatles to Bruce to ... well, Los Lonely Boys talk a lot about their dad, but I bet you anything if you cornered them in dead of night, it's mama who got 'em through the bad times.

LaFave fits the mold, and he has more reason than most. His mother led gospel gatherings up until just before her death. She bought Jimmy his first guitar using green stamps. When she was entering the final phase of illness, he didn't waste any time.

"I got Jackson and put him in the car and we just drove straight through to Stillwater. I was just in time. I got to spend a day or two there, and I got to play her my version of 'Revival.' She loved it when I sang that song in my shows, and it was so important to play the record for her."

She passed away in her sleep a day or two later, but her absence can be felt in any number of songs on *Blue Nightfall*. The most notable is again "Rain Falling Down." If the first two-thirds of the song are about a parent filled with joy at first sight of his child, the last verse comes from the grownup child who's dreading the big hurt about to come. The unifier is heartbreak.

In uniting those two halves – the child and the man, let's say – Jimmy LaFave steps forward as a much more complete artist. He's always had talent and never lacked for vision, but his songs now reflect a sense of purpose that hasn't been there before. In fact, he thinks there may be "a renaissance of music going on," albeit mostly in coffeehouses and at house parties. He says that's fine with him. Jimmy LaFave never went out of his way for stardom. From the beginning, he's been concerned with self-expression and integrity. This goes to the heart of his self-confidence. He's always felt that being the best version of himself was plenty. So he says, with pleasure and not a hint of sarcasm, "I lead a pretty good life." A beat. "I don't sleep on people's couches anymore."

There will always be two Jimmy LaFaves. It's as natural as needing to laugh as well as cry.



TODD V. WOLFSON

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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS



**BRITISH SEA POWER**

**Open Season (Rough Trade)**

Winston Churchill famously said (or maybe didn't) that the traditions of the British Navy were "rum, buggery, and the lash." Who's to say which of these most contributed to the success of 2003's *The Decline of British Sea Power*; all that can be said definitively is that British Sea Power's debut was raw, cagey, and chock-full of homoerotic lyrics. It was the thinking person's perfect post-glam album, rife with meaning and bulging with pure rock power. Its follow-up, *Open Season*, finds the Cumbrian lads veering away from glam and into the arms of Eighties British New Wave. Gone are the great hunks of guitar chords, replaced by chilly synths and a moody, glossy Echo & the Bunnymen aesthetic. The music's no less sly, with meta-moments peppering the landscape; with "North Hanging Rock," singer Yan implores us to "drape yourself in greenery, become part of the scenery" (BSP's gimmick is outfitting themselves and the stage with local flora). The smartest thing about *Open Season*, ultimately, is that these gents tweak their sound with more than a little subtlety and still retain the spirit of the project, which is an accomplishment deserving an increase in accol ratings. **(Emo's, Saturday, May 7)** ★★ ★★

— Melanie Haupt

**THE RAVEONETTES**  
**Pretty in Black (Columbia)**

As Phil Spector sits on trial, accused of murder, hordes of new acts are psychically tapping his tuneful ear for a new old sound. Some have found it, others aren't so lucky. On sophomore LP *Pretty in Black*, Copenhagen's Raveonettes – Sune Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo – have taken their love of Fifties kitsch and Sixties pop off the Jesus & Mary Chain Gang of Love and down to the Velvet Underground. Not to say they've gotten soft, but *Black* is a hazy shade of winter. Lifting opener "The Heavens" is a gracious host, filled with Wagner's croon, while "Love in a Trashcan" is twangy Chain Gang fodder. A "Sleepwalking" cover warbles with Reedian detachment, and their take on "My Boyfriend's Back" picks up with an electro-pop bang. "Here Comes Mary" is "Sweet Jane" in reverse, and "Somewhere in Texas" takes back roads through boozy folk rock. While the album as a whole drums the rock slowly, it's one of the final songs, "Ode to L.A.," that takes pomp to the bank, all Ronnie Spector whoahs and sugary Fifties bounce. It's a case of killing your idols, but in this case it's not a crime. **(Parish, Tuesday, May 17)** ★★ ★★

— Audra Schroeder



LIVE SHOT

**... AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD, THE OCTOPUS PROJECT, THE SWORD, THE BLACK**  
**Emo's, April 30**

Everyone always wants to know about a band's influences. Well, Trail of Dead already admitted they've watched *The Last Waltz* on loop for the last year ([austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-01/music\\_TCB\\_all.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-01/music_TCB_all.html)). As the final stop of the first leg of TOD's tour for *Worlds Apart*, Emo's was sold out Saturday night for the Austin institution's return. The other three local bands on the bill toured with TOD for the last month, and the homecoming was an energetic one. Opener the Black was essentially Trail of Dead plus singer/guitarist Dave Longoria and guitarist Alan Schaefer. They trotted out a harmonious one-two punch of Seventies rock and Neil Young country stomp, and the final song, a cover of the Band's "The Weight," confirmed the aforementioned *Waltz*. Next, the Sword shot their fist-pumping wad of heavy metal into the crowd, with guitarist Kyle Shutt's golden locks never having looked so haloed as he banged his head to the brooding beat. The Octopus Project, with now-healthy Erik Bogle, flipped the synth switch and went buck-wild with halcyon dance beats and chaotic guitar screeching. And then, of course, TOD took the stage, filling it to capacity with new bassist Danny Wood and new drummer Doni Schroeder. The band's two-drummer, two-guitarist configuration did lend some added Seventies rock vibe, which made openers "Will You Smile Again" and "Worlds Apart" more righteous than their recorded coun-



Octopus Project

terparts. TOD chugged through *Source Tags and Codes*' "It Was There That I Saw You" and "Another Morning Stoner" and *Madonna*'s "Clair de Lune" and "Aged Dolls." Singer Conrad Keely delivered an inspired take on the pounding "Perfect Teenhood" (minus the fuck-yous at the end, but plus drummer Jason Reece's crowd surfing). The last song, "Richter Scale Madness," broke all hell loose, as the band descended into a mess of instruments and sloppy feedback. Keely and Reece helped roughly 25 people on stage for the finale, the last waltz of a long, continuing journey.

— Audra Schroeder

**FEIST**

**Let It Die (Cherrytree/Interscope)**

Draw the curtains and close the blinds. Feist was meant for candlelight. The Toronto chanteuse's solo debut, *Let It Die*, mines timeless, simmering night songs to be filed among the ranks of Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday, and PJ Harvey. Nodding to Seventies radio, Leslie Feist – a founding member of Canadian heavies Broken Social Scene, ex-room- and bandmate of Peaches, and contributing vox on the latest Kings of Convenience LP – is an indie rock darling in the making. Opening acoustic jam "Gatekeeper" spreads fall across the sidewalk as the sun peeks through the clouds. A broken heart, hopeful sadness, immediately followed by a giddy girl in love, downtrodden by nothing and singing, "Mushaboom." Feist's strength is in the rolling electricity of "One Evening" and Bee Gees cover "Inside and Out": two tracks oozing sex and urging on darkness. Traditional clapper "When I Was a Young Girl" is trumped only by yet another album highlight, Ron Sexsmith's "Secret Heart." By the time the bubbly, French "Tout Doucement" rolls off her Feist's bilingual tongue, the only thing left to do is wonder where this rail-thin beauty has been hiding. Feist is the new Barry White. **(Emo's, Saturday, May 7)** ★★ ★★

— Darcie Stevens



goes so far, however, so as *Castle* nears its conclusion, the Ponys' carefully cultivated sense of cool begins to fray – like a party that starts out awkward but gets raucous as the ice breaks. (The lyrics, to a word, could be conversations from this selfsame party.) The harmonica break on "Get Black" is the first sign something's amiss, throwing over the hipster restraint of "Today" and "We Shot the World" in favor of getting good and sweaty. Retreating a bit, the screams of "She's Broken" are cast directly against a deadpan incantation of the title, as if they're apologizing for coming across so nakedly. They needn't. "Ferocious" has no such inhibitions, or any other, but as the last song it doesn't need them. By then, the Ponys are obviously ready to hop offstage and start having some real fun. **(Emo's inside, Friday, May 6, with Faceless Werewolves and Camp X-Ray)** ★★ ★★

— Christopher Gray



**MANDO DIAO**  
**Hurricane Bar (Mute)**

Now that the Libertines' *Honeymooners* act has gone off the air, in slots Mando Diao's gusting *Hurricane Bar* with readymade Britpop aplomb. Three bouncy bonus videos transform skanky Pete Doherty and Carl Barat's "What a Waster" ways into the Kate Moss-worthy cheek bones and beauty marks of Mando Diao's runway Swedes Björn Dixgård and Gustaf Norén. Trading mic volleys and Velcro riffs on their second LP the quartet's frontmen lead perfect group harmonies ("White Wall") with the sweet/sour yin/

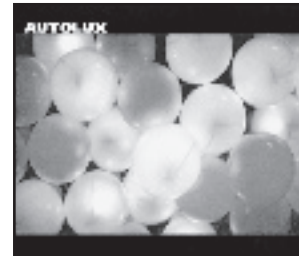


yang of every great lead tandem since John & Paul. Gustaf's Lennon/Doherty – tart, scrappy – via the dodgeball hookery of bangin' opener "Cut the Rope" and "Clean Town," pure Libertines produced by the Clash man Mick Jones. "God Knows" follows suit like *Great Escape*-era Blur, while "Down in the Past" and its gleaming iPod riffs beg for prime-time network programming. Björn's cool, diluted Ron Sexsmith seduction, meanwhile, plays acoustic chick magnet ("Ringin' Bells") serenader ("All My Senses") with panache. Fellow Swedes the Caesars waited a year before "Jerk It Out" hit the tube and everyone sat up. Looks like a couple seats just opened up in the *Hurricane Bar*. **(Emo's, Monday, May 16)** ★★ ★★

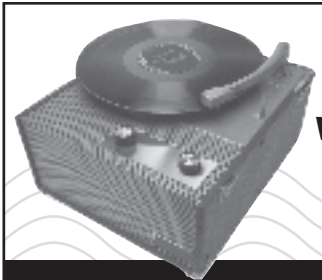
— Raoul Hernandez

**AUTOLUX**  
**Future Perfect (DMZ/Columbia)**

In the world of Autolux, signed to Joel and Ethan Coen's Sony imprint DMZ, it's still 1991. On the first half of debut *Future Perfect*, the trio's alt-rock pedigree – guitarist Greg Edwards used to be in Failure, singer/drummer Carla Azar a veteran of Ednaswap – Autolux envelops the listener with both massive amounts of feedback and handfuls of pop bliss. Opener "Turnstile Blues" trots out under Azar's Bonham-lite beats and velvety vocals, while "Sugarless" sounds like every great shoegaze tune distilled into one furious echoing drone, bookended with Edwards' bulldozer guitar. The last six songs, however, lose touch with ground control and go spiraling out into the ether. "Great Days for the Passenger Element" creeps along at *OK Computer* speed, and "Asleep at the Trigger" is a sprawling, effects-driven painkiller cocktail, opening with



continued on p.72



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**WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS**

someone playing a toy piano and ending with a series of alien bleeps and blips. "Here Comes Everybody" sounds like a lost Breeders track, with Azar's nonsense lyrics echoing Kim Deal's: "Soft soft silver bang like a bank's hydraulics/The air it hangs its head and your cat has passed out." Careful you don't follow suit, particularly since "Plantlife" propels *Future Perfect* further into the blackness. **(Parish, Tuesday, May 17)**

★★★★ — Audra Schroeder

**THE BENEVENTO/RUSSO DUO**

**Best Reason to Buy the Sun (Ropeadope)**

The *Best Reason to Buy the Sun* is that sun-spots cause your stereo to secrete dopamine. What Medeski Martin & Wood began with last year's space-age *End of the World Party (Just in Case)*, Brooklyn's Marco Benevento (keys) and Joe Russo (beats) broil into their own inner instrumental universe. Unsealing the duo's Ropeadope debut with searing intensity, "Becky" sets off a rusty tin-can timpani contorted by tone and texture, sending it back out into orbit with a cut-beat/rock spine distorting another galaxy's worth of Cloud 9 organ groove on "Welcome Red." That BRD has come 15 Earth years to get to this point is clear in the singular trajectory of each track. The piano-head simplicity of "Sunny's Song" houses *Sun* in the constellation of jazz, alongside the organ smear of "Bronko's Blues." The disc's molten interior ("Vortex," "9x9," "Scratchitti") settles into a probing mood, knobs continually twisting out hot new sound bubbles. Horn alien Skerik and Beck head Smokey Hormel add to the shrieks of "The Three Question Marks" before 15-minute "My Pet Goat" parachutes the pair out of their capsule and back into your sound system. Photosynthesis cranked to 11. **(Stubb's inside, Thursday, May 5)**

★★★★ — Raoul Hernandez

**NEW ORDER**

**Waiting for the Sirens' Call (Warner Bros.)**

Cheeky as ever, New Order — aka the Joy Division Luck Club — have emblazoned the front of this new release with a big, orange "No." This is the first sign *Waiting for the Sirens' Call* isn't going to be a retreat of 2001's punchy *Get Ready*, the comeback that found Bernard Sumner, Peter Hook, Stephen Morris, and new-schooler Phil Cunningham (original keyboardist Gillian Gilbert has since retired from the band) manhandling rock riffs onto the dance floor. Less surprisingly, this follow-up backpedals into the group's angrier days, sounding like a collection of cast-offs from '93's *Republic*. Opener "Who's Joe?" underwhelms with the force of a knit battering ram, as do the generically hooky basslines of "Hey Now That You Doing." It's not until *Sirens'* title track that something resembling a spark ignites and a genuine NO song bursts through the speakers sporting all the classic markings: Sumner's dopey lyrics, Hook's chiming bass, and lush, groove-oriented overproduction. It's almost



brilliant, but then the awful, shouty chorus of "Jetstream" makes you recoil in horror. There's one smashing standout here, and that's the closing remix of "Guilt Is a Useless Emotion," a thumping, serpentine slice of pure New Order circa "Blue Monday," but even that can't save this grave "No."

★★ — Marc Savlov

**THE PERISHERS**

**Let There Be Morning (Nettwerk)**

Four decades' worth of new waves haven't extinguished America's torrid romance with UK pop, but for at least half that time, only the Shocking Blue and ABBA planted the Scandinavian flag on chart mountain. Swedish foursome the Perishers blame the language barrier. A Nick Cave piano intro straight off *The Boatman's Call* opens on a lovelorn Ola Klüft taking pity on nine-to-fivers from under his woolen security blanket of sadness on debut *Let There Be Morning's* best (only?) track, "Weekends," already slated for Rhino's *Old Wave Hits of the '00s* series. Klüft, group poet and primary songwriter, is adept enough with English to sound English, but his lyrics betray his midlevel linguistic proficiency; they play like phone calls in their simple, declarative mope. Simple's optimum for hooks, however, and *Morning's* guitars give off just the right amount of firelight ("My Heart"). "Going Out," like the last dozen Goo Goo Dolls singles, sounds like Smooth Yazz, while Sara Isaksson's duet with Klüft on "Pills" approaches the mid-Nineties genericizing of Kate Bush. As simple and dopey as Bright Eyes' *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning*, only sleepier, *Let There Be Morning* is an angst-less denial that it's dawn as you hide under the comforter ("Trouble Sleeping").

★★ — Raoul Hernandez



**HOT HOT HEAT**

**Elevator (Sire)**

Vancouver's indie darlings Hot Hot Heat were *en fuego* with the release of their debut, 2003's *Make Up the Breakdown* (Sub Pop). They were snapped up by Sire Records and didn't utter another peep until this spring, losing guitarist Dante DeCaro along the way. The burning question: Is Hot Hot Heat still a sizzling ticket or just Not Not Neat? The answer is very nearly clear from the outset of *Elevator*: "Running Out of Time" is a bland opener completely bereft of the energy that saturated *Make Up* so deliciously. *Elevator* suggests the band isn't willing to take risks now that they've got a big-label home. To be fair, not the entire LP is a snooze; "You Owe Me an IOU," "Island of the Honest Man," and "Jingle Jangle" are perfectly fun songs with solid musicianship behind them. The problem is the band has stripped their sound of the twisty inter-genre flirtations that made their debut so interesting and daring and swapped it for boring, Clear Channel-friendly pop-rock. Or maybe the problem is that *Make Up* was such a compelling debut that no follow-up stood a chance. Whatever the case, *Elevator* has rendered Hot Hot Heat as simply "meh."

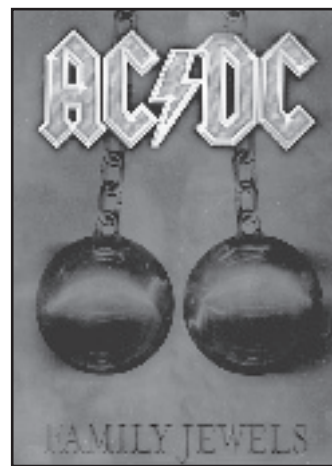
★★ — Melanie Haupt



**DVDnds**

**AC/DC Family Jewels (Epic)**

Bon Scott was reportedly wearing a red satin jumpsuit the night he took command of AC/DC in Sydney, Australia, sliding over from van wheelman to the band's driver seat with the help of a half bottle of whiskey. By 1975, live on ABC with "Baby Please Don't Go," he's aced the *Lolita* look, down to the Traci Lords undies. Big-top barker ("Show Business"), pulpit fop ("Let There Be Rock"), Scott even dons bagpipes on the flatbed semi, rolling the lads through "It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'N' Roll)." Almost a decade older than the rest of the band, Scott was the head of his class, and through his half of the double-disc *Family Jewels*, the camera laps up his outfits, antics, and tom-cat yowl like a saucerful of Kahlua. Live is live wire: "T.N.T.," flashpots and oil, and "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap," vs. hokey promos ("Jailbreak") and bad lip-synchs ("Dog Eat Dog"). Yet even canned clips, "Rock 'N' Roll Damnation" and four out



of six fake performances for *Highway to Hell*, can't stop metal's best distillation of the blues from cannoning out of your Surround-Sound system. "Sin City" and "Riff Raff," both from *Highway to Hell's* launching pad, 1978's kicked-in-the-teeth *Powerage*, brawl with "Girls Got Rhythm" and "Highway to Hell," taped 10 days before Scott's death from whiskey in 1980. The track is prerecorded, but not the group, and when the latter coda closes disc one of *Family Jewels*, Scott melting vocally like the Wicked Witch of the West — "And I'm going down, alllll the way ..." — the devil's obviously had his drink on all of us. Disc two, another 20 videos in 90 minutes, picks up where its precursor left off: in hell. *Back in Black's* Hellish sound-staging, live shoots from *For Those About to Rock*, and rehearsal vérité footage from *Flick of the Switch* give out halfway through the disc. Beginning with *Fly on the Wall's* long-form concept, the videos become as increasingly cheesy as their musical come-ons. "The Bonny Scott," Scotland-born monarch of the double-entendre, would've aged no better, but he still got the jack.

— Raoul Hernandez

**RYAN ADAMS & THE CARDINALS Cold Roses (Lost Highway)**

Third time's the double charm for Ryan Adams and his editors at Lost Highway. The fourth side of Adams' debut for the Universal imprint, 2001's still best *Gold*, wound up a now out-of-print bonus disc, while 2003's *Rock N Roll* amputated a pair of (what else?) melancholy EPs that bested the LP when (re)united as *Love Is Hell*. At almost 77 minutes, *Cold Roses*, trumpeted as boy wonder's "first full-band collaboration" since going solo, fits on one disc, yet ambles comfortably over the two CDs its prolific marquee talent apparently demands. The sealing presence of Austin's steel and lap steel guitar queen Cindy Cashdollar as one-fifth Cardinal plants *Cold Roses* in the same soil as Adams' previous "full-band collaboration," Whiskeytown, whose "Dancing With the Women at the Bar" lives on in "Now That You're Gone" and bassist Catherine Popper's shadowing harmonies on "Sweet Illusions." Rachael Yamagata later plays the role of Whiskeytown foil Caitlin Cary on easy Eagles-esque strummer "Let It Ride." For every two full blooms ("Cherry Lane," "Rosebud") there's a stem ("Mockingbird"), and a couple decent toss-offs ("Beautiful Sorta," "Dance All Night"), but such is Adams' double-album hubris. Maybe ruminative Midwestern soul on the order of "How Do You Keep Love Alive" simply needs room to ramble.

★★★★ — Raoul Hernandez

**JOHN PRINE Fair & Square (Oh Boy) BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN Devils & Dust (Columbia)**

Surely it's just a coincidence that John Prine and Bruce Springsteen released new albums on the same day. After all, 30 years ago they

were both described as new Dylans, and the former's *Fair & Square* and latter's *Devils & Dust* offer inviting contrasts in one another's musical visions. The Boss has ventured close to *D&D's* sonic territory on *Nebraska* and *The Ghost of Tom Joad*, and while this solo excursion is a relatively low-key effort in many of the same ways those discs were, it's dense and dark underpinnings are at times offset by upbeat moments like "All the Way Home" and "All I'm Thinkin' About." *Fair & Square* is Prine's first album of solely new material in nine years. His vocals are a notch deeper and rougher after treatment for throat cancer several years ago, but the Nashville-based songsmith is still as wise and whimsical as ever, whether he's feeling romantic ("Glory of True Love") or caustic ("Some Humans Ain't Human"). On the latter, Prine gives some concise political commentary with the couplet: "You're feeling your freedom and the world's off your back, then some cowboy in Texas starts his own war in Iraq." Meanwhile, Jersey's favorite son speaks from the POV of an uneasy soldier in the Middle East with "I got my finger on the trigger, but I don't know who to trust. When I look into your eyes, there's just devils and dust." The freewheeling spirit of *Fair & Square* makes it more immediately entertaining, but repeated listens to *Devils & Dust* reveal some of Springsteen's most pensive, if difficult, work.

(Prine) ★★★★★ (Springsteen) ★★★★★ — Jim Caligiuri





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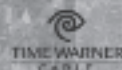
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## LEAD STORY

While Congress and the sports world are busy condemning the use of steroids as "cheating," golfer Tiger Woods and other athletes have already artificially enhanced their natural abilities with impunity through Lasik eye surgery (improving vision to 20/15 or 20/10). More ominously, according to a *Wired* magazine story in March, the time will soon come when perfectly healthy baseball pitchers and other athletes choose so-called "Tommy John surgery" (until now performed only to repair ruptured arm ligaments), which can make an elbow even stronger than it naturally was, allowing pitchers to achieve higher velocity than ever. Other predicted enhancements include the removal, re-engineering, and reinsertion of leg, arm, and shoulder muscle cells to add strength.

## CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

The North Dakota Legislature voted in April to ease licensing for carrying concealed weapons by removing the shooting test (to hit a miniature human silhouette at 21 feet), but that was over the objection of licensee Carey McWilliams, 31, who told an Associated Press reporter in March, "You've got to have standards." McWilliams, who hit the target 10 out of 10 in his most recent test, is legally blind, able to distinguish only shades of light (thus apparently giving new meaning to "concealed weapon" when he looks for his).

The Netherlands Healthcare Inspectorate issued a report in March accusing some dermatologists at the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam of concealing the local outbreak of a sexually transmitted disease in 2003 just so they could publish a first-in-time article about it in the *Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases* later that year. Infections of lymphogranuloma venereum went from 14 at the time of initial outbreak to more than 100 now. (The EMC doctors acknowledged not reporting the initial outbreak but said the disease was not at that time on the list of diseases required to be reported.)

## LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

A 24-year-old woman was hospitalized in April in Nassau County, N.Y., after her boyfriend, tossing sticks to his dog, decided to toss his knife, instead, but the knife's handle loop caught on a finger when he flung it, and it snapped back, lodging in the woman's neck. She corroborated the story, and the man was not criminally charged. (An officer asked him,



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



**Veteran criminal George Kaminski, 53, complained in March to a *Sharon (Pa.) Herald* reporter about his most recent prison assignment, to a minimum-security facility in Mercer, Pa., because the grounds were short on clover. Kaminski has collected 72,927 four-leaf clovers in the last 10 years, entirely on the grounds of various prisons, but he is alarmed that an Alaskan man now claims to have 76,000 and has applied to the Guinness Book for recognition. "The (Alaskan) guy's got the whole world," said Kaminski, "(but) I have two or three acres."**

"When you threw the knife, what did you expect the dog to do?")

Burglars who fall asleep on the job is a retired "News of the Weird" category, but Steven Jakaitis, 42, was arrested in Quincy, Mass., in March outside a CVS pharmacy, where police said he fell asleep while preparing to rob the place. His car was idling – a stocking was on his head and a pistol in his pocket – and the piece of paper beside him read, "I have a Gun DO NOT Press any Alarms or let Customer know Empty the All the register."

## PEOPLE WITH ISSUES

Gasoline-sniffer Brian Taylor, 36, was sentenced to three months in jail in March for violating a UK "anti-social behaviour order" by loitering around the pumps at a gas sta-

tion in Middlesbrough, England. According to evidence of multiple such incidents, Taylor often dangerously reeks of gasoline fumes and is sometimes aggressive in his pursuit of a fix, including jostling gas-pumping customers. Once, he was filmed on a security camera doing an uninhibited dance after taking a huff. He apparently prefers unleaded but will settle for diesel and denies that he drinks any of it: "I'm daft but not that daft."

## UPDATE

As many as 10% of Japanese youths may be living in "epic sulks" as hermits ("hikikomori"), according to a March *Taipei Times* dispatch from Tokyo, thus representing no improvement in the already alarming problem that was described in a "News of the Weird"

report in 2000. Many of the hikikomori, in fact, still live in their parents' homes and simply never leave their bedrooms. Among the speculation as to cause: school bullying, academic pressure, poor social skills (after obsessively whiling away hours at video games), inaccessible father figures, and an education system that suppresses youths' sense of adventure.

## INEXPLICABLE

John W. Hill of High View, W.Va., was arrested near St. Louis in March after sheriff's deputies had stopped to investigate why he was parked alongside I-70. He was shirtless, wearing an Indian vest, cargo pants, and combat boots, had several loaded pistols, an assault rifle, a two-shot Derringer, two long rifles, a serious knife, 400 rounds of ammo, and various drugs. He said only that he was headed to South Dakota Indian country to deliver supplies and a sack full of Bibles to children, and that he was armed because the West is "dangerous." He was charged with possessing a loaded weapon while intoxicated.

A British farm couple recently handed officials of the East Lindsey District Council a surveillance video of an elderly couple that they said have been driving by from time to time and leaving pairs of new shoes (with price tags still affixed) on their property, with no explanation. The farmers, Jason and Claire Foster, said more than 30 pairs have been dropped off since December, and the council's investigation was continuing, according to a March BBC News report.

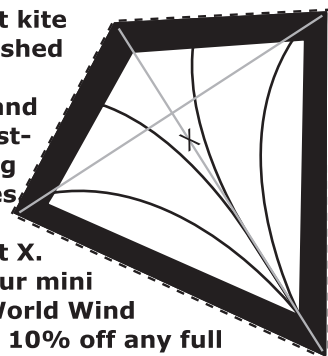
## RECURRING THEMES

One "News of the Weird" "No Longer Weird" category was apparently retired prematurely, in that there has rarely been a sighting of it for years now. However, on April 7, a 48-year-old man drove to the Department of Motor Vehicles in Anchorage, Alaska, failed to come to a complete stop, bumped into a wall of the building, backed up, parked, walked inside nonchalantly, and got his driver license renewed. Although workers in the accounting offices of the building were shaken up (one thought an earthquake had hit), no one inside knew exactly what had happened until police arrived. The driver failed a coordination test and was charged with DUI based on a prescription medication he was taking.

Send your *Weird News* to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or [weirdnews@earthlink.net](mailto:weirdnews@earthlink.net)  
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 Rev. Dan Willis & The All Nations Choir \* Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca \* Ruthie Foster \* deSoL  
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 Mouse on Mars \* The Futureheads \* Kathleen Edwards \* Asleep at the Wheel \* M83  
 Tegan and Sara \* Mike Doughty \* Split Lip Rayfield \* Rachael Yamagata \* Bobby Bare Jr. \* Mofro  
 Ditty Bops \* The New Amsterdams \* Ambulance Ltd. \* Slightly Stoopid \* Dios Malos  
 Brave Combo \* Aqualung \* Dave Alvin \* Marc Broussard \* Bruce Robison \* Missy Higgins  
 Nine Black Alps \* Kevin Fowler \* Grady \* Willy Mason \* The Weary Boys \* Wayne Hancock  
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# calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 5 - THURSDAY, MAY 12

**c** COMMUNITY p.78 + **a** RTS p.82 + **t** ILM p.88 + **m** MUSIC listings p.98

## this week

### COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY DIANA WELCH

## Thursday 05

**AUSTIN AREA INTERFAITH BREAKFAST** As part of **Cover the Uninsured Week**, find out what you can do to help advocate for affordable health care. Speaker: Patricia Young Brown, chief executive officer, Travis County Hospital District. Check the Web site for related regional events. 7:30-9am. *University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St., 476-5321. Free. www.covertheuninsuredweek.org.*

**AUSTIN SUN FEST** is a two-night festival, showcasing the work of local artists. Check the Web site for details. 8-11pm. *Ritz Lounge, 320 E. Sixth, 474-2270. www.austinsunfest.com.*

**BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP** 6-10pm. *Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. bikesacrossborders@riseup.net.*

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** This benefit for the Greater Austin Youth Sports League spans the whole weekend, beginning with an opening ceremony tonight and continuing through Sunday with live music every night, games, contests, dancing, SpongeBob SquarePants himself, and a custom car show. (See Club Listings) 5:30-11pm. *Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318. Free.*

**EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING THE PRO BONO AND LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP** Keynote speakers are Sarah Buel, professor, UT Law and advocate for survivors of domestic violence; Robert J. Grey Jr., president of the American Bar Association; and columnist Molly Ivins. Workshop themes include: recruiting pro bono lawyers of color; how 9/11 has affected immigration law; and more. See the Web site for a complete list of workshops and panels. [www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html).

**GEORGETOWN FARMERS' MARKET** 3:30-6:30pm. *Courthouse Square, Georgetown. www.gtfa.com.*

**HELLO BIRDIE BENEFIT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER** with emcee Kinky Friedman, live music, food, cocktails, and a silent auction of birdhouses made by the likes of Sheryl Crow, Lance Armstrong, and Natalie Maines. Saturday's events feature birdhouse-building workshops for kids, face painting,

and more. (See Club Listings) 6:30-10pm. *Big Red Sun, 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688. \$50.*

**INSIDE BOOKS WORK PARTY** Come hang out with cool people for four days (or just an afternoon) and help send six months' worth of back orders of books to Texas prisoners. Here's an incentive: free food! If you can't make it, sponsor a book wrapper or donate packaging supplies. *Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

**LIBERTY DOLLAR OF AUSTIN MEETING** These folks don't need Uncle Sam's dirty money, not when they've got the old standards, silver and gold! *Stars Coffee, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334. Free.*

**WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE** is a gospel stage play presented by Building the Kingdom. *Carver Museum Theater, 1165 Angelina, 323-6901. \$15 (\$12, advance). www.btkp.com.*

**THEATRE** (See Arts Listings)  
**12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family** *The Vortex*

**LITERA** (See Arts Listings)  
**Bill Clinton BookPeople**

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts)  
**Design Center of Austin, North Hills Gallery**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**Imelda** @ *Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*  
**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow** @ *Dart Bowl, 8:30pm*  
**The Seventh Seal** @ *Paramount, 7:15pm*  
**The Virgin Spring** @ *Paramount, 9:15pm*

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings)  
**Benevento-Russo Duo Stubb's**  
**Stereophonics** *The Parish*

## Elephants, tigers, and mimes at the Barsana Dham Mela Indian Fair

[ SEE SATURDAY ]



## the young ones

**THE WISE MEN OF CHELM** is a charming musical comedy about not a village idiot but a village of idiots, based on Yiddish folktales from the 1500s. *Through May 15. Fri., 7:30; Sat., 3 & 7:30pm; Sun., 3pm. (Note: No show on May 8.) Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 386-8292. \$10 (\$8, students, seniors, kids ages 12 and younger). www.secondyouth.com.*

**JAMAICA SPRING CARNIVAL** A fundraiser for the school's Parent Teacher Organization. *Fri., May 6. Ridgeway Elementary, 5005 Caswell, 414-4469.*

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** Help the school buy new maps and globes for their classrooms while eating good food, jumping in a castle, dunking in a booth, and more. Feel free to donate stuff for their silent auction as well. *Fri., May 6, 5-8pm. Travis Heights Elementary, 2010 Alameda, 963-9882. Free.*

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** *Through May 22. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2:30pm. Austin Scottish Rite*

*Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$8 (\$5, children ages 11 and younger; \$7, seniors). www.scottishritechildrenstheatre.org.*

**MOTHER'S DAY GARDEN** Make your mom a sunflower garden for Mother's Day. After you plant your seed, you can decorate the garden with little handmade bugs or sweet-smelling paper flowers! *Sat., May 7, noon-2pm. Terra Toys, 2438 W. Anderson, 445-4489. Free.*

**JUNIOR BUILDERS FESTIVAL** Calling all future builders and engineers: learn how you can actually use all that stuff you're learning in math and science class. And, of course, try out the big machines. *Sat., May 7, 10am-4pm. Crockett Events Center, 6301 Hwy. 290 E., 451-3083. Free.*

**ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL** celebrates its fifth anniversary with an afternoon of sing-alongs, stories, special performances, and birthday cake. *Sat., May 7, 3:30pm. Ducloux Hall, 901 Barton Springs Rd., 474-2331. \$5 (\$3, kids).*

**AUSTIN ARTS AND MUSIC PROJECT TEEN MUSIC MARATHON** Check out this town's future rock stars and help raise money for AAMP, a nonprofit organization providing music and arts classes to the children of Safeplace, CASA, and the Austin Children's Shelter. (See Club Listings) *Sat., May 7, 4-8pm. Redrum, 501-B E. Sixth, 751-0895. \$10. tamara@austinamp.org.*

**EXPLORE THE STORY IN LANDMARK MAPS OF TEXAS** Hands-on, interactive fun with maps, cartography equipment, and artifacts. (See Visual Arts) *Sun., May 8, 1-3pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-4649. \$5.50 (\$4.50, seniors, military; \$3, kids). www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

**SCIENCE IN THE MOVIES** Learn the wizardry behind special effects in film with real-life demonstrations. *Sun., May 8, 2pm. 707-7447. \$5.*

**OPEN HOUSE AFTERNOON OF KARATE** Ages 4 and older. Call for specific times. *The Hills Fitness Center,*

*4619 Bee Caves Rd., 327-2900 x4. Free. www.austinmartialarts.com.*

**TINY TIGERS KARATE PROGRAM: MARTIAL ARTS WITH MOM!** Ages 2-4. Call for specific times. *327-2900 x4. Free. www.austinmartialarts.com.*

**TIMEOUT!** is an opera about time travel and human greed written, composed, and performed by Metz Elementary School fourth graders. *Wed.-Thu., May 11-12, 1:15 & 6:30pm. Metz Elementary, 84 Robert T. Martinez Jr., 841-0104. Free, donations welcome.*

**GRIFFIN SCHOOL CELEBRATION AND ART OPENING** (See Visual Arts) *Thu., May 12, 6-9pm. Auditorium on Waller Creek, 4100 Red River, 454-5797. Free. adam@griffinschool.org, www.griffinschool.org.*

Be sure to check our online listings for more fun stuff to do this week! [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com).

## Friday 06

**BODY VIDA GRAND OPENING** with music, food, chair massages, tarot readings, and free class demos. 7-10pm. *Body Vida Studio, 1115 S. Congress, 447-9900. free.*

**DIASPORIC DIALOGUES: RACE AND POLITICS ACROSS THE BLACK ATLANTIC** A conference regarding the nature of race and politics in Britain and the U.S.A., with special guests Caryl Phillips, Gary Younge, and Jayne Ilekunigwe. See Web site for details. 9am-4pm. *Moncrief-Neuhauss Athletics Center, Rm. 1.210, UT campus, 471-4413. www.thirdcoastactivist.org.*

**SEIS DE MAYO TEJANO BLUES ROCK FEST** Bring donations of exterior paint, rollers, and such for **Texas United Latino Artists**, drink beer, eat food, and become a member of KOOP radio so TULA can have their own radio show. 7pm. *Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634. Free. info@koop.org.*

**SHOOTING FOR THE STARS BENEFIT** is the Austin Children's Museum's biggest fundraiser of the year, with guest speaker Naomi Judd. 11:30am. *Renaissance Hotel, 9721 Arboretum, 472-2499 x212. www.austinkids.org.*

# the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

**REGARDING "PRIDE" COVERAGE** Ladies: Asking for a Pride cover is like asking for your own surprise party. Taaaackee. Sit tight. You know we heart u. [www.gayshame.org](http://www.gayshame.org). [www.austinpride.org](http://www.austinpride.org).

**DARLING NEW NEIGHBORS** Tonight! Smack dab in between Austin cuties Pam Peltz and Ethan Azarian. *Thu., May 5. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747.* [www.darlingnewneighbors.com](http://www.darlingnewneighbors.com).

**HANK WILLIAMS GONE WILDE** Tonight! *Thu., May 5, 6:30pm. ZACH Scott Theatre, 476-0541 x1.*

**MAKING PORN** Oooh. **Matthew Rush and Dan Renzi** (that's Danny from *The Real World: Miami*) star. *Through May 8. Arts on Real Theater, 2826 Real. 472-2787.* [www.artsonreal.com](http://www.artsonreal.com).

**CHILE CON LENGUA** Celebrate queer men of color with NYC neo-Nuyorican spoken word artist **Emanuel Xavier**. *OW! Fri., May 6, 7pm. ALLGO, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. Free.* [www.algo.org](http://www.algo.org)

**CASINO NIGHT 2005** with the lovely Outlaws. Poker in the front, liquor in the rear. *Sat., May 7, 9pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707. sidekicksnaustin@aol.com.*

**TENNIS ANYONE?** A game where stuffing your pants with balls is actually encouraged. For four weeks, the **Austin Tennis Club** will add Sundays to their weekly gatherings – first-come first-serve, entirely reserved for ATC! *May 8-June 5. Caswell Tennis Center, 2312 Shoal Creek, 825-3834. \$4 and unopened can of balls.* [austintennisclub@yahoo.com](mailto:austintennisclub@yahoo.com).

**HAPPY HEDDA LAYNE HOUR** The Divine Miss L leaves no heart sans palpitations. Revel in her kitsch operatic glory and complimentary barbecue! *Sun., May 8, 5:30pm. Rain, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150.* [www.heddalayne.com](http://www.heddalayne.com).

**FOODIES** The laydeez who luv the laydeez who luv the fud got it goin' on. To wit: Texas Hold'em practice in prep for ASA's Viva Las Vegas. E-mail Kitty for more and to RSVP: [beatsagogo@aol.com](mailto:beatsagogo@aol.com).

**THE WRECKONING: THE ASSACRE TAKEOVER** (See Wednesday) *Fresh Up Club, 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater. totallywreck.com.*

For more gay stuff, see [Calendar online: austinchronicle.com](http://Calendar online: austinchronicle.com). Send gay bits to [gayplace@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).

**TRAILTAMERS CREW LEADER TRAINING** 7-10pm. Central Texas Trail Tamers, 9300 Elm Grove Circle, 394-9998. \$10.

**YWCA'S DOGTOPIA CELEBRATION** with a dog beauty contest, talent show, and more raffle winners will be announced by Lloyd "Big Dog" Doggett. All proceeds benefit the YWCA, which, among other things, offers substance abuse and mental health counseling for women, couples, and their families. *10:30am. Eilers Park, 401 Deep Eddy Ave. Free.* [www.ywcaaustin.org](http://www.ywcaaustin.org).

**AUSTIN SUN FEST** 8-11pm. Ritz Lounge, 320 E. Sixth, 474-2270. [www.austinsunfest.com](http://www.austinsunfest.com). (See Thursday 5/5)

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** 5:30-12mid. *Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318. Free.* (See Thursday 5/5)

**EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING THE PRO BONO AND LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP** [www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html).

**INSIDE BOOKS WORK PARTY** Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. (See Thursday 5/5)

**WHEN IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE** Carver Museum Theater, 1165 Angelina, 323-6901. \$15 (\$12, advance). [www.btkp.com](http://www.btkp.com). (See Thursday 5/5)

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts)  
**Russell Collection**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow** @ Dart Bowl, 8:30pm  
**Travoltathon** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45pm  
**Videoke** @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid

## Saturday 07

**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET** Blackberries, peaches, squash, beans, spinach, cucumbers, and tomatoes, plus stuff for the kids: music, a petting pen, food, art, giant bubbles, and sunglass decorating. (See Club Listings) *9am-1pm. Austin Farmers' Market Downtown, Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 236-0074. Free.* [www.austinfarmersmarket.org](http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org).

**BARSANA DHAM MELA** A traditional Indian fair with African riding elephants, Bengal tiger shows, performances of magic, mime, dance, and music, a game pavilion, food, henna hand painting, shopping, and more. *Noon-5pm. Barsana Dham, 400 Barsana Rd., 288-7180. \$5, car (\$10, car with three or more people).* [www.barsanadham.org](http://www.barsanadham.org).

**CASA MARIANELLA BENEFIT CONCERT** Plus, a raffle, dance contest, and poetry by Casa Marianella residents and friends. All proceeds benefit Casa Marianella, a shelter for immigrants and refugees in East Austin. (See Club Listings) *9pm-2am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 385-5571. \$8.* [www.casamarianella.org](http://www.casamarianella.org).



**EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF LOVE & VIOLENCE** A multimedia workshop for parents, grandparents, and those who work with children of any age. 1-

5:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 680-1117. \$25-50.

**FESTIVAL MEXICO** with food tastings, live music, artisan and vendor booths, children's arts & crafts, chef demos, a silent auction, and a special performance from St. Edwards Mariachi and Ballet Folklórico. (See Club Listings) *6-11pm. Fifth & Congress, 480-9373 x21.* [events@mexic-artemuseum.org](mailto:events@mexic-artemuseum.org).

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY** Because comic books shops and libraries say so! Go get yours. *Austin Books, 5002 N. Lamar, 454-4197.*

**FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING** First come, first served. *8am-2pm. Brackenridge Hospital, 601 E. 15th, 476-6461. Free.* [www.seton.net](http://www.seton.net).

**GARDENS ON TOUR** is an exclusive look into Austin's backyard native gems. Tour wristband's available at Wild Ideas. *10am-5pm. Wild Ideas, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave., 292-4200. \$25, wristband (\$6, garden; free, kids younger than 5).* [atiedt@wildflower.org](mailto:atiedt@wildflower.org), [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org).

**MAS CALIENTE CELEBRACION DEL SUR** Live music, food, and vendor booths. (See Club Listings) *11am-8pm. San Jose Catholic Church, 2435 Oak Crest, 444-7587. Free.*

### SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 20 issue is Monday, May 9.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place): [gayplace@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gayplace@austinchronicle.com).

Mark Fagan (Sports): [gameplans@austinchronicle.com](mailto:gameplans@austinchronicle.com).

Diana Welch (everything else): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

1500 W. 34TH (512) 473-2137  
[www.vingallery.com](http://www.vingallery.com)

28th Annual  
**O. Henry Pun-Off**  
World Championships  
Saturday - May 14  
O. Henry Museum - Brush Square  
409 E.5th Street - 11am - 5pm  
Music - Food - Book Sale - Silent Auction  
[www.PunPunPun.com](http://www.PunPunPun.com) - (512) 472-1903

CHRONICLE Parks & Recreation Department

Free Admission  
Just for the Pun Of It!

# CLOSE IN AND FAR OUT

12:15 • McCallum Steel Drum Band  
1:00 • Dale Watson  
2:00 • Jim Scarborough  
3:00 • Hop Culture  
4:30 • The Good Looks  
5:30 • Patrice Pike

WALL OF WELCOME EXHIBIT • ARTISANS' BOOTHS  
COMMUNITY TENT SILENT AUCTION, 12-4  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • DOMINOES, 2-4  
FOOD BY CURRA'S GRILL, TEXAS RIB KINGS,  
LITTLE DELI AND MORE

**VIOLET CROWN FESTIVAL**  
May 7th - Noon - 7 p.m. • Brentwood Park

TKO Texas Rib Kings Grande

[WWW.VIOLETCROWNFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.VIOLETCROWNFESTIVAL.COM)  
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on the drag, 23rd Street at Guadalupe west of the UT Tower

[www.austinartistsmarket.com](http://www.austinartistsmarket.com)

Use this AD as a coupon to qualify for special Discounts from the Artists.

**MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES' WINE TASTING & AUCTION** raises money to feed the homeless. 7pm. Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion, 11508 Carl Rd., Buda, 512/328-7299. \$65. [www.mobileloavesandfishes.org](http://www.mobileloavesandfishes.org).

**OSTEOPOROSIS: DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, & PREVENTION** 10-11am. Seton Northwest Hospital, 11113 Research, 324-4456. Free.

**ROUND ROCK FARMERS' MARKET** 8am-noon. City Hall parking garage, Round Rock, 512/281-3699. [gregory\\_coley@webtv.net](mailto:gregory_coley@webtv.net), [www.gtfa.com](http://www.gtfa.com).

**SENIOR CENTER ANNUAL ATTIC & GARAGE SALE** 8am-2pm. Round Rock Senior Center, 205 E. Main, Round Rock, 218-5499. Free.

**TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY FIGHTS BREAST CANCER** All sales of tickets to contact will benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Austin Affiliate. (See Theatre) Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

**VIOLET CROWN FESTIVAL** Learn the history of the Brentwood/Crestview neighborhood, party with Dale Watson and Patrice Pike, eat some good food, and bid in a silent auction to raise money for some neighborhood enhancement. Noon-7pm. Brentwood Park, 6710 Arroyo Seco, 461-5051. Donations accepted. [katewodash57@yahoo.com](mailto:katewodash57@yahoo.com), [www.violetcrownfestival.com](http://www.violetcrownfestival.com).

**WHY THE ALTERNATIVES TO OIL ARE SO IMPORTANT** with Tom Mast, author of *Over a Barrel: A Simple Guide to the Oil Shortage*. 2pm. Barnes & Noble Round Rock, I-35 & 1325, Round Rock, 512/600-0114. Free. [erika@prbythebook.com](mailto:erika@prbythebook.com), [www.overabarrelbook.com](http://www.overabarrelbook.com).

**YOGA YOGA TEACHER TRAINING OPEN HOUSE** 3-4:30pm. Yoga Yoga South, 1700 S. Lamar, 326-3900. Free.

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** Noon-12mid. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318. Free. (See Thursday 5/5)

**EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING THE PRO BONO AND LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERSHIP** [www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/home.html).

**HELLO BIRDIE BENEFIT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER** Noon-7pm. Big Red Sun, 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, 480-0688. \$50. (See Thursday 5/5)

**INSIDE BOOKS WORK PARTY** Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. (See Thursday 5/5)

**TRAILTAMERS CREW LEADER TRAINING** 8am-4pm. Central Texas Trail Tamers, 9300 Elm Grove Circle, 394-9998. \$10. (See Friday)

**VISUAL ARTS** (See Arts Listings)  
**Mexic-Arte Museum**  
**The Space**

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts)  
**The Space, Wally Workman Gallery**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow** @ Dart Bowl, 8:30pm  
**Travoltathon** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45pm

## Sunday 08

**CENTRAL AUSTIN COHOUSING: BUILDING A VILLAGE IN THE CITY** Call for location and time. 478-7321. Free. [austincohousing.org](http://austincohousing.org).

**CHURCH OF CRAFT MEETING** The Work\*Shop, 1211 W. Sixth #400. Free. [charlene@churchofcraft.org](mailto:charlene@churchofcraft.org), [www.churchofcraft.org/doors/austin/index.html](http://www.churchofcraft.org/doors/austin/index.html).

**CINCO DE MAYO FAMILY DAY** With carnival rides, face painting, a petting zoo, archery, rock climbing, delicious food, live music, and more. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.

**DIA DE LAS MADRES: WALL OF REMEMBRANCE TO HONOR OUR MOTHERS** Join Austin Motherless Daughters for a potluck brunch, cantos by Laura Freeman, and an opportunity to share memories with other motherless daughters. 1pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. Free.

**DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING** 7pm. 5900 Dunbury Dr., 371-9803. [www.diamondway.org/austin](http://www.diamondway.org/austin).

**ESPERANTO CLUB MEETING** 3pm. Texpresso, 2700 W. Anderson Ln., 467-9898. [www.esperantoaustin.org](http://www.esperantoaustin.org).

**INDEPENDENT BUSINESS: ITS ADVANTAGES AND PROBLEMS** 11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org).

**MOTHER'S DAY AT THE BOB BULLOCK STATE HISTORY MUSEUM** starts with a **Mother's Day Brunch** at the Story of Texas Cafe, and finishes with the **Mother's Day Concert**, featuring Marcia Ball, Sis DeVille, and Jane Bond at the Spirit of Texas Theatre. 11am-3pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-4649. Brunch, \$19.95 (\$9.95, kids); concert, \$20 (\$100, table). [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

**MOTHER'S DAY NIA/CREATIVE MOVEMENT PLAYDAY** for moms and daughters. 4-5:30pm. Body Vida Studio, 1115 S. Congress, 447-9900. \$15, pair. [info@bodyvida.com](http://info@bodyvida.com), [www.bodyvida.com](http://www.bodyvida.com).

**NO KIDDING! SUPPER** Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.

**PEACE SUNDAY MEDITATION & POTLUCK** 1-3pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.

**SINGLE PARENT RESOURCE NETWORK MEETING** Cynthia Brown of Planned Parenthood spells out the age:ready-to-talk-about-sex ratio to parents. (They're probably doing it, you know.) 1pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 694-5272. Free. [www.sprn.org](http://www.sprn.org).

**VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT BEACH BASH SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** The family of Nicole Akin, who recently survived being shot by her husband, requests your presence at this fundraiser for the Nicole Aikin Foundation, which raises money not only for Nicole's medical bills, but for other survivors of violence as well. Featuring an exhibition match between professional volleyball players, an open tournament (10:30am), live music, fashion shows (4 & 8pm), and a raffle. (See Sports) Carlos n Charlie's, 5973 Hilline Rd., 266-1683. [cnevents@austin.rr.com](mailto:cnevents@austin.rr.com), [www.nicoleakinfoundation.org](http://www.nicoleakinfoundation.org).

**CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** Noon-11pm. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Bergman, 480-8318. Free. (See Thursday 5/5)

**INSIDE BOOKS WORK PARTY** Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. (See Thursday 5/5)

**TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY FIGHTS BREAST CANCER** Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org). (See Saturday)

**COMEDY** (See Arts Listings)  
**Bill Cosby** Bass Concert Hall

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**Roman Holiday** @ Alamo Drafthouse South, 1:30, 6:30pm  
**Steel Magnolias** @ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 3:45pm  
**The Umbrellas of Cherbourg** @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 1:30, 6:30pm

## Monday 09

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY (PART TWO)** If you couldn't make it to Austin Books last Saturday, stop by your nearest library branch and pick up a comic book, free! An Austin Public Library near you, 974-7400. [www.cityofaustin.org](http://www.cityofaustin.org).

**INTRODUCTION TO THE SHAMANIC JOURNEY** 7-8:30pm. NiaSpace/LifeDance Institute, 3212 S. Congress Ave., 326-5074. \$10. [gstarnes@lifedanceinstitute.org](mailto:gstarnes@lifedanceinstitute.org), [www.lifedanceinstitute.org](http://www.lifedanceinstitute.org).

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES** with Elsa Gramola. 5pm. 345-8941. \$15/hr. [eringgenberg@austin.rr.com](mailto:eringgenberg@austin.rr.com), [www.geocities.com/atasteofitalyinaustin/atasteofitalyinaustin](http://www.geocities.com/atasteofitalyinaustin/atasteofitalyinaustin).  
**WEIGHT LOSS WITH MINDFUL EATING** Noon-1pm. Main Street Yoga, 809 Main St., Georgetown, 864-9156. \$12. [www.pureveda.com](http://www.pureveda.com).

**LITERA** (See Arts Listings)  
**Ric Williams** Austin Java Cafe & Bar

## Tuesday 10

**AUSTIN CIVIC WIND ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT SERIES** 7:30pm. Texas School for the Blind, 1100 W. 45th, 507-7161. Free.

## out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

**TEXAS STATE MOUNTAIN & HAMMER DULCIMER FESTIVAL** brings musicians from around the country together for this unique arts and crafts fair with free concerts and workshops. Fri.-Sun., May 6-8. Oakdale Park, 1019 N. Barnard St., Glen Rose, 254/897-2321. [www.oakdalepark.com](http://www.oakdalepark.com).

**MAIFEST** brings out the German in us all with lots of food, crafts, exhibits, polkas, and waltzes. Fri.-Sat., May 6-7. Fireman's Park, Brenham, 979/836-3695 or 888/273-6426. [www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com).

**HOWDY-ROO CHILI COOK-OFF** has chiliheads and barbecue smokers competing for bragging rights and points to get to the international cookoff in Terlingua this fall. Sat., May 7. Johnson Park, Marble Falls, 830/693-2106.

**SCARBOROUGH FAIRE** enters its final four weekends of fun for the year with 11 stages of continuous entertainment, craft shops, music, games, rides, and much more for adults and children. Sat.-Sun. (including Memorial Day), May 7-30, 10am-7pm. Waxahachie, 888/533-7848. \$18.99 (\$6.50, kids). [www.scarboroughrenfest.com](http://www.scarboroughrenfest.com).

**TRIO** This new art exhibition features small paintings by Michel Nedjar and totypes by Robb Kendrick and Deborah Luster. The gallery also exhibits an astounding collection of folk art from Texas and around the country. Sat.-Sun., May 7-July 10, 1-5pm and by appointment. Webb Art Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085. [www.webbartgallery.com](http://www.webbartgallery.com).

# day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

**The Texas Prison Museum** in Huntsville puts the Texas criminal justice system into perspective. Without glossing over the harsh realities of the situation, the museum opens the jailhouse door for a look into the mysterious world behind the bars.

"We try to put the facts out there for everyone to see," says Jim Willett. Not only has Willett worked to organize the exhibit, but he retired as the warden of the Walls Unit in downtown Huntsville.

One hard and cold fact of the Texas penal system is that 361 people were sentenced to death in the electric chair between 1923 and 1964. "Old Sparky," as the chair was nicknamed, sits in a dark cubiclelike display in the center of the museum. The polished, red wood chair with leather straps is a powerful sight. Across the aisle from the chair is a display on anti-death penalty protests at the front gates of Walls Unit, where death row was housed for many years.

Named for the red-brick walls stretching 20 feet above 12th Street, the Walls Unit is Texas' oldest and most famous correctional institution. Since it was built in 1849, the prison has had a long list of distinguished guests like John Wesley Hardin, Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter, and Clyde Barrow.

The best way to see over the walls of the Huntsville unit is to look at the diorama of the grounds. The model of the prison is one of Willett's favorite parts of the museum. The former warden's vast knowledge of the history of the institution can be fascinating, and many of his stories are in his book, *Warden*.

As a college student, Willett joined the staff as a night-shift guard in 1971, and he witnessed a period of growth in the prison system. "We want to show the history of the prison system," Willett says of the exhibits. He thinks that the displays shed light on something that is very mysterious to most citizens.

The long story of the Texas penal system is fascinating, and Willett admits that it can be depressing at times. Convict labor quarried the stone for the state Capitol and built the state railroad between Rusk and Palestine in East Texas. In 1972, the *Ruiz v. Estelle* suit began 30 years of federal control of Texas prisons because overcrowding constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

The pictures and display cases give incredible insight into life behind bars. There once was a dress code for prisoners' uniforms with horizontal stripes reserved for the most dangerous convicts. In one glass case twisted manacles attest to the prisoners' desire to be free. Willett points to a leather

strap in the bottom of the case and says, "It's hard to believe that prisoners were whipped until 1940."

There are many heroes in the prison system's story. A plaque lists the 32 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. During the 1920s and Thirties, Marshall Lee Simmons brought needed reforms to the system.

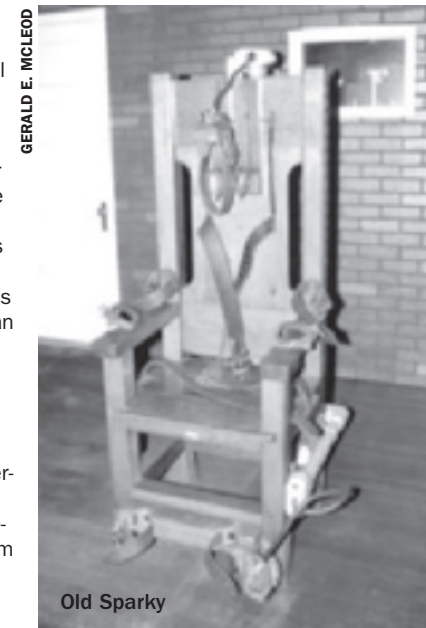
One of Simmons' programs was the Texas Prison Rodeo that began 1931. The inmates competed in one of the wildest cowboy shows in the country until it was closed down in 1986 due to the deteriorating condition of the stadium.

Not all of the inmates were performers; some were artists and craftsmen, and some of their creations are for sale in the museum gift shop. The exhibits showcase artwork, sculptures, and even *Prisoner Monopoly* – all made by inmates.

Unfortunately, not all of the artistic talents were focused in the right direction. One display case is full of handcrafted weapons confiscated from inmates including a knife with a beautiful tooled leather handle and a shotgun made from scrap pipe.

Lest the visitors forget the living conditions of a prisoner during their journey through the history of the prison system, at the end of the exhibits is a jail cell they can try on for size. The Texas Prison Museum is on the north side of Huntsville at the junction of I-45 and TX 75. The doors are open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm (6pm during daylight-saving time), and on Sunday, noon to 5pm. For more information, call 936/295-2155 or go to [www.txprisonmuseum.org](http://www.txprisonmuseum.org).

725th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of Day Trips 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.



Old Sparky

**AUSTIN SPOKESCOUNCIL MEETING** 8pm. Plaza Saltillo, 401 Comal, 727-8363. [www.austinspokes.org](http://www.austinspokes.org).

**BENEFIT TANGO DANCE PARTY** featuring Glover Tango with the Tosca String Quartet. All proceeds will help defray local dancer Crystal Pirone's medical expenses. 9-11pm. Cipollina, 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211. \$20.

**CHIT-CHAT AND CHOW** 11:45am-1pm. Clay Pit, 1601 Guadalupe, 441-8988. [www.humanpotentialcenter.org](http://www.humanpotentialcenter.org).

**DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING** 8pm. Texas Union, UT Campus, 24th & Guadalupe. [www.diamondway.org/austin](http://www.diamondway.org/austin).

**HILL COUNTRY NUDISTS INTRODUCTORY MEETING** 7pm. Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock. [www.hillcountrynudists.com](http://www.hillcountrynudists.com).

**JOBS WITH JUSTICE MEETING** Texas State Employees Union, 2700-C S. First, 448-4225. Free. [www.jwj.org/LocalCoal/TX.htm](http://www.jwj.org/LocalCoal/TX.htm).

**KEEP AUSTIN FREE MEETING** 3pm. The Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189. Free. [www.keeptaustinfree.com](http://www.keeptaustinfree.com).

**SOUTH AUSTIN MOTHERS CLUB MEETING** 9:30am-noon. Western Hills Church of Christ, 6211 Parkwood, 470-0609. [president@southaustinnmothersclub.org](http://president@southaustinnmothersclub.org). [www.southaustinnmothersclub.org](http://www.southaustinnmothersclub.org).

**STAYING HEALTHY: HERBS FOR THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND LIVER CLEANSING** 6:30-9:30pm. Austin School of Herbal Studies, 8803 Bear Creek, 301-5838. \$45. [ellen@ezherbs.net](mailto:ellen@ezherbs.net). [www.ezherbs.net](http://www.ezherbs.net).

**BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP** 6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. [bikesacrossborders@riseup.net](http://bikesacrossborders@riseup.net).

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**The Silence** @ Paramount, 9:10pm  
**Through a Glass Darkly** @ Paramount, 7:15pm  
**Veer-Zaara** @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 7pm

**MUSIC** (See Music Listings)  
**Hardcore Country Night** Broken Spoke

## Wednesday 1 1

**ANGER RESOLUTION WORKSHOP FOR MEN** 7:15-9:30pm. United Methodist Church New Life Institute, 401 Speedway, 402-0405.

**AUSTIN NORML MEETING** 9pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. [info@austinnorml.com](http://info@austinnorml.com). [www.austinnorml.com](http://www.austinnorml.com).

**BOARD GAME NIGHT AT VENTANA DEL SOUL** 6pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. Free.

**CENTRAL TEXAS MOUNTAINEERS MEETING** 7pm. Whole Earth Provisions, 1014 N. Lamar, 476-1414; 2410 San Antonio, 478-1577. [www.ctmrocks.com](http://www.ctmrocks.com).

**FREELANCE AUSTIN MEETING** 12:30-1:45pm. Park Plaza Hotel, 6000 Middle Fiskville, 231-0939. [jt@tworld.biz](mailto:jt@tworld.biz). [www.freelanceaustin.org](http://www.freelanceaustin.org).

**IMPROVISATIONAL ART WORKSHOP** 7-9:30pm. 441-8988. \$25. [www.humanpotentialcenter.org](http://www.humanpotentialcenter.org).

**JOHN BREMOND & CO. HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION** Mayor Will Wynn will dedicate a Texas Historical Commission marker commemorating the grocery and dry goods store originally located at Sixth and Brazos streets. 11:30am-1:30pm. 115 E. Sixth.

**THE WRECKONING** Drink cheap beer, catch live music and performances, and see some art. (See Visual Arts) 7-11pm. Fresh Up Club, 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater. Free.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING FARMERS' MARKET** 4-7pm. Plaza Saltillo, 401 Comal, 727-8363. [www.sustainablefoodcenter.org](http://www.sustainablefoodcenter.org).

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES** 5pm. 345-8941. \$15/hr. [eringenberg@austin.rr.com](mailto:eringenberg@austin.rr.com). [www.geocities.com/atasteofitalyinaustin/atasteofitalyinaustin](http://www.geocities.com/atasteofitalyinaustin/atasteofitalyinaustin).

**LITERA** (See Arts Listings)  
**Frontage Road Literary Magazine** Barnes & Noble Arboretum

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**10 Under 10 2005** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm  
**Bombies** @ Little Walnut Creek Library, 7pm  
**The Silence** @ Paramount, 9:10pm  
**Through a Glass Darkly** @ Paramount, 7:15pm

## Thursday 1 2

**AMERICAN YOUTH WORKS ART SHOW** An evening of art and music to benefit American YouthWorks, a nonprofit organization whose dropout recovery charter school helps kids ages 16-21 get their diplomas. (See Visual Arts) 5-10pm. AYW Downtown Charter High School, 216 E. Fourth, 236-6100. \$7. [www.americanyouthworks.org](http://www.americanyouthworks.org).

**AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY STUDY GROUP** AHS president Cindy Boyle will discuss "Stevia, Sweet Herb of the Aztec." 7-9pm. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 345-0719 or 927-8478. \$3 (free, members).

**CASA VOLUNTEER RECRUIT FOR CHILD VICTIM ADVOCATES** 6-8:30pm. CASA of Travis County, 6330 Hwy. 290 E. #350, 459-2272. Free. [www.casatrasvix.org](http://www.casatrasvix.org).

**LA DESPEDIDA** An ESL graduation & farewell fiesta. 7pm. Manos de Christo, 1201 E. Cesar Chavez, 477-2319.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK!** Kick back on a blanket with some food and drinks, and watch a free movie at dusk. (See Special Screenings) 7pm. Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free (concession sales benefit Austin Parks Foundation). [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org).

**ROCK & REEL** Music and movies under the stars. (See Special Screenings) Music: 7:30pm; movie: 8:30pm. Jo's Hot Coffee, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800. Free.

**THE DREAM SHOP WORKSHOP** 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$20. [www.humanpotentialcenter.org](http://www.humanpotentialcenter.org).

**BIKES ACROSS BORDERS COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP** 6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free. [bikesacrossborders@riseup.net](mailto:bikesacrossborders@riseup.net).

**GEORGETOWN FARMERS' MARKET** 3:30-6:30pm. Courthouse Square, Georgetown. [www.gtfa.com](http://www.gtfa.com). (See Thursday 5/5)

**THEATRE** (See Arts Listings)  
**Talk Doesn't Cook Rice: A Ten-Minute Play Festival** The Blue Theater  
**The Latino Comedy Project: Citizen Quién?** The Hideout Theater

**ART OPENINGS** (See Visual Arts)  
**Art on 5th. St. Edward's University, Women & Their Work**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS** (See Film Listings)  
**512 Film Night** @ AMS Production Group Studios, 6pm  
**Autumn Sonata** @ Paramount, 7:15pm  
**Cries and Whispers** @ Paramount, 9:15pm  
**Flicker Film Festival** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm  
**Raising Arizona** @ Republic Square Park, 8pm

## Wranglers Roundup

While the Wranglers sophomore season has failed to earn them a playoff spot, they have always done an excellent job of entertaining their hometown fans. The *Chronicle* was lucky enough to catch up with star receiver Ira Gooch for a quick Q&A. The Wranglers final home game of the season is Saturday, May 7, 7:30pm at the Erwin Center. **Austin Chronicle:** *To the uninitiated, explain why the Arena Football League is the most fan-friendly sport out there.*

**Ira Gooch:** The players and the game are so close to the fans. They are very close to the action which makes them feel like they are part of the game, unlike outdoor football.

**AC:** *What is your favorite part of playing in Austin?*

**IG:** The fans! They're still learning the game, but they really get into it.

**AC:** *How do you like to spend your free time?*

**IG:** I love the Waffle House.

**AC:** *Do you rehearse your post-touchdown celebrations, or are they spontaneous?*

**IG:** Never, they are always spontaneous.

**AC:** *What stadium in the Arena League has the biggest home-field advantage?*

**IG:** New Orleans.

**AC:** *There seem to be a lot of penalty flags in many of the Arena games, what do you attribute this to?*

**IG:** I leave the officiating to the referees and try to focus on my game.

**AC:** *Is it possible to establish a running game in the AFL?*

**IG:** No, because the game is so fast (but that's coming from a receiver).

**AC:** *Any final words for your fans here in Austin?*

**IG:** Austin's a great football town and I hope they continue to support us.

— Mark Fagan



## Sports BY MARK FAGAN

### THE MAIN EVENT

**VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT BEACH BASH SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** Have fun while supporting a good cause at this volleyball tournament/concert/fashion show, complete with an exhibition match between two women's professional doubles teams at noon: Jamie Lee & Holly Reiser vs. Ashley Ivy & Ella Vakhidova. Sun., May 8, noon. Carlos n Charlie's, 5973 Hilene Rd. [www.nicoleakinfoundation.org](http://www.nicoleakinfoundation.org).

### THE HOME TEAMS

**AUSTIN WRANGLERS** See "Wranglers Roundup" for more. Vs. Orlando: Sat., May 7, 7:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 477-6060. \$15-175. [www.austinwranglers.com](http://www.austinwranglers.com).

**ROUND ROCK EXPRESS** Vs. Tacoma: Tue., May 10, 7:05pm; Wed., May 11, 12:05pm; Thu.-Fri., May 12-13, 7:05pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock, 512/255-BALL. [www.roundrockexpress.com](http://www.roundrockexpress.com).

**ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Baseball** Vs. Lincoln University: Fri.-Sat., May 6-7, noon. [www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm](http://www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm).

### RECREATION & FITNESS

**ITALIAN SOCCER GAME CLASSES** with Massimiliano Ekeski from Rome. *Through May 15. Sundays, 3:30pm (kids); 4:15pm, (women); 5pm (men).* Murchison Middle School, 3700 North Hills, 414-3254. \$27.50, four classes. [eringenberg@austin.rr.com](mailto:eringenberg@austin.rr.com).

**RAINBOW ROLLERSKATING** Wed., May 11, 8pm. Skate World Northwest, 9514 Anderson Mill Rd., 258-8886. \$6. [www.main.org/rainbowskate](http://www.main.org/rainbowskate).

**ABC BANK HOMEBOND CLASSIC** will benefit Meals on Wheels and More. Mon., May 9. Twin Creeks Country Club, 3201 Twin Creeks Club Dr, Cedar Park, 512/331-5900.

*Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, And you'll never walk alone.*

Mersey madness on Tuesday, as **Liverpool** made a fourth-minute goal stand up against prohibitive favorite Chelsea in an absolutely electric atmosphere to advance to their first European championship final in 20 years. Liverpool's Anfield Road is one of the world's great stadiums, and hearing a full house in full throat, belting out their signature "You'll Never Walk Alone" at game's end, was a goose-bump experience, even on TV (full lyrics at "Soccer Watch Online").

High drama the next night in Holland, as well, as an injury-time strike broke the hometown fans' hearts and let **AC Milan** survive PSV Eindhoven on away goals, despite being roundly outplayed and losing 3-1 on the night. The final is May 25 in Istanbul. — Nick Barbaro



## Ongoing Events

**HUMAN SCALE CHESS GAME** Come on! Don't you want to play? It'll be trippy! Two master chess players will be lording over you as you move, hopefully avoiding capture — although, really, capture isn't so bad: You get to return to the base and drink beer! If you've got a working cell phone, sign up online. Sat., May 14. *Through May 15.* Free. [soulofchess@yahoo.com](mailto:soulofchess@yahoo.com). [humanchess.typepad.com](http://humanchess.typepad.com).

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER CELEBRITY AUCTION** For a chance to win: a trip to the set of the OC and hang with Ben McKenzie; lunch with Darrell Royal; tickets and backstage passes to a Neal McCoy concert; and help raise funds for the 59 Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, visit their Web site now! *Through Oct. 20.* [www.catx.org](http://www.catx.org).

**TRASH TO TREASURE** Everybody knows the end of a semester is the best time to go digging through dorm Dumpsters. This year, the UT Environmental Center wants to cut out the middle man (or, in this case, Dumpster) by collecting unwanted items from students during move-out to be sold at a garage sale in the fall benefiting campus environmental projects. Call or e-mail to volunteer (and, of course, get first dibs). *Through May 17.* 936/552-6046. [keshird@yahoo.com](mailto:keshird@yahoo.com).



## Get Your War On

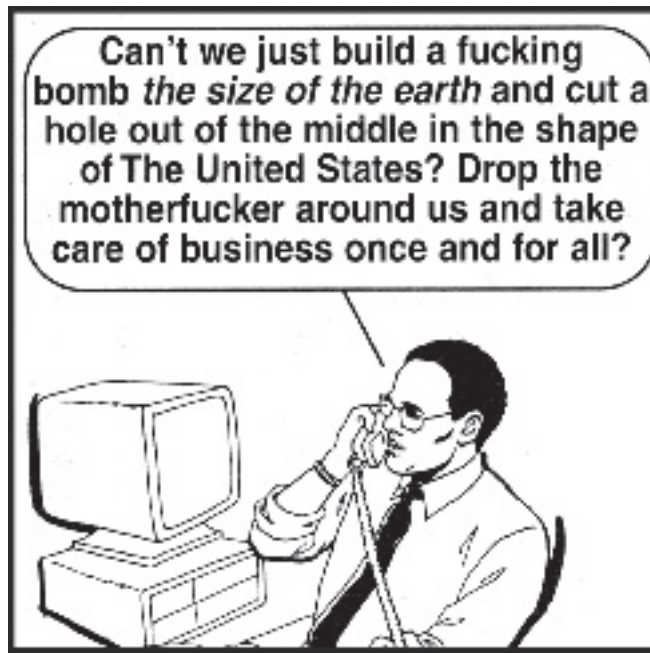
The Off Center, through May 14

Running Time: 1 hr

Profanities, angry accusations, gross generalizations, unchecked aggression, political impotence, and ennui frame *Get Your War On*, the Rude Mechanicals' theatrical adaptation of David Rees' Internet comic strip. White-collar workers glued to telephones and computers incessantly curse and argue world politics through a highly Americanized bias. Actors personify pen-and-ink sketches of clean-cut corporate employees. In varied levels of frenzy, characters giber about the anguish of the World Trade Center collapse, spoon-fed quack rhetoric from world leaders, the fall of Enron, Homeland Security terror alerts, the PATRIOT Act, and an illogical Mars colonization initiative. And that's just warming up. Beginning with the date stamp October 2001, GYWO pushes through contemporary political history with a brutal blend of nihilism and sorrow.

The show is a workshop production, so actors carry scripts in hand or set them on music stands. Choreographic blocking by director Shawn Sides shows us potential for something grand. Sides' signature frenetic popcorn movement nicely balances with coordinated stillness. Rude's company members Jason Liebrecht and Lana Lesley stand virtually motionless except for their robotic flipping of transparencies illuminating drawings of the clip-art figures wearing Santa hats. ELO's song "Telephone Line" chirps in lazy lounge affectation as time passes for us in the audience and in the historical timeline. The set is spare, with the aforementioned school overhead projector, a couple of chairs, a water cooler, and a ramp platform to lend dimension. Actors liberally use microphones on stands but carry them like appendages for the voice, preventing static body positions.

Remember Christmas in 2001? Tragedies fade or become distorted from social memory. Remember "shock and awe"? Seasons change, and the axis of evil slips through military hands again and again. Remember Afghanistan? They joined the war-on-terror bandwagon, despite mutilation from U.S. troops the previous year. Remember the Iraq War? (Wait, is it over?) Election day in Iraq was so exciting, wasn't it? I bet you jumped for joy when you saw images of ink-stained fingers declaring, "I voted," as a show of democratic independence. Hanging around the water station, sipping on filtered



goodness in paper cups, a co-worker vehemently rejects the concept of "freedom fries." Another proclaims the U.S. as the Domino's pizza of liberation. It's easy to get humorously hotheaded from the stale powerlessness of a sequestered office. North Korea runs goofily through the action as a giant geographic map, worn as a body suit by Kirk Lynn. Nobody wants to acknowledge North Korea as he whines for attention. Voltron, the Transformer-like cartoon character, emerges by sliding feet first onto the projection. Analogous to George Bush Jr., the defender of the universe will save us all! Maybe not.

It's high time to gather scattered bits of memory and paste them back together. We have suffered some profound shit the past four years. *Get Your War On* is not cathartic; it's a fucking affective bulldoze through buried media and lost horrors. The show is more sarcastically reflective than politically volatile, but it strikes sparks to ignite the beaten-down, dark and dormant liberal-radical left that has been licking its paws too fucking long.

— Heather Barfield

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** Roald Dahl's darkly delightful fantasy (as adapted by David Wood) is the latest offering, here directed by Ginger Morris and Kirk German for the Scottish Rite Children's Theatre. *Through May 22. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 2:30pm. Austin Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$8 (\$5, children ages 11 and younger; \$7, seniors). scottishritechildrenstheatre.org.*

★ **GET YOUR WAR ON** Oh yeah, people, oh hell yeah! It's David Rees' hilarious lambasting of the War on Terror, as seen through the eyes of clip-art office workers, and it's so fucking funny that you have to be seriously fucked up, in a bad way, if you do other than laugh at this motherfucker, as rendered live onstage by the Rude Mechanicals in a world-premiere albeit workshop production. Adapted by Kirk Lynn, directed by Shawn Sides. *Through May 14. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$10 (\$8, students, seniors, ACoT). www.rudemechs.com.*

**THE WONDER BREAD YEARS** Former *Seinfeld* writer Pat Hazel's one-man show-and-tell is a funny, nostalgic ride back through childhood and shared experiences. If you like this sort of thing, we reckon this particular instance is one you'll like a lot. *Through May 22. Wed.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. The State Theater, 719 Congress, 472-7134. \$29-34. www.austintheatrealiance.org.*

**HANK WILLIAMS: LOST HIGHWAY** Here's the Hank Williams story, live on stage, as written by Randal Myler and Mark Harelik and directed by Dave Steakley. Here's a tall drink of lonesome in a white Stetson, crooning more songs than you can shake a heartbreak at, as portrayed by Nashville's scarily talented Kenneth Brian. Your cheatin' heart will tell you to make reservations soon for this night of music and biographical entertainment from Zachary Scott Theatre. *Through June 19. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$33-40. www.zachscott.com.*

**THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES** Eve Ensler's popular show that gives voice to women and their genitalia — you might call it "Heeeeeere's yoni!" — returns to take center stage at Zach Scott, under the direction of the talented Ann Ciccolella, with a cast that includes Franchelle Stewart Dorn, Karen Kuykendall, Lauren Lane, and many local celebs making guest appearances. *Through May 29. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 9pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$26-40. www.zachscott.com.*

## AUDITIONS

**ONDINE** will be presented by Coda Theatre Project, and they need an actor to take on the physically demanding lead male role (age 25-40). Call for appt. 826-2132. [www.codatheater.org](http://www.codatheater.org).

**AMONG THE SAND AND SMOG** Actors wanted for a staged reading of a new play about the disappearances and murders of over 400 women in Juarez, Mexico. Seeking five females, ages 18-28; three males of any age, hispanics preferred, for a performance on May 25. Call or e-mail for information. 569-6101. [johnsmithat@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsmithat@hotmail.com).

**QUANAH: THE PARKER FAMILY SAGA** is a musical adaptation of the life of Quanah Parker, the last chief

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 19 issue is Monday, May 9.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy, [brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical, [dance-classical@austinchronicle.com](mailto:dance-classical@austinchronicle.com).

Ric Williams, litera, [litera@austinchronicle.com](mailto:litera@austinchronicle.com).

Benné Rockett, visual arts, [art@austinchronicle.com](mailto:art@austinchronicle.com).

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.

[brenner@austinchronicle.com](mailto:brenner@austinchronicle.com).

## Theatre

### OPENING

★ **12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY** Rob Nash performs one of his comedy masterworks so it can be filmed (live, with three cameras!) for a concert/documentary film (from Cenozoic Studios) about what a talented creator/performer he is. Go see this uproarious one-man show about a family perhaps even more fucked up than your own, and become part of cinematic history while you do it. Recommended. *Thu.-Sun., May 5-8, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-25. www.vortexrep.org.*

**LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE** is the second production from play! Theatre Group. It's a tune-filled journey through the mind of Stuart Moulton, Austin's favorite song & dance (and frequently female-illusioning) man. With musical direction by Tom Mitchell. *May 5-15. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Play! Theatre Group, 1204 Cedar Ave., 891-7100. \$20. www.playtheatregroup.org.*

**CONTACT** is a Tony Award-winning show that features three thematically linked stories told mostly through dance — to the music of, let's see, the Beach Boys, Robert Palmer, and Dean Martin, among others. Lots of fanciful stepping and posh kinetics, lots of romance and pizzazz, just in time (you might think) for a Mother's Day outing. *May 7-8. Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2 & 7:30pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 469-SHOW. \$33.50-69.75. www.austintheatrealiance.com.*

★ **TALK DOESN'T COOK RICE: A TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL** is the latest in Austin Script Works' "Out of Ink" series, where the playwrights have to incorporate three things into 10-minute scripts that'll be presented, live onstage, by a talented troupe of actors. The three required inclusions? "Chalk," "broken expectations," and the Chinese proverb "Talk doesn't cook rice." The playwrights? Lowell Bartholomee, Abi Basch, Vicki Cheatwood, Deni Krueger, Isabella Russell-Ides, Steven Salzman, Hank Schwemmer, and C. Denby Swanson. *Whoa. Nuff said. May 12-16. Thu.-Sat. & Mon., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 454-9727. \$12 (\$10, students, seniors, ACoT, ASW). www.scriptworks.org.*

★ **THE LATINO COMEDY PROJECT: CITIZEN QUIÉN?** TEATRO Humanidad presents the LCP's latest foray onto the sketch comedy stage, and we reckon that's reason to 1) rejoice and 2) make reservations early. In the past, this troupe has been little other than insightful and laugh-out-loud funny in their exploration of La Vida de la Raza and their takes on the cultural similarities and differences between Anglos and Latinos. Here they spin a tale of a Mexican-born candidate for U.S. president, able to campaign after a right-wing push to allow California's foreign-born Ah-nuld to run ... and this is only part of the mariachi-bashing, stereotype-exploding, action-movie-parodying multimedia show. And *but*: The second show each night is a "Best of the LCP" omnibus, restaging the highest points from all their previous concerts. *Oralé! May 12-June 5. Thu.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 389-0892. \$12 (\$10, students, seniors, ACoT). www.lcp.org.*

**ICONS: THE LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY OF THE WORLD, VOL. 2** Vortex Repertory and Vicarious Productions present Latin recording artist Jade

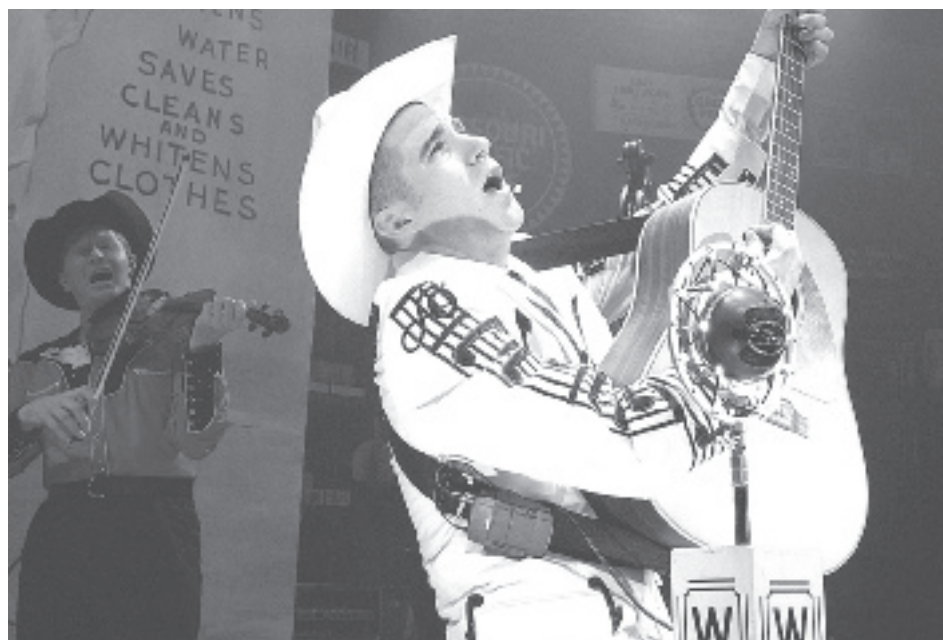
Esteban Estrada's six-character solo musical, "part history lesson, part politics, part musical and all entertainment." If you're looking to get schooled in queer history by a very funny man, a whirl of costume changes, and plenty of booty-bouncing tunes, well hey: This is your night. *May 12-21. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Sun., May 15, 7pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$5-25. www.vortexrep.org.*

### CLOSING

**MAKING PORN** is Ronnie Larsen's Off-Broadway comedy about the gay male porn industry, and it's being brought back from its first *ridiculously* successful run with Naughty Austin by, of course, Naughty Austin. Directed by Blake Yelavich and starring porn sensation Matthew Rush. Caution: nudity & adult language. (Well, duh.) *Through May 8. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 7 & 10pm; Sun., 3 & 7pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 965-4827. \$25-30. www.ronnielarsen.com.*

### ONGOING

★ **AT HOME WITH DICK** The Rubber Repertory presents a musical tour through the life (and home) of internationally acclaimed novelty songwriter Dick Price. Yes, the man who brought the world such infectious ditties as "Acid at the Drive-In," and the perennially popular "Encasing My Penis in Play-Doh," that man, a not infrequent component of Dr. Demento's broadcast anthologies, will tickle the ivories and your funnybone simultaneously. While you check out his apartment. (Adult content: no one younger than 16, please.) *Extended through May 21. Saturdays, 8pm. 3309 Grooms, 470-1735. \$5-20. www.dickprice.com.*



▲ Walt Roberts, on fiddle, backs up Kenneth Brian as lonesome ol' Monocephus himself, in *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* at Zachary Scott Theatre.

of the Comanche Nation. It's being developed by Larry Gatlin, and paid positions are available. Male and female actor/singers are sought. Prepare a two-minute monologue and 16 bars of a show tune or pop song; bring sheet music in your key; arrive early. Call for appt. *Mon.-Tue., May 9-10, 10am-10pm. UT's Winship Bldg., Rm. 1.134. 232-9399.*

## THEATRE CALL BOARD

**REHEARSAL/CLASS SPACE AVAILABLE** A room of approximately 400 square feet is available all days and weekends and might be *scheduled* for evening use. Discounts offered to nonprofit groups, from your friends at Second Youth Family Theatre. E-mail for more information. [info@secondyouth.com](mailto:info@secondyouth.com).

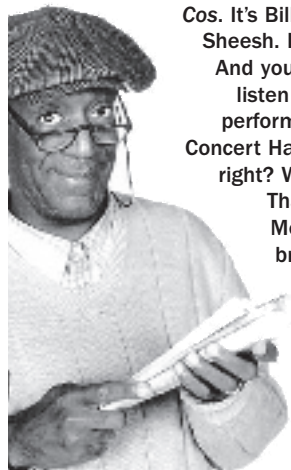
## Comedy

### IN THE CLUBS

**CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB** 8120 Research, 467-2333. [www.capcitycomedy.com](http://www.capcitycomedy.com).

**Funniest Person In Austin** *Somebody's* got to win it, and the competitions have already begun. Each week for the next two months at Cap City, the city's finest (or perhaps merely *bravest*) comedians battle their wacky way toward the power and the glory, in Shecky's name, amen. *Mondays, 8pm.*

▼ You know who this is? Of course you do. It's the Cos. You know: the Cos. It's Bill Cosby, people. Sheesh. I mean, c'mon. And you also know – listen – that he's performing at Bass Concert Hall on Sunday, right? Well, he is. That's right, on Mother's Day, so bring the old girl along, too.



**Open Mic Comedy** Sit back and relax with a cold one while you watch seasoned pros and up-and-comers knocking themselves out humor-wise for your benefit (and to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter). *Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).*

**Tom Simmons** has such an innocuous name, you might suspect the same of his stage act. But, no, if this funnyman's got the *cojones* to follow Matt Sadler's opening set, then he's likely gonna reduce you to tears of laughter on the Cap City carpet. Ah, that ol' carpet ... *May 5-7. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-12.*

**Greg Warren** hits the Cap City stage like a Mack truck hitting a defrocked monk, ladies and germs, and you know that's a sight that'll have you rubbernecking all the livelong day. Of course, you'll probably *laugh* more at Warren's spectacle. And Jeremy Essig opens. *May 10-14. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-12.*

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersfollies.com](http://www.estersfollies.com).

**Esther's Follies** celebrates with special guest **Rob Williams**, formerly one of those three infamous Flaming Idiots. He'll be performing as a member of the Esther's Follies troupe in all the sketches, as well as performing his sandwich trick, wherein he makes a bologna sandwich with his feet! And of course there's the usual impressive and laugh-a-minute roster of Esther's goodness, with Shannon Sedwick, magician Ray Anderson, and many others (including, yes, that cunning Casanova of comedic capers known as Matt Hislope). Reservations highly recommended. *Thursdays, 8pm; Fridays-Saturdays, 8 & 10pm. \$18 (student discounts available Thursdays & Fridays). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

**THE HIDEOUT THEATER** 617 Congress, 443-3688.

**Maestro** is where your ridiculously talented Heroes of Comedy compete for the audience's (and their own) pleasure. But there's the Heroes'

**Gaslight Theater** THUR.-SAT. 8PM THRU MAY 21ST  
MATINEE SAT. MAY 14 • 2PM  
presents  
**ALIVE AND KICKING**  
BY JULES TASCA  
Dysfunctional hilarity ensues in this story of a suburban family adjusting to a new life with a son still at home and his new and expecting bride.  
204 N. Main, Lockhart (512)376-5653  
Across the street from world-famous *Black's BBQ*  
[www.GaslightTheater.com](http://www.GaslightTheater.com)

**Start Trekkin'**, the *Star Trek*-themed improv show earlier in the evening, too! Do we have to tell you again how damned *funny* these shows are? And highly recommended. *Saturdays, 9 & 10:30pm.*

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

**Brendon Walsh** is so funny, he won last year's *Chronicle* poll Certificate of Honor that's still, after all these months, waiting here at the office? Wait, we know: We'll head on down to the Cheese Palace ourselves this weekend and hand it over after Walsh and opens Mario DiGiorgio and Carlos Ibanez leave us roaring with laughter. *Fri.-Sat., May 6-7, 9:30 & 11:30pm.*

**Comedy Open Mic** The best and worst comics in Austin get three minutes each to make the audience laugh. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

**BILL COSBY** is a very funny fellow ... right! And now the brother of Russell (with whom he slept), the friend of Old Weird Harold and enemy of Junior Barnes, the former pusher of Jell-O Pudding Pops, returns to Austin in all his sweater-wearing wonderfulness for two shows on Mother's Day. *Sun., May 8, 3 & 7pm. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd & East Campus Dr., 471-1444. \$35.50-49.50. [www.utpac.org](http://www.utpac.org).*

**Nikita Storojev**-opera bass  
**Tatiana Stepanova**-piano  
**Sergey Vashchenko**-balalaika  
**Vladimir Kaliazine**-bayan

in concert

## RUSSIAN SPRING FEST

You will enjoy

Russian popular songs  
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# The Marriage of Figaro

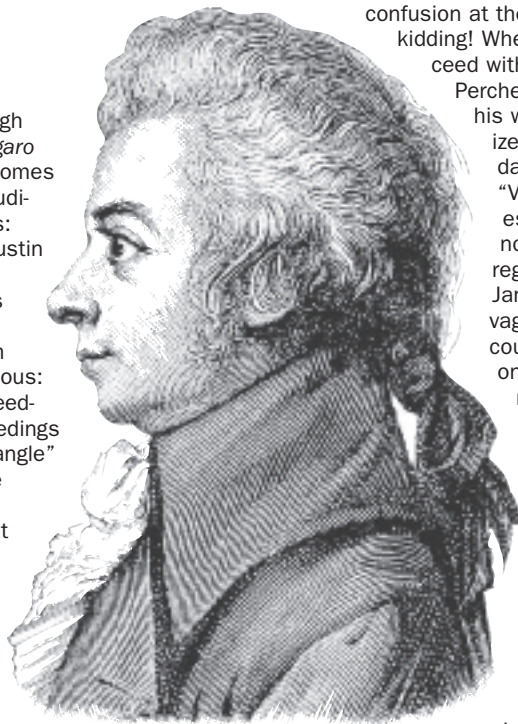
Bass Concert Hall, April 30

Is there a perfect opera? Well, perhaps not, although many think Mozart's comic opera, *The Marriage of Figaro* – replete with love, lust, and dollops of looniness – comes as close as you can to perfection; without a doubt audiences love it. Perhaps the more pertinent question is: Can you have too much of a good thing? So far as Austin Lyric Opera's production of *Figaro* is concerned: No, and this particular effort is bound to leave audiences craving more.

The opera *Figaro* bubbles with Mozart's enthusiasm for life. The music offers pleasures spritely and gorgeous: delightful riches with enough weight to keep the proceedings grounded in something akin to reality. The proceedings form a convoluted, multifaceted love story, where “triangle” is too simplistic a way to describe the various conjoinings of the love-struck, jealous characters. For ALO's excellent production, director Thor Steingraber managed to maintain focus throughout the ever busier, ever more convoluted shenanigans. By the fourth act, when the farce hits its heights, it was perfectly natural that thin-stalked potted plants should shuffle about the stage as several characters

“disguised” themselves, the better to eavesdrop on the amorous couples downstage. It was absurdly ineffective cover, and it was delightful to watch. The final unveilings give rise to a call to love, to being happy, to life, all that comedy resolving itself joyfully through Mozart's glorious score.

In the title role on Saturday night – ALO alternates the lead roles nightly during the runs of its operas – baritone Morgan Smith was dashing and calculating, and his voice smooth, the anticipated “Non piu andrai” (you know this aria, even if you've never been to the opera) at the close of the first act a deft mix of the singer's strength and comic presence. The role of Figaro's master, Count Almaviva, was sung by the excellent Brian Leerhuber. It's the count's insatiable (and perpetually unrequited) desire for Figaro's fiancée, Susanna (uh – and others in his household) that kicks this comic snowball down the mountain for that avalanche of silliness at opera's end. Baritone Leerhuber, never foppish, projected instead a bright combination of cunning and clod, perfect for the unsuccessful royal hunter. Almaviva sums things up nicely at the opening of the third act, musing on his



confusion at the goings-on in his household: No kidding! When he thinks he's finally going to succeed with Susanna, he's a pussycat: “Crudell! Perche finora,” he coos in his duet with his wife's chambermaid; when he realizes she's set him up, out comes his dark and dangerous aria of vengeance, “Vedro mentr'io sospiro.” His countess, formerly his only love interest, now apparently cast aside, seeks to regain her man's love, and soprano Jane Thorgren was equal to the role's vagrancies: achingly in love with the count in her beautiful aria, “Dove sono,” on the one hand, neatly conspiratorial with Susanna in the *Letter Duet*, “Che soave zeffiretto,” on the other. Throw in her near inability to resist the advances of her goofy page, Cherubino, and there appeared to be no corner into which the countess might not stray: Thorgren balanced the countess' desires and whimsy with aplomb.

If the title implies it's Figaro running the show, in reality, it's his fiancée, Susanna, who appears to have her eyes more fixed on the prize(s). In that role, Alicia Berneche was perfection. Bright and full of vigor, Berneche is as good an actor as she is a singer, her performance nuanced and heartfelt, yet full of panache and zing during all those farcical interludes. When finally she had the chance to sing of her love for Figaro – to her hidden husband, no less – out came her glorious “Deh vieni, non tardar.” Bring this soprano back soon, please, Maestro Buckley.

The supporting cast offered more gifted singers capable of extending Mozart's music to encompass smartly defined characters, all aiding that wild ride of deception and desire. And the music? That was never in doubt; under the baton of Peter Bay, the orchestra was sure and sonorous. Clever sets by Michael Olich – oversized screens to enhance the now-you-see-them-now-they're-eavesdropping – made the impact of the event that much more enjoyable. ALO offered something to delight everyone with this *Figaro*. The overall sense of freshness, in all senses of the word, filled the audience, the spring in the step and the chatter of the departing guests mirroring the buoyant, joyful sounds of Mozart's masterpiece.

– Robi Polgar

# Classical Music

## OPENING

**AUSTIN CIVIC WIND ENSEMBLE** performs outdoors, under the baton of conductor Paul Crockett, for what promises to be a fun family event. Picnics are encouraged (and it's First Thursday and Cinco de Mayo, so expect crowds all over the neighborhood). *Thu., May 5, 6:30pm. Grace United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe, 442-5944. Free. www.graceumcaustx.org.*

**AISD: COURTYARD CONCERTS** The public is invited to this open-air student concert series, featuring some of the best musicians and singers from area schools. This week: Travis High School Mariachis accompanied by the Williams Elementary School Folklorico Dancers. *Fri., May 6, 11:45am. Caruth Administrative Center, 1111 W. Sixth, 414-2414. Free.*

**AUSTIN HANDBELL ENSEMBLE: PREMIERE BRONZE** An eclectic blend of music composed and arranged for handbells includes the world premiere of six pieces, some arranged by current members and alumni. This 14-member ensemble performs on 116 bells and chimes for a visually and musically stunning experience. *Sat., May 7, 7:30. Oak Hill United Methodist Church, 7815 Hwy. 290 W.; Sat., May 14, 7:30pm. Wellspring United Methodist Church, 6200 Williams, Georgetown. 326-2575. Donations welcome. www.austinhandbells.org.*

**CAMERATA VOCALE: BACH IN THE SADDLE AGAIN** No, J.S.B. did not pen a bunch of cowboy songs. This 28-voice chamber choir and chamber orchestra, directed by Barry Scott Williamson, performs three sacred cantatas by the German composer. *Giddap, meinen Herrendamen! Sat., May 7, 8pm. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th, 445-6151. \$15 (\$12, seniors, students). www.txconsort.org.*

**KUSHAL DAS (SITAR) & ABHIJIT BANERJEE (TABLA)** A concert of classical Northern Indian music. *Sat., May 7, 4pm. Carver Museum Theater, 1165 Angelina, 218-9021. \$20 (\$15, advance). www.cityofaustin.org/carver.*

**MUSICAL EVOLUTION AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** This chamber concert features music by Bottesini, Prokofiev, and Stravinsky, performed by an assortment of excellent local musicians. *Sat., May 7, 8pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. \$15 (\$10, seniors; \$5, kids 12 and younger). www.stdave.org.*

**STARLIGHT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: DREAMING OF SUMMER** This pops concert features music from Broadway shows and blockbuster summer movie hits, as well as popular and patriotic songs. Michael Elam conducts. *Sat., May 7, 7:30pm. Austin Waldorf School's performance auditorium, Hwy. 290 & South View, 858-0324. \$5 (Free, students & children). www.starlightsymphony.org.*

**AUSTIN SYMPHONIC BAND: MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT** The band performs the well-known and the traditional, including marches and musical numbers. *Sun., May 8, 7pm. Zilker Park Hillside Theater, 2206 William Barton Dr., 345-7420. Free. www.asband.org.*

**AUSTIN CHAMBER ENSEMBLE: MAMA MIA** Mother's Day wouldn't be complete without this annual potpourri of chamber music in honor of everyone's No. 1 Lady. Bring the whole family for singing, playing, and refreshments sure to please one and all. Helping to celebrate are Claire Vangelisti, soprano; Martha MacDonald, clarinet; Barbara Mahler, flute; Martha Carapetyan, viola; David Utterback, piano; and Sue Tomkiewicz, oboe. *Sun., May 8, 3pm. University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio St., 345-3399. \$20 (\$18, seniors, students; \$5, kids 12 and younger). www.austinchamberensemble.com.*

**NOONDAY CONCERT SERIES** This downtown standard is back for the spring-summer season with weekly lunch-hour concerts featuring a variety of chamber musicians. This week: German musicians from Robert Schumann Conservatory playing classical and folk music. *Thu., May 12, 12:05-12:35pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free (\$5, lunch reserved by Wednesday). www.centralpresbyterian.org.*

What's gloves got to do with it? The Austin Handbell Ensemble will be ringing up a few original answers this Saturday. ▶

# Dance

## REALMDANCEPROJECT: ISSUES, VOL. II

Conformity and identity are two interwoven themes in REALM's wryly comic, multimedia dance event, which sees several new works, as well as requested pieces from the company's repertoire. *May 5-8. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 825-3203. www.realmdanceproject.org.*

## 1,001 NIGHTS

**TROUPE MIRAGE** Ongoing showcase of Middle Eastern dance with the company that has been shaking up Austin for 30 years. The group's biweekly shows feature guest dancers from around the area. This week: Z-Helene, the Hip Belly-ettes, Z-Helene's class, and Tina. *Thu., May 5, 7:30pm. UT campus, Texas Union Showroom, 252-2333. Free.*

**DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER** This month it's a two-hour stage-style Raks Sharki-Oriental Dance Show with the internationally renowned Portuguese artist Camelia. Plus, local troupes Mirage and the Diva Dancers are joined by Adrienne, Maribel, and Drakon for a night of belly dancing extraordinaire. Refreshments will be served in this nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. *Fri., May 6, 8pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 750-7037. \$8 (free, children). www.desertpassion.com.*

## TWO LEFT FEET

**AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS** enjoy Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, and all ages welcome. *Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. \$6 (\$4, members, students).*

**ABD CLASSES** Each session lasts five weeks, and there are classes for beginners to advanced dancers. *Tuesday & Thursday nights. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. Prices vary. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

**TAPESTRY SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENAGERS** Registration is under way for Tapestry's Summer Intensive for intermediate and advanced dancers (June 6-17, ages 13-18) and the popular Camp Tapestry for beginning and intermediate young dancers (June 20-July 1, ages 9-12). These summer programs run Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm and epitomize Tapestry's philosophy of multiforum training. Students study with professional ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and hip-hop artists. The curriculum also includes salsa, choreography, yoga, and juggling. *474-9846.*

**ARGENTINE TANGO** Beginners lessons in a relaxed learning environment; no partner required. *Fridays 7-8pm. 32-DANCE. \$7 (\$20, four classes). www.dance-in.org.*

**MORE ON THE FLOOR** Phone the danceline to find what other opportunities can set your body in motion: presentations, workshops, master classes, and more. *416-5700 x3262. Or check out the Movin' Easy calendar online. www.movineasy.com.*

**BALLET EAST: COOL STEPS FOR A HOT SUMMER** The dance company invites you dance-interested types, 13 and older, to participate in BE's summer dance workshop for beginners and intermediate dancers. BEDC continuously recruits dancers to perform with the group; this is an excellent way to be trained for future inclusion. *Through June 30. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Martin Middle School Gym, 1601 Haskell, 385-2838. \$7 per class. www.balleteast.org.*

**AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING** Traditional Swedish and Norwegian dances. Beginners welcome, no partners needed. New classes in introductory couple dance skills and regional dances

start every month. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. \$3.*

**AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS** meet to kick their heels up, traditional style. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Frequent live music. *Saturdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765. \$3. www.yastreb.com/tfd/ai/fd.html.*

**AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE** You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm.*

**CALL FOR DANCE GROUPS: FESTIVAL CELEBRANDO LA JUVENTUD/FESTIVAL CELEBRATION OF YOUTH** If your dance group is interested in participating in an ethnic youth dance festival to be held at Martin Middle School, contact Melissa Villarreal, event coordinator, by phone or e-mail. Groups that participate will be compensated. *Sat., May 14. Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell, 656-4442 or 385-2838.*

**AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** Great Celtic music at this weekly social dance. Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). *Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet. First session free. www.austinscd.org.*

**MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS** A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. *Tuesdays, 8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 507-B Pressler, 458-6336. \$10. www.tapestry.org.*

**AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE** A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. Admission includes a beginners lesson at the start of the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

# Visual Arts

## EVENTS

**AMERICAN YOUTH WORKS** announces their second biannual art show and benefit concert. Proceeds from the sale will benefit AYW's ArtCorps student program. *Thu., May 12, 5-9pm. 216 E. Fourth. \$7.*

**THE MUNICIPAL ART GUILD OF AUSTIN** presents their Mother's Day Art Show. *Sat.-Sun., May 7-8, 10am-4:30pm. 2220 Barton Springs Rd. (in Zilker Botanical Gardens).*

**GRIFFIN SCHOOL** Expect extraordinary performances, readings, and films from these students with an average SAT score of 1153! The Griffin School will be showcasing the talents of the class of 2005 in "Senior Projects," with projects focusing on ballet as an art form, longhorn breeding, and heavy metal! *Thu., May 12, 6-9pm. 710 E. 41st, 454-5797. www.griffinschool.org.*

**OPEN STUDIO AT IDEA** Join the artists at the Bread Factory for a weekend of open studios, "How We Make Our Bread and Butter." Featuring the artists of IDEA, Decola & Eusebi Studio, Felton Knorra Studios, Iona Handcrafted Books, Littlebird Studios, Studio Zero-One, Eastside Studios, and McMillan Photography. *Sat.-Sun., May 7-8, noon-5pm. 701 Tillery, 472-3349. www.idea-art.org.*

**MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM** invites you to be a part of the all new Festival Mexico (formerly Taste of Mexico). This family-friendly event will provide attendees with hours of live music, a silent auction full of affordable luxuries, and educational art activities. *Sat., May 7, 2-6pm. 700 Congress, 480-9373 x21. \$30 (\$25, advance). www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**ART BASH @ ARTHOUSE** celebrates the bright intersection of youth and talent, with "Ahead of Their Time," the Austin-area advanced student exhibition. *Sat., May 7, 2-6pm. 700 Congress edit, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

**THE WRECKONING** is where Austin bands Assacre and Diamond Caverns take over the Fresh Up Club for their own nefarious purposes, and provide a night of diverse live music, weird performances, and some cheap-ass beer. Ben Aqua and friends deck the halls with graphics, too. *Wed., May 11, 7-11pm. 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater.*

## OPENING

**GREATER AUSTIN CLAY ARTISTS** present Sharing a Passion for Clay through multiple events, including artists' demonstrations and hands-on clay for children. Exhibition: *May 6-June 4. Reception: Sat., May 7, 4-7pm. Demonstrations: Sun., May 8, noon-4pm. Designers' Day: Sat., May 21, noon-2pm. 3601-C S. Congress, 693-0562.*

**RUSSELL COLLECTION** Fans of Impressionism will enjoy a three-day show of minor works by Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Mary Cassatt, Edouard Manet, and Edgar Degas. *May 6-8. 10000 Research #130, 342-0747. www.russell-collection.com.*

**THE SPACE** presents "Norwegian Black Metal," featuring the photography of Peter Beste and the images of so many leather-bedecked, cosmetically enhanced, axe-wielding Scandinavians that it's enough to make you beg a Frost Giant for shelter. *May 7-21. 4803 Airport Blvd., 740-7352.*

**WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY** presents new work by Teri Jonas and Mary Fisher. Reception: *Sat., May 7, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through May 31. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.*

**WOMEN & THEIR WORK** presents works by Austin artist Liliana Wilson. Chilean-born Wilson has created richly colored images for "Ausencias y Silencios," a collection of paintings often drawn from the subconscious. Reception: *Thu., May 12, 6-8pm. Exhibition: May 12-June 25. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

**ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY: SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGN EXHIBITION** This is a mix of highlights from senior portfolios including illustration, print, packaging, and multimedia design. Reception: *Sat., May 14, 6-8pm. Exhibition: May 14-27. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400. www.stedwards.edu.*

**ART ON 5TH** Grace Slick now prefers a paintbrush to a microphone. For her Austin show, Slick has created an original painting of the legendary Stevie Ray Vaughan, to be unveiled by the artist opening night. Slick will be in attendance through the run of the exhibition. Reception: *Fri., May 13, 6-9pm. Exhibition: May 14-15. Sat., 6-9pm; Sun., noon-3pm. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

## CLOSING

**F8 FINE ART GALLERY** presents "Journeys," an exhibition about three Texas artists' personal journeys. Featured are painter Jennifer Balkan, photographer Dyana Walker, and photographer Polly Chandler. *Through May 7. 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242. www.f8fineart.com.*

**D. BERMAN GALLERY** presents "Black & White," an exhibition of monochromatic works on paper by four Texas artists: Robert Dale Anderson, Jeffrey Dell, Frank X. Tolbert, and Randy Twaddle. *Through May 7. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

**EASTSIDE ART PALACE** announces the Wheeler Brothers' new 2-D works exploring contemporary life on the Southern Plains. *2109 Cesar Chavez Blvd., 423-2063. Through May 6. 423-2063.*

**WOMEN & THEIR WORK** Houston artist Soody Sharifi, in collaboration with Payam Sharifi, creates a large-scale installation, "Proud and Sad/Wrong and Strong" including photography, writings, and found documents. The exhibition highlights the diversity and pluralism in contemporary Iranian political, social, and cultural life. *Through May 7. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

**TESTSITE** Harrell Fletcher and public radio producer Ruxandra Guidi present an Austin-based participatory project and an exhibition of previous works. *Through May 8. 502 W. 33rd. www.fluentcollab.org.*

## ONGOING

**DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY** is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

**CARRIAGE HOUSE GALLERY** This intimate new gallery will showcase landscapes in oil and pastel by Austin artist George Oberg. Reception: *Thu., May 5, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through May 31. 509 W. Eighth, 658-0567. www.hardpressedpublicity.com.*

**AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART** presents "Color, Pattern, Grid," selections from the museum's own and other Austin collections, with emphasis on these three concepts so important to artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. *Through May 15. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

**ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY** is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.*

**AUSTIN ART GLASS** This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

**BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS** Featuring unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

**BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM** "Drawn From Experience: Landmark Maps of Texas" is a show with a vast array of gorgeous historical maps, sure to please just about anybody – but especially your favorite amateur cartographers. *Through June 5. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.storyoftexas.com.*

**CAMP FIG**, that urban art epicenter, that happenin' hole in the wall, features exciting new work by Brant Watson and Eric Zimmerman. *305-B E. Fifth, 698-0327.*

**THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK** is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to

form intricate towers and rooms in the backyard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Tours by appt. *4422 Lareina, 441-6906. www.keepaustinweird.com.*

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY** The 10th annual "Arte Sagrado" (Sacred Art) national juried exhibition features works from a Christian perspective. *Through May 14. 3400 N. I-35, 486-1164.*

**CORONADO STUDIOS** The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

**DIAZ GALLERY** Christopher Fitzgerald's new works in "159 lbs of Paint" use extraordinarily thick impasto paint to reconfigure the traditional theme of landscape. *Through May 31. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.*

**DIBONA STUDIO** Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a recently completed sculptural tattoo series. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

**JULIA C. BUTRIDGE GALLERY** "Inquisitive Eye Photo Competition," organized by Nine Francois, provides regional university and college photography students a hands-on experience in a professional venue. The exhibition was juried by Odessa College's photography guru, Steve Goff. Reception: *Thu., May 5, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through May 28. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty.*

**FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO** Specializes in functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.*

**FRANÇOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY** presents the photographic work of Kim François. *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

**FRESH UP CLUB** "You Still Paintin'?", featuring works by Eric Gibbons and Greg Piwonda will be hosting a closing party. Reception: *Sat., May 7, 10pm-? 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater.*

**VIN GALLERY** Temporarily located in Gallery at Shoal Creek, the Vin Gallery presents a selection of aerial-inspired works by Shawn Camp, Karen



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▲ Examples of Mexican art from the 16th to the 19th century – such as this painting by Miguel Cabrera – are on display in Mexic-Arte Museum's "Grandeza Mexicana" exhibition.

Harton, Regina Allen, and Adde Russell. Exhibition: *Through May 21. 1500 W. 34th, 454-6671. www.vingallery.com.*

**GALLERY SOCO** carries original works by local and national artists in various media, currently featuring fruit paintings by Sylvia Angeli, abstract horizons by Cheryl Tamborello, Jeff Scott's second Nocturnal Journey series, realism by blind artist Lisa Fittipaldi, and more. 1714-A S. Congress, 442-5144.

**HARRY RANSOM CENTER** "Images of the World: Maps, Globes, and Atlases" features early cartographic treasures from the Ransom Center's collections, including the first printed map of the world and an early manuscript map of Virginia. Running concurrently is "The Muse in Motion: Travel Literature through the Centuries." *Through July 17. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC.*

**BLANTON MUSEUM** Quick, before the move to their new facility, come see: "Marking Time, 1995-2005: Contemporary Art From Chile," "European Paintings: Open Storage," and "The Blanton Builds: A Look at Your New Museum." *Through May 22. 2300 San Jacinto, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

**KATHY WOMACK GALLERY** features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. 411 Brazos #100. [www.kwomack.com](http://www.kwomack.com).

**LA PEÑA** presents "Frida y Yo! Frida and Me," self-portraits by the fourth-grade students of Sanchez Elementary. Reception: *Fri., May 6, 4:30-6pm. Exhibition: Through May 26. 211 Congress, 472-9357.*

**LBJ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM** "Signs of the Times: Life in the Swingin' Sixties" is a history exhibit capturing the excitement of the Sixties in American popular culture. 2313 Red River, 721-0200.

**LINDA RUSSELL ANIMAL ART GALLERY** is featuring "Bunnies & Bats," with works by Pat Falconer, Georgia Xydes, Lisa Wright, Laura Pace, and Linda Russell. *Through May 31. 2915 Medical Arts, 293-1263.*

**MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM** "Grandeza Mexicana: Siglos XVI – XIX" features 16th-19th century art-work and artifacts from Mexico's formative period. *Through June 26. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

**MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART** has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. [www.mitchie.com](http://www.mitchie.com).

**MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA** Their latest novelty exhibition, "Crystallization & Drift," explores how things come together and fall apart. See the Lifesize Cavern Grotto, Winter Forest Diorama, new loans from Austin collectors, and many of the old favorites in this utterly charming venue. Reception: *May 7, 7-10pm. Tours by appt. 3405-A Cedar, 533-9906. www.mnae.org.*

**OSWALD GALLERY** Here, satirical hand-painted photographs by Aline Smithson are joined by large biologically oriented Polaroid transfers by Linda Broadfoot. *Through June 17. 714 Congress #200, 494-9440.*

**PHOTOGECKO STUDIOS** presents an array of film/digital artist John Campbell's black-and-white photographs. Monthly First Thursday events debut new images along with live music. 1413 S. First, 797-9375. [www.photogecko.com](http://www.photogecko.com).

**PRO-JEX GALLERY** Now in its new post-fire location, this friendly and locally owned business offers original fine art photography and picture framing. 1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.

**ROADHOUSE RELICS** This is a vintage-neon gallery and studio located in the heart of Austin's art district. Artist Todd Sanders creates vintage-style neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. [www.roadhouserelics.com](http://www.roadhouserelics.com).

**THE STASH** Now showing here are the fascinating paintings of James Parris, in "Immeasurable Light and Darkness." *Through May 22. 2209-J S. First, 448-7707.*

**STUDIO 107** features "Clutch/Flow," with installation/video by Barna Kantor, sculpture by Marianne McGrath, and painting by David Miller. *Through May 20. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092.*

## SPACES

**ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE** Chris Schroeder presents immense oil paintings and small digital reproductions inspired by comic book artist John Byrne. Reception: *May 5, 8-10pm. Exhibition: May 5-27. 469-0380.*

**AUSTIN JAVA** "Long, Thin, & Wooden" is a show of the latest paintings by Lou Ann Bardash. *Through May 31. 1206 Parkway, 476-1829; 1608 Barton Springs Rd., 482-9450.*

**JUAN MARIO'S** Lots of works here, by Monica Araoz, Mickie Bellah, Douglas Brown, Char Busse, Joanne Sweeten-Carr, Paco Felici, and many others. *Through June 30. 3695 RR 620, Lakeway.*

**MANUEL'S** welcomes "Stephanie Routh: Stories of Cuetzalan," photography that reveals the practices of this timeless village in candid images. *Through June 7. 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.manuels.com.*

**NORTH HILLS GALLERY** "All Creatures Great and Small," invitational exhibition. Reception: *May 8, noon-1:30pm. Exhibition: Through June 26. 7050 Village Center Dr., 345-1743.*

**RUTA MAYA** Conceived to coincide with the Austin International Poetry Festival, "Word Up!" is a multimedia celebration of the written word used in visual art. *Through May 28. 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.*

**WET SALON** presents "Body Politic: New Work by Ricardo Acevedo," which is chock-full of digitized photographic goodness as only Acevedo can twist it. Exhibit: *Through May 5. Reception: Thu., May 5, 6-10pm. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.*

**ZIN AMERICAN BISTRO & BAR** hosts a reception for "Lary Bugen: Italian Life." Graphic and colorful, the images of Cinque Terra and Burano encapsulate the harmony of Italian life at a relaxed pace. Reception: *Tue., May 10, 5-7pm. Exhibition: Through May 31. 1601 W. 38th #1, 377-5252. www.zinbistro.com.*

## Litera

### READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

**FRONTAGE ROAD LITERARY MAGAZINE** Students of Westwood High School debut the 2004-2005 edition of their *Frontage Road*. The magazine has won numerous awards and is considered one of the top high-school publications in the country. *Frontage Road* features original written and art work from students. Interviews with Art Spiegelman and Joyce Carol Oates, conducted by students during the school year, are also included. All students whose work is published in this year's edition are invited to read during tonight's event. Recommended for futurists. *Wed., May 11, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

**DON WINSLOW**, a real PI, presents his new crime novel *The Power of the Dog*. *Wed., May 11, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**UTTER READING SERIES** this time out features the nonfiction of Sarah Gail Johnson, a former James A. Michener Fellow who runs the Graduate Writing Center at UT-Austin and is an actress with the Austin Shakespeare Festival; and short story and screenwriter Alex Smith who teaches screenwriting and directing at the University of Texas, where he received his M.F.A. as a Michener Fellow

in creative writing. Ask him about his work with Terrence Malick. Highly recommended. *Tue., May 10, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**RIC WILLIAMS** is the featured reader at ACC's end-of-the-semester installment of their Creative Writing Student Literary Reading Series. Williams has covered poetry and literature in Austin for nearly 20 years, most notably pushing the work of Albert Huffstickler as the editor of the *Litera* column. This is the preview reading for his collection of poems *the secret book of god*, to be published mid-May 2005 by Dalton Press. (So weird, writing your own publicity. Come out. There's an open reading after, yes? John Herndon, assistant director of ACC's Balcones Center, hosts. I'm from Arkansas, too; think there will be a long line?) *Mon., May 9, 7pm. Austin Java Cafe & Bar, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829.*

**TEXAS NAFAS TV** presents a reading by Robert Bonazzi. Bonazzi has published four books of poetry and the biography *Man in the Mirror: John Howard Griffin and the Story of Black Like Me*. *Saturdays, 11am & 10pm, Channel 16.*

**WRITING ON THE AIR** eavesdrops on Lyndon Johnson, the only President to record his private conversations from his first day in office. Featured conversations come from unabridged CD sets *Taking Charge* and *Reaching for Glory*, which cover the years 1963-1965. *Sat., May 7, 4pm. KOOP Austin 91.7FM.*

**FREE COMIC BOOK DAY: MAY 7** This is the fourth year the industry (and the Austin Public Library) has held Free Comic Book Day. Visit local retailers to pick up your graphic freebies, or, if you can't make it then, drop by your local Austin Public Library (on *Mon., May 9*) and pick up your free comic books *there*.

**ALLGO CELEBRATION OF QUEER MEN OF COLOR** features Emanuel Xavier, Dino Fox, Miguel Gonzales, Lorenzo Herrera y Lozano, Moises Silva, and Marvin K. White. More recommended stuff here. *Sat., May 7, 8pm. ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. Pay what you can. www.allgo.org.*

**EXPRESSIONS** presents Austin's Hidden Treasures featuring the poetry of Kelly Marshall, Sarah Durfor, Deltina Jay, Deb Akers, Dillon McKinsey, John Berry, Ross Chip, PJ the Cowboy Poet, and others. Music by Nelson Saga. Plate of food for the pot luck. Canned food for the Poets Pantry. All ages reading. Round robin follows. *Sat., May 7, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880.*

**O. HENRY WRITING CLUBS CELEBRATION** Each year, teachers recommend students for participation in the after-school writing classes taught by Spike Gillespie. Ten students whose work represents the goals of the classes are highlighted at this event, and each student is paired with a famous local author. This year's guest readers are Austin Bay, Toody Byrd, Lisa Farwell, Greg Garrett, Niel Hancock, Bob Lively, Frances Nail, Cynthia Leitch Smith, Greg Leitch Smith, Mary Gordon Spence, and Spike Gillespie (who emcees). *Sat., May 7, 2pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

**JILL FINEBERG** presents her collection of photos *People I Sleep With*, a sweet collection of pets and the people they own. *Sat., May 7, 2pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**SUSAN WITTIG ALBERT** presents her *Dead Man's Bones*, another in her popular and critically acclaimed China Bayles Herbal Mystery series. Highly recommended for mystery fans. *Fri., May 6, 7pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

**ALLGO PRESENTS "CHILE CON LENGUA,"** a series celebrating queer men of color: Artist dialogue/reading with NYC spoken word artist Emanuel Xavier. He has published two poetry collections, *Pier Queen* and *Americano*, and the semi-autobiographical novel *Christ-Like*, which was a Lambda Literary Award Finalist, and has edited an anthology of America's hottest queer spoken word performers and slam-poets called *Bullets & Butterflies: queer spoken word poetry*. Definitely recommended. *Fri., May 6, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

**BILL CLINTON** signs copies of his autobiography, *My Life*. As expected, security will be tight. You must buy your book from BookPeople, get a voucher, and stand in line. No more than five books autographed per person. No personalized autographs. No cameras, cellphones, etc. Go to the Web site for more details. Obviously, get in line early or you might get though half the book by the time you get your five seconds. *Thu., May 5, 10am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**LINDA ARMSTRONG KELLY** presents her memoir, *No Mountain High Enough*. She is Lance

Armstrong's mom. Quite a story. *Thu., May 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**DONNA HENES** presents her *The Queen of Myself: Stepping Into Sovereignty In Midlife*. After the reading, Henes will lead a participatory ritual, wherein the Queen will dispense her regal blessings and share special ceremonial tokens of mature female sovereignty. Royal tea and cookies will be served. *Thu., May 5, 7pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. www.isisaustrin.org/events/donnahenes.*

## WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

**POETRY IN THE ARTS** features poet Kathryn Hupp. Open mic follows the featured reader. This is always a friendly gathering and a good long read by the feature. Door prizes, too. *Sat., May 7, 2pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 453-7920.*

### "TELL ME A TALE" STORYTELLING CIRCLE.

Listen to yarns spun by storytellers or tell your own story to a friendly audience. Hosted by the Central Texas Storytelling Guild. *Tue., May 10, 7pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

### SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS.

This month SCBWI features Anne Bustard, author of *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, talking about "Worse and Worse: Plotting Pointers." *Sat., May 7, 11am. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

**AUSTIN AREA INTERRELIGIOUS** Ministries Book Group grabs the reins of *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren. *Mon., May 9, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

**WINDSOR PARK BOOK CLUB** delves into *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde. *Tue., May 10, 7:30pm. Windsor Village Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333.*

## SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

**AGENTS & EDITORS CONFERENCE** features 16 literary agents and editors from the East and West Coasts. Registration includes more than 15 breakout sessions led by published authors in almost every genre. Registration for one-on-one consultations must be made by May 27. *Fri-Sun., June 10-12, Omni Austin Hotel Downtown, 700 San Jacinto, 800/843-6664. \$340 (\$295, WLT members). www.writersleague.org/agents2005.htm.*

**USE YOUR WORDS! WRITING CAMP** with author Spike Gillespie. Writing fun and games, including magazine making and song writing, with local singers including Matt the Electrician and Laura Freeman. Financial aid available for one-week sessions from the end of May until the end of June. *Griffin School, 710 E. 41st, 454-5797. spike@spikeg.com.*

**SISTERS IN CRIME** Heart of Texas Chapter sponsors the Texas Mystery Week Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event as part of Texas Mystery Week. Aspiring writers have been paired with Texas Mystery Week mentor authors who discuss effective ways to begin a mystery novel. After their presentations to the group, each mentor author will meet individually with her/his mentee for personal feedback. Mentor authors include Susan Baker, Nancy Bell, Kathy Borich, Susan Rogers Cooper, and Jan Grape. This event is supported by contributions to the Barbara Burnett Smith Memorial Fund. *Sun., May 8, 2pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 331-1820. www.hotxsinc.org.*

**FARID MATUK** leads a Writers' League workshop on Writing the Short Poem. He is a poet, essayist, and translator who is an MFA graduate of the Michener Center for Writers. Still room for the class. *Sat., May 7, 9am-5pm. Writers' League of Texas, 1501 W. Fifth Ste. E-2. \$90 members; \$135 nonmembers.*

## CALL FOR ENTRIES

**THE 2005 PEBBLE LAKE REVIEW** Poetry & Fiction Contest. Two winners receive \$100 plus five copies of awards issue. Send \$10, five poems/one story to Pebble Lake Review Contests, 15318 Pebble Lake Dr., Houston, TX 77095. Include cover letter, SASE. [www.pebblelakereview.com](http://www.pebblelakereview.com) for guidelines. Deadline: June 1.

**THE 15TH ANNUAL VIOLET CROWN** and 10th Annual Teddy Children's Book Awards Contest is accepting submissions. The Writers' League of Texas recognizes the outstanding published works of their members in fiction, nonfiction, and literary prose and poetry with the Violet Crown award. The winners receive \$1,000 cash and a trophy. It costs \$25, plus two copies of works published between June 1, 2004, and May 31, 2005. *Entries due*

## Adde Russell

The Bread Factory, Ste. A-12, May 7-8

When I first saw works by Adde Russell, I thought she had stolen my childhood cigar boxes of treasures and painted replicas of each precious object onto canvas. This is Russell's first spring in Austin, and the humidity comes as a surprise. When she moved here from Seattle nine months ago, she leased a studio space in the Guadalupe Arts Center. After the GAC fire in which she lost works, materials, and a vast collection of source materials for her paintings, Russell approached the loss as an opportunity to develop a new visual vocabulary.

Russell's work reaches deep into my memories: a view of the world through a glass jar filled with the exhaled smoke from my grandfather's cigar, my cigar boxes filled with coveted objects from other people's pasts and the occupational hazards of owning a pet. In *Shake a Tail Feather*, the compositional elements of a military aircraft suspended over a trailer park community recall a more immediate narrative. I roamed the Mojave Desert on three separate occasions in 2003. The communities of Shoshone, Calif., and Tecopa, Calif., are home to anti-nuclear activists, artists, and hot spring enthusiasts. Both communities lie approximately 20 miles east of the southern end of Death Valley National Park and 80 miles east of Las Vegas, Nev. The residents of Tecopa Heights – a hive of trailer homes, some surrounded by concrete-covered hay-bale walls adorned with glittering wine bottles or fenced in by pink, avocado, and aqua refrigerators – are the frequent recipients of military testing. This part of the country, with its vast desert acreage, lowest population-to-income ratio of any county in California, and safe repository in which to store our nation's nuclear waste, is Fort Irwin's test site for modern weapons.

As I tell Russell my story, she asks questions: "Where is Yucca Mountain?" "How many people live in that area?" We are using art to create meaningful dialogue. – *Benné Rockett*



*Tuesday, May 31 to the League at 1501 West Fifth, Suite E-2, Austin 78703. Complete guidelines at www.writersleague.org. 499-8914. wlt@writersleague.org.*

**INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT** is an organization that sends books to prisoners in the state of Texas. And they need volunteers to participate in processing requests, replying to letters, sending packages of books, etc. Come on down to a Volunteer Night and lend them a helping hand. *Thursdays, 6-10pm; Sundays, 7pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. www.rhizomecollective.org.*

## OPEN MICS

**EMANUEL XAVIER** hosts an open mic celebrating queer culture. Though the primary focus is poetry, musicians and monologists are welcome. *Sun., May 8, 7pm. ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. www.allgo.org.*

**SARAH DURFOR AND AMY DE ANDA** are the featured poets here: open mic follows, Jim O'Hair hosts. *Thu., May 5, 7pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634. www.cafemundi.com.*

**THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM** Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic precedes the main event. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.*

**RUTA MAYA** continues its long-time tradition. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Round robin: 6-7pm. Sign-up list: 7-8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.*

**POETRY KARAOKE** The Poetry Karaoke Orchestra backs your poetry on the porch, all kicked off by your host, Ivanho. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.*

**NEO-SOUL LOUNGE** is hosted by Love Robinson. Doors open at 7:30pm with the hottest sounds of Neo-Soul. *Wednesdays, 9pm. Sahara Nightclub, 900 E. Braker #170, 228-1940.*

**XTREME POETRY SLAM** is hosted by Slam superstars Chris Lee and Suzy LaFollette. \$100 in cash prizes every week. 18 and older. *Mondays, 8pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707. www.sidekicksaustin.com.*

**STARS POETRY** features Revolutionary Poetry: More Than Manna for Posers. Hosted by the always brilliant Mr. Leake. *Sat., May 7, 7pm. Stars Coffee, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334.*

**HIDEOUT MIC** with your host Noah. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry. www.thehideout.org.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

**LORENZO THOMAS** has been awarded the Balcones Poetry Prize for 2004 for *Dancing on Main Street*, his collection that spans the decades with poetry from the Vietnam War-era to the present moment.

**MORE POETRY!** so if you had to let it go, would you close your eyes just then or would you watch the river take it; watch how it played with the thing you

had caged (so lovingly, so dearly) & when the next time you closed your softer eyes what would it show you like a sailor with his sleeve of doves. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

## POEM OF THE ISSUE

he was sitting on the settee when he watched the old man pass he watched the old man take a pass it would have been wrong out of character bereft of characters to admit that the old man was passing away

inconvenient that old fucker was always talking about death after all but he had remained alive hadn't he some form of living without alternative it was easier than the truth

we can all say we loved him now he is gone

– Rod Amis; read more of his work at [www.G21.net](http://www.G21.net).

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## Crash

D: Paul Haggis; with Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Thandie Newton, Ryan Phillippe, Larenz Tate, Sandra Bullock, Jennifer Esposito, Terrence Howard, William Fichtner, Brendan Fraser, Loretta Devine. (R, 100 min.)

There is a visual image that dominates *Crash* from its opening credits: blurred spheres of light moving in a seemingly random fashion, sometimes colliding soundlessly, only to continue on their uncertain paths. These abstract illuminations, of course, are headlights floating along the streets of Los Angeles, an urban landscape in which a car accident is the most common form of personal interaction. Set over a 24-hour period during an unusually cold Christmas season, *Crash* follows the intertwined lives of a multicultural group of Los Angelenos: two African-American carjackers, a Brentwood housewife, a Latino locksmith, a Persian store owner, and a white policeman, among others. The brilliantly conceived screenplay by Paul Haggis and Bob Moresco employs a narrative device made familiar to moviegoers in the films of Robert Altman (*Nashville*) and more recently Paul Thomas Anderson (*Magnolia*), one in which the paths of seemingly unconnected individuals frequently cross according to the laws of contrivance and coincidence.



In *Crash*, the multiplicity of storylines is rooted in the script's theme about the complex nature of human beings. Normal social intercourse, for many of the film's characters, is defined primarily by preconceived notions about the color of a person's skin, the type of car he drives, the number of tattoos on his body, his line of work, and so on. Because racial stereotypes and prejudices form most of our uninformed judgments about others, the dialogue in *Crash* abounds in ethnic slurs and swipes that leave few unscathed. With a greater purpose in mind, this bold and often darkly funny film invites you to make comfortable judgments about its myriad characters based on these first impressions, and to pigeonhole them in uncomplicated, black-and-white terms, not much differently from the way those characters judge and perceive each other. But just when it seems that things are about to reach an explosive boiling point in the City of Angels, something surprising begins to happen in *Crash*. In one of the most beautifully directed, scored, and edited sequences in recent movie memory, a "villain" in the film acts selflessly, contrary to the expectations you've imposed on him. At this point, *Crash* starts to rattle your



chain in a way that few films have, bearing lucid witness to the full dimensionality of the human species. It's not a matter of showing the good and bad attributes in everyone – the film thankfully doesn't fall into that diametric trap – but rather a matter of reminding us that the filters through which we estimate a person's character can obscure as much as they reveal. Indeed, the film's final shot is a God's-eye view of Los Angeles, suggesting that only an omniscient cosmos can truly judge us for who we are. The entire ensemble cast is superb, with Dillon giving a standout performance as an LAPD cop for whom you feel equal measures of disdain and compassion. Equally memorable is rap performer Chris "Ludacris" Bridges as a thief with a skewed social conscience. (You get the impression that all of the actors relished sinking their teeth in this meaty material.) First-time director Haggis (he wrote the screenplay for *Million Dollar Baby*) rarely misses a beat here, achieving that which the most experienced of filmmakers have only dreamed of. Like most works of art, *Crash* gets under your skin in a way that is incapable of explanation. It transcends that which can be articulated through mere words. Because no pithy review, no matter how well intentioned, can possibly do this film justice, you really have no choice but to see *Crash*. It's the most compelling American movie to come around in a long, long time. – Steve Davis

★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

## KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

D: Ridley Scott; with Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Jeremy Irons, David Thewlis, Brendan Gleeson, Marton Csokas, Liam Neeson, Ghassan Massoud, Edward Norton. (R, 145 min.)

At the end of the 12th century, in the middle of the Crusades, a fragile peace prevailed between the warring Christians and Muslims in Jerusalem. It is this unusual period of time that director Scott and first-time screenwriter William Monahan use to their advantage in *Kingdom of Heaven*, a far-reaching period epic that is also relevant to our understanding of the conflicts in the Middle East of the present day. Scott is a masterful creator of otherworldly and noncontemporaneous locales, as films such as *Gladiator*, *Blade Runner*, and *The Duellists* will attest. His attention to detail is equally meticulous here, and *Kingdom of Heaven* additionally benefits from the exacting participation of cinematographer John Mathieson and production designer Arthur Max. By placing the story in this relatively peaceful time period between the Second and Third Crusades, the filmmakers have managed to fend off likely criticism by having no single religious group appear as the sole aggressor. If anything, the Christians seem the more battle-hungry participants, as they seek to oust the Muslims from Jerusalem, while the legendary Muslim leader Saladin (Syrian film star Massoud) shows marked military restraint. Despite the restive calm governing the region's religious warriors, *Kingdom of Heaven* has a good number of battle scenes that are vividly punctuated with the sights and sounds of bloodied knights and soldiers and clanging swords and chain mail. *Kingdom of Heaven* is a historical spectacle on the order of *Gladiator* and a dissection of war as gritty and illuminating as *Black Hawk Down*, to name two of Scott's most recent films. Balian (Bloom), a French blacksmith, is the character at the center of this movie. He despairs knowledge of God's love at the start of the film because of his wife's suicide following the death of their infant son. His destiny changes when Godfrey of Ibelin (Neeson), a great knight who has returned home from the Holy Land on a recruiting mission, reveals himself to be Balian's illegitimate father and invites the blacksmith to journey east with him and become a knight. Godfrey is loyal to the enlightened Christian king of Jerusalem, Baldwin IV (Norton), a leper who has not much time to live. However, Baldwin has instilled among his loyalists the idea of Jerusalem as a religious melting pot, home to Christians, Muslims, and Jews – a real kingdom of heaven. It is in this regard that Scott's movie really takes flight: It becomes a canvas for ideas and ideologies in action. Balian goes with Godfrey because of his belief that in Jerusalem all sins can be erased; recruiters tout the idea that killing infidels is not murder but rather the path to heaven; Godfrey assures Balian that God is manifest in actions, not faith. *Kingdom of Heaven* occasionally groans under the weight of modern ideas, like Baldwin's "kingdom of conscience,"

## New Reviews

### HOUSE OF WAX

D: Jaume Collet-Serra; with Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray, Brian Van Holt, Paris Hilton, Jared Padalecki, Jon Abrahams, Robert Ri'chard. (R, 107 min.)

Imagine for a moment that you're a sick little puppy and you want to see Hilton die. Or perform a striptease in a tent. Or both. Technically, the rules of my profession prohibit me from confirming whether these events occur in this slick, nü-metallic remake of André de Toth's titular 1953 creepshow, but gee whiz – if you had Paris Hilton in your movie, what would you do with her? Ophelia's mad scene? Anyway, amidst the crunching chords of *Disturbed* and product placement for *InStyle*, a certain high-profile hotel heiress becomes stranded in the Florida hinterlands with her

Central Casting buddies (the tough kid, the dopey kid, the sweet lovable boyfriend, and Cuthbert as the good girl), and it takes forever for them to fall into the clutches of demented rednecks (Van Holt, a sort of Bill Paxtonesque fellow in a dual role) and be tormented with duct tape, pliers, shotguns, sharpened sticks, and all manner of weapons. The locus of the action is Trudy's House of Wax, a waxworks so ... well ... waxy that the house itself is made of wax. To explain the presence of this marvel, there's some expository business about a closed sugar mill and a newly constructed highway, and conjoined twins and a brain cyst, and a town so small and woebegone that even the sheriff can't find it. Of course its composition engenders plenty of nifty special effects from the deep pockets of co-producers Robert Zemeckis and Joel Silver, and there are some pleasures to be had from that. Occasionally the movie (directed by the music video artist formerly

known as Jaume, in his feature debut) manages to be genuinely creepy – not just suspenseful, but truly unsettling. There's one set-piece in particular – the details of which I cannot reveal, but let's say it involves a sweet, lovable boyfriend and a certain quantity of wax – that could really freak a person right the fuck out. Collet-Serra sets up the sequence with deliberate care and drags it out to the point of sadism, perhaps beyond. A certain type of viewer – the sick little puppy kind – should appreciate this moment, and it is undeniably effective. Otherwise, expect lots of Slasher Movie 101 and putatively clever jibes at a certain high-profile hotel heiress (involving a video camera, of course, and a box full of cell phones that don't work). – Marrit Ingman

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

an expression more indicative of 21st-century thought than 11th. Yet the story's parallels with the present are sometimes inescapable, as when Saladin's fireballs catapulted at Balian's castle strike an eerie resemblance to the "shock and awe" of the U.S.-led coalition's initial assault on Iraq. The actors, too, lend a sense of decorous believability to the characters, although Bloom's Balian often exudes a more matinee-idol polish than true gravitas. Nevertheless, the top-lined Bloom may add to the box-office draw, and with the arrival of the hotly anticipated thriller *Domino* later this summer from Ridley Scott's brother Tony, the Scott brothers may prove themselves to be the real boys of summer 2005.

— Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

**PALINDROMES**

*D: Todd Solondz; with Ellen Barkin, Richard Masur, Debra Monk, Stephen Adly-Guirgis, Richard Riehle, Stephen Singer. (NR, 100 min.)*

You could call this film repugnant and abrasive, and Solondz would probably agree. Nominally the story of Aviva, a 13-year-old girl who longs for a baby – and the cousin of Dawn Wiener, the hapless victim of Solondz's *Welcome to the Dollhouse* – *Palindromes* is an experiment in tone and narrative and moral themes; goosing the viewer is its mission. Eight different actresses play Aviva, from a tongue-thrusting 4-year-old (Emani Sledge) to Jennifer Jason Leigh – an old surrealist's trick borrowed from Luis Buñuel – and the film veers wildly between fairytale formalism and motel-room melodrama. There's an intended pregnancy that ends in abortion; there's a quest for love; there's ham-fisted satirizing of ostensibly progressive and caring yuppie parents (Barkin and Masur) who possess little genuine interest in their spawn; and, of course, there's a commune of differently abled, cast-off children presided over by an empire-waisted fundamentalist Christian (Monk) named "Mama Sunshine." (Her drop cookies are known as "Jesus tears.") If you thought Solondz hated the conformist suburban sausage mill of New Jersey, where 'N Sync tickets and Gap accounts substitute for caring and there's

**Openings**

- Crash (R)*
- House of Wax (R)*
- Kingdom of Heaven (R)*
- Palindromes (NR)*
- Up and Down (R)*
- Walk on Water (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

a pedophile behind every carefully tended shrubbery, wait until he gets his hands on the Midwest. The scenes with Mama Sunshine's gimpy brood evince the bitterest sort of cynicism. The family chortles as one, a laugh track to a sitcom from the deepest reaches of hell, as the children bleat out their perversely cheerful dialogue: "Pass the freedom toast!" "I'm epileptic!" "They saved me from perdition!" Then Solondz assembles them for not one but several song-and-dance numbers (as "The Sunshine Singers"); with cordless mics and to the best of their various abilities, the cast bops to treacly pop-idol tunes about damnation and salvation. The point seems to be that there's no refuge from the hypocritical tortures people visit upon one another – not geographically, not ideologically, not for a



*Kingdom of Heaven*

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**PALINDROMES**  
 Fri: (4:10) 7:30, 10:00; Sat/Sun: (1:10, 4:10) 7:30, 10:00;  
 Mon-Thur: 7:30, 10:00

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**ENRON** THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM  
 Fri: (4:30) 7:10, 9:40; Sat/Sun: (1:30, 4:30) 7:10, 9:40  
 Mon-Thur: 7:10, 9:40

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**OLDBOY**  
 Fri: (4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thur: 7:00, 9:30

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**KUNG FU HUSTLE**  
 Fri: (4:20) 7:20, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20) 7:20, 9:50  
 Mon-Thur: 7:20, 9:50

**SHOWTIMES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 6 – THURSDAY, MAY 12**  
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 —Terry Lawson, DETROIT FREE PRESS

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# Showtimes

FRIDAY, MAY 6 - THURSDAY, MAY 12

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN** 409-B Colorado, 474-1510. Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.

**10 Under 10 2005:** Wed, 7:00pm  
**The Amityville Horror:** Fri-Sat, 12mid  
**Best of Weird Wednesday:** **Bonnie's** Kids: Mon, 7:00pm  
**Weird Wednesday:** **Dr. Tarr's Torture Dungeon:** Wed, 12mid  
**Flicker Film Festival:** Thu (5/12), 9:45pm  
**Inside Deep Throat:** Fri, 7:00pm  
**Music Mondays: Metal Storm: The Scandinavian Metal Wars:** Mon, 9:45pm  
**Chemistry 101: The Princess Bride:** Sat, 4:30pm; Sun, 7:00, 9:45  
**Star Wars Oddsities:** Fri-Sat, 12mid  
**Steamboy:** Tue-Wed, 9:45pm; Thu (5/12), 7:00pm  
**Sinus Show: Travoltathon:** Fri-Sat, 7:00, 9:45  
**Wet Hot American Summer:** Thu (5/12), 12mid

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK** 13729 Research, 219-5408.  
**\*Crash:** 12:35, 3:35, 7:30, 10:15  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:25  
**\*House of Wax:** 12:55, 3:55, 7:35, 10:30  
**The Interpreter:** 12:10, 3:15, 7:05, 10:20  
**\*Kingdom of Heaven:** 12:00, 12:05, 3:20, 3:25, 7:00, 7:10, 10:35, 10:45  
**A Lot Like Love:** 1:10, 4:00, 7:15, 9:55  
**Steel Magnolias:** Sun, 3:45pm

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH** 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.  
**Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room:** Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40;  
 Sat-Sun, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Mon, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Tue, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; Wed-Thu, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40  
**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50;  
 Sat-Sun, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Mon, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Tue, 1:15, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50; Wed-Thu, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50  
**House of Wax:** Fri, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 1:55, 3:40, 7:40, 10:15; Mon, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15; Tue, 1:55, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15; Wed-Thu, 4:30, 7:40, 10:15  
**The Interpreter:** Fri, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05; Mon, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05; Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05; Wed-Thu, 3:45, 7:10, 10:05  
**Roman Holiday:** Sun, 1:30, 6:30  
**Sahara:** Fri, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10; Sat, 12:50, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10; Sun, 10:10pm; Mon, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10; Tue, 12:50, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10; Wed-Thu, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10  
**Sin City:** Fri, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20; Mon, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20; Tue, 1:30, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20; Wed-Thu, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE** 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old. AFS events are all ages.

**\*Crash:** 1:05, 3:55, 7:20, 10:00  
**House of Wax:** Fri-Sat, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50, 11:55; Sun-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 9:50  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** 1:20, 4:05, 7:15, 10:05  
**The Rocky Horror Picture Show:** Sat, 12mid  
**Sin City:** Fri-Sat, 3:45, 7:00; Sun, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu, 3:45, 7:00  
**The Umbrellas of Cherbourg:** Sun, 1:30, 6:30  
**AFS: Veer-Zaara:** Tue, 7:00pm  
**Videoke:** Fri, 12mid

**ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS** 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

**\*Crash:** 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00  
**Downfall:** 12:30, 4:00, 7:50  
**Tout to Glory:** 4:30, 9:20  
**House of D:** 12:50, 7:10  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40  
**Millions:** 12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30  
**Nudge 2.0: A Micro Digital Film Festival:** Wed-Thu, 7:00pm  
**Up and Down:** 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55  
**Walk on Water:** 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10  
**Winter Solstice:** 1:00, 4:15, 6:50, 9:50

**BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK)** Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm.

**\*Crash:** Fri, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45  
**Fever Pitch:** Fri, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00  
**Guess Who:** 7:25, 9:50  
**House of Wax:** Fri, 2:20, 3:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:35, 9:35, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 12:40, 2:20, 3:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:35, 9:35, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 2:20, 3:20, 5:00, 6:45, 7:35, 9:35, 10:10  
**A Lot Like Love:** Fri, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55  
**Robots:** Fri, 2:00, 4:15; Sat, 11:40am, 2:00, 4:15pm; Sun, 11:40am, 2:00pm; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:15  
**The Upside of Anger:** Fri, 3:25, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:45, 3:25, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 3:25, 7:00, 9:40  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** Fri, 2:00, 2:25, 3:15, 4:35, 4:55, 6:30, 7:05, 7:35, 9:10, 9:35, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 11:55, 12:35, 2:00, 2:25, 3:20, 4:35, 4:55, 6:30, 7:05, 7:35, 9:10, 9:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 2:25, 3:15, 4:35, 4:55, 6:30, 7:05, 7:35, 9:10, 9:35, 10:05

**BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC)** Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm.

**\*The Amityville Horror:** Fri-Sat, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30; Sun-Thu, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20  
**Downfall:** Fri-Sat, 3:30, 6:35, 9:45; Sun-Thu, 1:35, 5:00, 8:30  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri-Sat, 1:35, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:20, 8:05, 9:40, 10:30; Sun-Thu, 1:35, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:20, 8:05, 9:40  
**Ice Princess:** 2:55, 5:30  
**\*The Interpreter:** Fri-Sat, 1:00, 1:50, 3:50, 4:40, 6:45, 7:25, 9:35, 10:20; Sun-Thu, 1:00, 1:50, 3:50, 4:40, 6:45, 7:25, 9:30  
**Kingdom of Heaven:** Fri-Sat, 1:00, 4:00, 6:40, 6:15, 7:10, 9:25, 10:10; Sun-Thu, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:25  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** Fri-Sat, 1:10, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:25; Sun-Thu, 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:10  
**Million Dollar Baby:** Fri-Sat, 7:05, 9:55; Sun-Thu, 7:05, 9:45  
**Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous:** Fri-Sat, 2:05, 4:30, 7:40, 10:05; Sun-Thu, 2:05, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55  
**The Pacifier:** 1:55, 4:15  
**Sahara:** Fri-Sat, 2:15, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15; Sun-Thu, 2:05, 5:10, 7:55  
**Sin City:** Fri-Sat, 1:15, 4:35, 7:40, 10:15; Sun-Thu, 1:15, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50

**DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK** 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.  
**Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room:** Fri, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 7:10, 9:40  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** Fri, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thu, 7:20, 9:50  
**Oldboy:** Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu, 7:00, 9:30  
**Palindromes:** Fri, 4:10, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu, 7:30, 10:00

**GALAXY HIGHLAND 10** North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. Discounts daily before 6pm.

**The Amityville Horror:** Fri-Sat, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30; Sun-Thu, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30  
**Beauty Shop:** 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40  
**Crash:** Fri-Sat, 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20, 11:40; Sun-Thu, 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25, 11:55; Sun-Thu, 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25  
**House of Wax:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 1:15, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:40, 10:15, 11:55; Sun-Thu, 12:00, 1:15, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:15, 7:45, 9:40, 10:15  
**\*The Interpreter:** 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00  
**Kingdom of Heaven:** 12:30, 1:00, 3:45, 4:15, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:30  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35, 11:45; Sun-Thu, 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35

**GATEWAY THEATRE** 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.

**The Amityville Horror:** Fri, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30; Sat-Sun, 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:25, 10:30; Mon-Thu, 12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30  
**Fever Pitch:** Fri, 12:50, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45; Sat, 12:50, 6:35, 9:15; Sun-Thu, 12:50, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri, 11:45am, 2:20, 2:55, 4:55, 5:20, 7:30, 8:00, 10:05, 10:35pm; Sat, 11:30am, 12:05, 2:10, 4:45, 5:25, 7:35, 8:00, 10:10, 10:40pm; Sun, 11:30am, 12:10, 2:50, 4:45, 5:25, 7:35, 8:00, 10:10pm; Mon, 11:45am, 2:20, 2:55, 4:55, 5:20, 7:30, 10:05, 10:35pm; Tue-Thu, 11:45am, 12:15, 2:20, 2:55, 4:55, 5:20, 7:30, 8:00, 10:05, 10:35pm

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (open captioned):** Fri, 12:15pm; Sat, 2:50pm; Sun, 12:05, 10:40am, 12:15, 8:00  
**House of Wax:** Fri, 12:00, 12:30, 2:45, 3:30, 5:25, 7:20, 8:05, 10:25, 10:55; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 12:20, 2:35, 3:25, 5:20, 7:20, 8:05, 10:15, 10:55pm; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 12:30, 2:45, 3:30, 5:25, 7:20, 8:05, 10:25, 10:55  
**The Interpreter:** Fri, 11:45am, 12:40, 3:00, 4:00, 6:45, 7:25, 10:00, 10:40pm; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 12:30, 2:15, 3:35, 5:05, 6:45, 7:55, 10:30, 10:45pm; Mon-Thu, 11:45am, 12:40, 3:00, 4:00, 6:45, 7:25, 10:00, 10:40pm  
**\*Kingdom of Heaven:** Fri, 11:55am, 12:25, 1:05, 3:10, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:50, 10:20pm; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 12:25, 1:00, 3:10, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu, 11:55am, 12:25, 1:05, 3:10, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:50, 10:20pm  
**A Lot Like Love:** Fri, 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:55, 10:50; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35; Mon-Thu, 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:55, 10:50  
**Sahara:** Fri, 12:35, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 12:35, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55; Mon-Thu, 12:35, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55  
**Sin City:** Fri, 12:20, 3:20, 7:15, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 3:15, 7:15, 10:25; Mon-Thu, 12:20, 3:20, 7:15, 10:15  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** Fri, 11:50am, 12:55, 2:25, 3:25, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10pm; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 12:45, 2:05, 3:20, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:05pm; Mon, 11:50am, 12:55, 2:25, 3:25, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10pm; Tue, 11:50am, 12:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 10:10pm; Wed, 11:50am, 12:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 10:10pm  
**XXX: State of the Union (open captioned):** Tue, 3:25, 9:40; Wed, 12:55, 7:10; Thu (5/12), 3:25, 9:40

**IMAX THEATRE** Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.

**Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 8:00; Sun, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 8:00  
**Mexico:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:00pm  
**Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature:** Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00pm  
**Texas: The Big Picture:** Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm; Sun, 1:00, 5:00; Mon-Thu, 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm  
**The Young Black Stallion:** Fri-Sat, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00; Sun-Thu, 3:00, 6:00

**LAKELINE STARPORT** Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

**The Amityville Horror:** 12:20, 2:45, 4:55, 7:50, 10:25  
**Fever Pitch:** 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 10:15  
**Guess Who:** 12:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40  
**Ice Princess:** 12:25, 2:50, 5:10  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05  
**The Pacifier:** 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 10:10  
**\*Sahara:** Fri, 12:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Sat, 12:40, 7:00, 9:45; Sun-Thu, 12:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45  
**Sin City:** 7:35, 10:20  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** 12:00, 12:35, 2:20, 3:00, 4:40, 5:20, 7:05, 7:40, 9:30, 10:00

**METROPOLITAN** South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.  
**Beauty Shop:** 1:20, 4:35, 7:40, 10:40  
**\*Crash:** 11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20pm  
**Fever Pitch:** Fri-Sat, 12:50, 4:45, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu, 12:50, 7:20, 10:10  
**\*House of Wax:** 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:10, 5:00, 6:30, 7:10, 7:55, 9:30, 10:05, 10:45  
**The Interpreter:** 12:20, 1:20, 3:30, 4:30, 6:50, 7:30, 9:55, 10:35  
**A Lot Like Love:** 12:30, 4:40, 7:25, 10:30  
**The Pacifier:** 12:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35  
**The Ring Two:** 12:45, 4:15, 7:20, 10:10  
**Robots:** 12:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:50  
**Sin City:** 12:10, 1:10, 3:20, 4:40, 6:40, 7:20, 9:40, 10:25

**MILLENNIUM THEATRE** 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.  
**Diary of a Mad Black Woman:** Fri-Sat, 8:00, 8:00; Tue-Thu, 7:00pm  
**Son of the Mask:** Fri, 4:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00pm; Tue-Thu, 4:00pm

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** 713 Congress, 472-5470.  
**Autumn Sonata:** Thu (5/12), 7:15pm  
**Cries and Whispers:** Thu (5/12), 9:15pm  
**The Silence:** Tue, 9:10pm; Wed, 7:15pm  
**Through a Glass Darkly:** Tue, 7:15pm; Wed, 9:15pm

**ROUND ROCK 8** 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.

**The Amityville Horror:** Fri-Sat, 8:00, 10:30; Sun-Thu, 8:00pm  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sat, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30pm; Mon-Thu, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30  
**\*House of Wax:** Fri, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15; Sat, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15pm; Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40pm; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40  
**The Interpreter:** Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sat, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50pm; Sun, 10:15am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00pm; Mon-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00  
**\*Kingdom of Heaven:** Fri-Sat, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:05; Sun-Thu, 12:40, 3:50, 7:00  
**A Lot Like Love:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:20; Sat, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:20pm; Sun, 11:30am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50pm; Mon-Thu, 1:50, 4:40, 7:50  
**Robots:** Fri, 2:40, 5:00; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:40, 5:00pm; Mon-Thu, 2:40, 5:00  
**Sahara:** Fri, 1:15, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10; Sat, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10pm; Sun, 10:30am, 1:15, 4:10, 7:20pm; Mon-Thu, 1:15, 4:10, 7:20  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30; Sat, 11:20am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10

**TINSELTON NORTH** North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.  
**The Amityville Horror:** Fri, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45pm; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu, 11:40am, 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45pm  
**\*Crash:** Fri, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55  
**Guess Who:** Fri, 4:00, 10:00; Sat, 9:40am, 4:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 9:40am, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu, 4:00, 10:00  
**\*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:** Fri, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 4:45, 6:55, 7:25, 9:45, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 11:10, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 4:45, 6:55, 7:25, 9:45, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 4:45, 6:55, 7:25, 9:45, 10:15  
**\*House of Wax:** Fri, 1:35, 2:05, 4:25, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:15, 1:35, 2:05, 4:25, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu, 1:35, 2:05, 4:25, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 10:05, 10:35  
**The Interpreter:** Fri, 12:15, 12:40, 3:25, 3:55, 4:20, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:05, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 9:45, 10:15, 12:40, 3:25, 3:55, 4:20, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:05, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu, 12:15, 12:40, 3:25, 3:55, 4:20, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:35, 10:05, 10:35  
**\*Kingdom of Heaven:** Fri, 11:50am, 12:20, 12:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20pm; Sat-Sun, 9:00am, 9:30, 11:50, 12:20, 12:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu, 11:50am, 12:20, 12:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20pm  
**King's Ransom:** 9:50pm  
**Kung Fu Hustle:** Fri, 11:40am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15pm; Sat-Sun, 9:10am, 11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu, 11:40am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15pm  
**A Lot Like Love:** Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10  
**Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous:** 1:25pm  
**The Pacifier:** 11:45am, 2:10, 5:00pm  
**Robots:** 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10pm  
**Sahara:** Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 7:05, 10:00  
**Sin City:** 12:45, 6:50  
**\*XXX: State of the Union:** Fri, 1:25, 1:55, 4:05, 4:35, 6:45, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 11:15, 1:25, 1:55, 4:05, 4:35, 6:45, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu, 1:25, 1:55, 4:05, 4:35, 6:45, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25

**TINSELTON SOUTH** South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.  
**The Amityville Horror:** Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:15, 12:50, 2:00, 3:35, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu, 12:50, 2

interconnect, the complex emotional scaffolding of the racist skinhead soccer buff and his newfound tenderness in the face of parenthood is as sweet a metaphor for the redemptive power of societal upheaval as you're likely to find. — Marc Savlov  
★★★ Arbor

**WALK ON WATER**

D: Eytan Fox; with Lior Ashkenazi, Knut Berger, Caroline Peters, Gideon Shemer, Carola Regnier, Hanns Zischler. (R, 102 min.)

Walk on Water makes you wonder what the Mossad is teaching its field agents these days. Apparently, they're tops at employing toxic syringes to off visiting Palestinian terrorists, but not so hot when it comes to spotting a gay German tourist, as the Israeli secret service agent Eyal (Ashkenazi, of *Late Marriage*) discovers late in Eytan Fox's shrill plea for tolerance along the Sea of Galilee. As the homophobic assassin tasked to uncovering the whereabouts of a vanished South American Nazi, Ashkenazi oozes righteous machismo like a gored bullfighter leaks blood. Alternating his expression from that of indignant warrior to shocked, shocked-I-tell-you hetero male, he's like some testosterone-fueled cipher marching lockstep to a martial tune that plays just for Mossad's humorless squaddies. Not so his target, Axel (Berger), the twentysomething grandson of the aforementioned SS officer, who arrives in Israel to visit his kibbutz-dwelling sister Pia (Peters). Eyal, playing the role of tour guide, insinuates himself into the siblings' lives and then proceeds to bug Pia's home and keep Axel on a short lead in the hopes that one of them will reveal the location of his ultimate quarry. Boys from Berlin just want to have fun, though, and so we get the free-spirited and decidedly queeny Axel offering up his karaoke version of Esther Ofarim's swinging Sixties travesty "Cinderella Rockefeller" — itself a human-rights violation of epic proportions — and offering such weary platitudes as "You can't just walk on water, you've got to purify your heart first" to his oblivious minder (while sporting a "Miracle Worker" T-shirt, no less). Fox, who directed the fine *Yossi & Jagger* a few years back, is intent on driving home his simplistic belief that the whole Israeli/Palestinian brouhaha is on a par with hetero/homo relations; solve one, and you can solve them all. That's unfortunately not the case, and so the perpetually scowling Eyal comes off not as a nihilistic prick but instead as a rational man caught up in an irrational conflict. *Walk on Water* has its heart in the right place, but the grim reality of day-to-day events in the region nullify its strained opposites-attract formulaics. And Fox's glaringly obvious use of musical symbolism only adds to the film's cringeworthy moments: As if Ofarim's little ditty weren't grating enough, we're also subjected to multiple versions of Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth" and Bruce Springsteen's "Tunnel of Love." What, no CSNY "Four Dead in Gaza" remix? *Walk on Water's* childlike sentimentality may be admirable in some quarters, but it's Eyal's gruff exterior that resonates as the performance most grounded in the dangerous realities of daily Israeli life, depressing though that may be. Compared to him, Axel, the film's tolerant heart and soul, seems to be living in a fantasy world. — Marc Savlov  
★★ Arbor

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FRI, MAY 6	SINUS SHOW: TRAVOLTATHON THE (ORIGINAL) AMITYVILLE HORROR	7:00 & 9:45 MIDNIGHT
SAT, MAY 7	THE PRINCESS BRIDE SINUS SHOW: TRAVOLTATHON THE (ORIGINAL) AMITYVILLE HORROR	4:30 7:00 & 9:45 MIDNIGHT
SUN, MAY 8	CHEMISTRY 101: THE PRINCESS BRIDE	7:00 & 9:45
MON, MAY 9	BEST OF WW: BONNIES KIDS THE SCANDINAVIAN METAL WARS	7:00 9:45
TUE, MAY 10	INSIDE DEEP THROAT STEAMBOY	7:00 9:45
WED, MAY 11	AFS DOC TOUR: TEN UNDER TEN STEAM BOY WRD WED (FREE) DR TARS TORTURE DUNGN	7:00 9:45 MIDNITE
THU, MAY 12	STEAMBOY FLICKER FILM FESTIVAL WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER	7:00 9:45 MIDNIGHT

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**Cries and Whispers**

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(183 & LAKE CREEK PARKWAY)

THE HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	12:45	3:45	7:20	10:25
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	12:30	3:25	7:20	10:25
HOUSE OF WAX	12:30	3:05	7:35	10:30
CRASH	12:35	3:35	7:30	10:35
THE INTERPRETER	12:10	3:15	7:45	10:20
ALOT LIKE LOWE	1:00	4:00	7:15	9:55

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# First Runs

\*Full-length reviews available online at [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com). Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

## THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

*D: Andrew Douglas; with Ryan Reynolds, Melissa George, Philip Baker Hall, Jesse James, Jimmy Bennett, Chloe Moretz, Rachel Nichols.* (R, 89 min.)

Although the original *Amityville Horror* represents no great triumph of style or acting, it is an effective little tinger whose frights are steady, implied, and cumulative. In both films, the intrepid Lutz family (mother, stepfather, three kids, and a dog) purchase a house in which grisly murders occurred the year before, and in both films it takes 28 days before the family runs screaming from its dream home. In the original, the scares and odd events are incremental and sometimes possible to explain away, but in the remake the frights are such that you're wondering why the stubborn Lutzes don't flee after the first night. Strategically, the new *Amityville* never intended to go for the subtler, implied horror of the original; this one would be all about scaring the pants off viewers. And in this, the movie generally succeeds as sudden scares and flashes of yucky imagery cause audience members to yelp aloud as if on cue. (04/15/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

## BEAUTY SHOP

*D: Bille Woodruff; with Queen Latifah, Alicia Silverstone, Andie MacDowell, Alfre Woodard, Mena Suvari, Kevin Bacon, Djimon Hounsou.* (PG-13, 105 min.)

Little is ventured and little is gained in this femme-centric installment of the successful *Barbershop* franchise, although there's an amiability that permeates the movie and carries it through most of its rough patches and split ends. Latifah takes over the

# Veer-Zaara

**Veer-Zaara (2004)** *D: Yash Chopra; with Shahrukh Khan, Preity Zinta, Rani Mukherjee.* (NR, 192 min.) **Austin Film Society: Bollywood and More – Recent Hindi Cinema.** A love story spanning decades between an Indian and a Pakistani. For more on the series see [www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-15/screens\\_feature.html](http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-15/screens_feature.html). @Alamo Drafthouse Village, Tue., 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 general admission (online reservations at [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org)).



Ice Cube role (as both the lead and as a producer) in this thinly plotted story about entrepreneurial pluck and workplace camaraderie. Latifah plays Gina, who works at a fashionable hair salon run by the egotistical Jorge (Bacon, in an over-the-top comic performance) until his ridiculous demands cause her to quit and open her own shop. It's a ramshackle business in an African-American neighborhood that she and the other stylists fix up to become the centerpiece for the movie's ramshackle parade of badinage. Enough characters and storylines are put into motion to launch a dozen sequels, yet *Beauty Shop* nevertheless hits some dry patches. But the film's genial, blow-dry attitude keeps things from going far astray. (04/01/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Highland, Metropolitan

## DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN

*D: Darren Grant; with Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris, Shemar Moore, Tyler Perry, Tamara Taylor, Lisa Marcos, Tiffany Evans, Cicely Tyson.* (PG-13, 116 min.)

Like *Stella* a few years ago, this new movie tells the story of how yet another black woman (Elise), jumps back in the game and gets her groove back. The characters' journeys are different, as are the two films' storytelling techniques. However, both movies' target audience is the same: urban black women who yearn for a good suds and a laugh. *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* has enough suds to blow soap bubbles around anything in its path, but the movie's melodramatic strife is leavened with broad slapstick strokes, which creates a bizarrely uneven tone. Despite the film's hoary clichés and the bad drag of actor/screenwriter Tyler Perry (who plays three roles in the film), viewers seem to respond to Helen's ups and downs. Accomplished video director Grant makes a clumsy debut as a feature director, bringing little sense of oversight to the proceedings; however, the film provides a vivid showcase for Perry's instinctive talents. (02/25/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Millennium

## DOWNFALL

*D: Oliver Hirschbiegel; with Bruno Ganz, Alexandra Maria Lara, Corinna Harfouch.* (R, 156 min., subtitled)

The Oscar-nominated *Downfall*, which chronicles the final days of Hitler's Reich, is set almost entirely inside the claustrophobic command bunker below Berlin. It owes much of its creepy verisimilitude to the memories of Hitler's personal secretary, Traudl Junge. Hirschbiegel's film is less interested in the ways of the Third Reich than in how the assembled leaders and adjutants reacted to their imminent defeat at the hands of the Russian army. Much has been made about the film's "humanizing" of Hitler, but he's only human here in the most prosaic of terms. This shouty little lunatic is more monstrous id than anything remotely resembling a well-balanced military leader. Ganz's Hitler is a soulless, emotionally bankrupt madman, but it's Ulrich Matthes' Goebbels who finally lodges in your memory. Some demons are too extreme to comprehend, but Hirschbiegel's film nonetheless provides a painfully unflinching glimpse into the outer workings of the mortally wounded Third Reich. (04/01/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square

## DUST TO GLORY

*D: Dana Brown.* (PG, 97 min.)

The thrill of racing is hard to capture on film: The confines of the screen always make the contests seem smaller and less turbocharged than they are in reality. Dana Brown (*Step Into Liquid*) seems a more likely candidate than most to coax the adrenaline onto the screen, but *Dust to Glory* is a total hodge-podge of relatively random footage from the Baja 1000, the longest off-road race in the world. Brown talks to many of the annual returnees, and the film has plenty of "eat my dust" moments, but *Dust to Glory* is an unfocused project, seeming as though a script was constructed to reflect the footage captured, rather than emerging

organically and reflectively from what was observed. *Dust to Glory* may be a gearhead's delight, but its appeal to middle-of-the-roaders will be stop-and-go. (04/29/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Arbor

## ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM

*D: Alex Gibney.* (NR, 110 min.)

Based on the book by *Fortune* writers Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind, *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* documents Enron's collapse in vivid detail and with cinematic flourish. Moreover, the film doesn't require an economics degree to understand the factors that led to the company's demise. Gibney makes great use of lots of inside material: training films, news footage, party spoofs, and some especially damning audiotapes of Enron traders callously manipulating the price of oil on the West Coast as California suffered the consequences with rolling blackouts. In the course of showing these scoundrels for their true measure, Gibney strikes a few unfair blows that make it clear that the filmmaker's stance is not fully objective. Despite these biases, the movie helps the average American understand the nature of the shell games perpetuated by Enron and how "synergistic corruptions" can corrupt absolutely. (For more on the film, see [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-29/screens\\_feature.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-04-29/screens_feature.html) for an interview with the director.) (04/29/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

## FEVER PITCH

*D: Bobby Farrelly, Peter Farrelly; with Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon, Lenny Clarke, Jack Kehler.* (PG-13, 103 min.)

Die-hard fans of Nick Hornby's first, best novel, *Fever Pitch*, which chronicles in hypermasculine minutiae the ups and downs (mostly downs) of the legendary Highbury, North London, footballers Arsenal F.C., and which serves as the basis for this drastically Americanized remake, should read no further. The Farrelly brothers and writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel have chucked Hornby's exhilarating ode to the Gunners, and by extension all things football, and replaced the novelist's finest hour with – wait for it! – baseball. Specifically, it's about the Boston Red Sox and their splendid, wholly miraculous 2004 World Series victory, which, to be fair, did indeed rival the Gunners and their rabid, emotionally suicidal, eternally optimistic fans. But still ... baseball? The film is a sweet, charming little puffball of a romantic comedy, the same one Barrymore's been doing for what seems like ages now. The Farrellys, too, are treading water. (04/08/05) – Marc Savlov

★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan

## GUESS WHO

*D: Kevin Rodney Sullivan; with Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher, Zoe Saldana, Judith Scott, RonReaco Lee.* (PG-13, 97 min.)

*Guess Who* is a contemporary takeoff on the Stanley Kramer classic of socially relevant filmmaking *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. It states the painfully obvious to say that Kutcher is no Sidney Poitier, nor are the other players on par with Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. Although the movie's twist is the introduction of a white suitor into a family of African-Americans, the movie is more geared to *Meet the Parents*-style humor than social relevance. It's telling that Kutcher and Saldana have zero chemistry as a loving couple and that the main attraction is between Mac and Kutcher, who fitfully bond, à la De Niro and Stiller, but with racial jokes added to the mix. The makers of *Guess Who* appear to have given more thought to targeting an audience than building a believable movie. Yet director Sullivan manages to keep some of the racial humor barbed and well-focused, giving *Guess Who* a slightly transgressive feel in its best moments. (03/25/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ CM Barton Creek, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

## THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

*D: Garth Jennings; with Martin Freeman, Mos Def, Sam Rockwell, Zoëy Deschanel, Bill Nighy, Warwick Davis, John Malkovich, Alan Rickman.* (PG, 108 min.)

The world is divided into two distinct groups: those who get *Hitchhiker's* author Douglas Adams and those who don't. It's good to report, then, that fans of the novel can exhale, finally; director Garth Jennings has Adams' comic sensibility down pat. Freeman (of the original, British version of *The Office*) plays Arthur Dent, who awakes one morning to find his home about to be demolished to make way for a freeway bypass. Luckily, his friend Ford Prefect (Mos Def), in reality an alien travel writer, pops 'round to inform him that the world is ending, and the two escape certain death by thumbing a ride on the alien's ship. From here on out it's one loony adventure after another, all with a decidedly Monty Python-esque edge. The real stars of the film are the Jim Henson Creature Shop artists, who manage to make the many elaborate and decidedly old-school creature effects come to hilarious life. Still, if you're not already an Adams fan, this film is unlikely to make you a convert. Familiarizing yourself with Adams' unique wit in advance is highly recommended. (04/29/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

## HOUSE OF D

*D: David Duchovny; with Anton Yelchin, Robin Williams, Téa Leoni, David Duchovny, Erykah Badu, Magali Amadei, Zeldia Williams.* (PG-13, 97 min.)

Duchovny's directorial debut is more weepy than creepy, a conventional coming-of-age story that flashes back to 1970s New York City. Tommy (Yelchin) is a smarty-pants scholarship student, the only son of a widowed nurse (Leoni) who stanches her grief with cigarettes and pills. His best friend is Pappas (Williams), a "retard" – their word – who delivers meat by bicycle and cracks wise. But when Tommy falls for a parochial schoolgirl (Zelda Williams, daughter of Robin), the friends realize Tommy is growing up – and Pappas isn't. Yelchin is a marvelously engaging young actor, but the real star here is Badu, as an inmate at the titular institution (the Women's House of Detention, that is) who advises Tommy through the bars of her cell. Williams' performance is lazy, stock characterization of the worst kind, and Duchovny vacillates between squeezing Pappas for laughs and deploying him as a sympathy prop. (04/29/05) – Marrit Ingman

★★ Arbor

## ICE PRINCESS

*D: Tim Fywell; with Joan Cusack, Michelle Trachtenberg, Kim Cattrall, Hayden Panettiere.* (G, 98 min.)

How many tween-targeted films equally advocate physics, feminism, and athleticism? *Ice Princess* is a refreshingly femme-centric tale that charts the (improbably) meteoric rise of Casey Carlyle (Trachtenberg), a high school senior and self-proclaimed science geek who discovers she has a real, if raw, talent for figure skating. That's news to her single mom (Cusack), who has very different dreams for her daughter (they include a prized physics scholarship and matriculation at Harvard). On the other end is Casey's glamorous new coach (Cattrall), who encourages Casey to compete in Olympic preliminaries and is a single mother herself. Trachtenberg (*Harriet the Spy*) manages to overcome her character's perfectness by being a warm, ingratiating presence. *Ice Princess* is about as subtle as the eyeliner-and-lipstick war paint these figure skaters slather on preperformance, but some lessons – like the importance of education, athleticism, and self-confidence – deserve to be shouted, however crudely. (03/25/05) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

## THE INTERPRETER

*D: Sydney Pollack; with Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn, Catherine Keener, Ivan Attal, Earl Cameron, Jesper Christensen, George Harris.* (PG-13, 128 min.)

*The Interpreter* is touted as the first commercial movie to shoot inside the United Nations, which means that this thriller is blessed with a truly incredible set-piece. The movie also top-lines two of the best actors around – Kidman and Penn – who, along with director Pollack, are all bona fide Oscar winners. By all measures, *The Interpreter* should be one of the sharpest movies around, but it is not. It is intelligent, intriguing, and topical, but it too often gets mired in its own good intentions, too many plot convolutions, and character ambiguities that try to pass for suspense. *The Interpreter* tries to cast itself in the Hitchcockian tradition, but apart from the film's climactic bus



# Flicker Film Festival

**Flicker Film Festival** *D: Various.* This bimonthly film festival showcases short films by local and national filmmakers. Some of the local filmmakers represented in this screening are Kat Candler, Lori "16mm" Surfer, Jeffrey Travis and David Taylor, and Aaron Valdez. Also screening is a new short by Flicker Chapel Hill superstars, Joyce Ventimiglia and *Monster Road* producer/editor Jim Haverkamp. A musical preshow and intermission entertainment will be by the Sinus Show's Jerm Pollet. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Thu. (5/12), 9:45pm; \$5.

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sequence and another nicely crafted sequence toward the movie's end, this thriller never visually builds much tension or suspense. *The Interpreter* is ultimately fluent in many things, but an out-and-out thriller it is not. (04/22/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### KING'S RANSOM

D: Jeff Byrd; with Anthony Anderson, Donald Faison, Regina Hall, Jay Mohr, Kellita Smith, Loretta Devine, Nicole Ari Parker, Leila Arcieri. (PG-13, 97 min.)

A mirthless comedy about venal people doing stupid things, *King's Ransom* has little chance of collecting much dough. Anderson is Malcolm King, an enormously successful but obnoxious African-American entrepreneur. With his bootylicious girlfriend and newly promoted vice-president, Peaches (Hall), he concocts a plot to have himself kidnapped in order to hide money from his divorce-hungry, gold-digging wife (Smith). The plan goes awry when simultaneous kidnapping plots bollux up everything. What should be a madcap movie about a series of ill-conceived, inter-related kidnapping plots is instead a jumble of disconnected characters, shabby craftsmanship, and missed opportunities. The script (by Wayne Conley) has characters constantly underscoring the obvious and recapping their intentions, and the direction and editing are as shoddy as the workmanship on the patently obvious breakaway furniture in the fight scenes. *King's Ransom* is the comic equivalent of a lump of coal. (04/29/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

✪ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

### KUNG FU HUSTLE

D: Stephen Chow; with Stephen Chow, Lam Tze-chung, Chan Kwok-kwan, Yuen Qiu, Yuen Wah, Leung Siu-lung. (R, 95 min., subtitled)

This is as pure and downright fun a cinematic experience as you're likely to have all year: part chopsocky battle royale, part Chuck Jones-and-Buster Keaton-inspired gonzo romantic comedy, and part MGM musical run amok. It's all choreographed and art-directed to the nines, too, which makes it as pleasing to the eyes as it is to your pulse. Director Chow plays Sing, a down-at-the-heels gangster wannabe who wants nothing more than to join up with the deadly Axe Gang, an all-dancing, all-maiming outfit intent on adding the penniless residents of Pig Sty Alley to their swollen rolls of kickback thugery. Half the joy of watching this wonderful carnival of insanity is in playing "spot the homage," and when you're not busy taking note of Chow's many influences, you're likely to be laughing out loud at his exquisite comedic timing and wondering why on earth no domestic directors are fashioning movies this plainly pleasurable. (04/22/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### A LOT LIKE LOVE

D: Nigel Cole; with Ashton Kutcher, Amanda Peet, Ali Larter, Jeremy Sisto, Kal Penn, Taryn Manning, Gabriel Mann. (PG-13, 107 min.)

*A Lot Like Love* takes place over the course of seven years, but it feels like real time. It's as if the script (by actor Colin Patrick Lynch) were pinched from Richard Curtis' wastebasket: Strangers Oliver (Kutcher) and Emily (Peet) bump fuzz in an airplane lavatory and spend the rest of the film bantering cutely and coming *this close* to a real relationship, only to be thwarted by chance and putatively delightful misunderstandings. Will they get together? It's hard to care, not because the answer is obvious – the answer is always obvious in the mass-market romantic comedy – but because the characters are so generic and tiresome that it's like watching a long-form Taster's Choice commercial punctuated with peppy AAA needle-drops, dorky montages, and creaky dialogue, delivered leadenly. It's tempting to blame the actors (who, shall we say, lack range?) for this debacle, but the whole production is simply as mediocre and half-baked as Hollywood gets. (04/22/05) – Marrit Ingman

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

### MILLION DOLLAR BABY

D: Clint Eastwood; with Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman, Jay Baruchel, Mike Colter, Lucia Rijker, Brian F. O'Byrne. (PG-13, 137 min.)

Over the years, Eastwood has become the consummate filmmaker, and his directorial work here

## Through a Glass Darkly

**Through a Glass Darkly (1961)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Harriet Andersson, Gunnar Björnstrand, Max von Sydow, Lars Passgård. (NR, 91 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** The year after *The Virgin Spring*, Bergman won a consecutive Best Foreign Film Oscar for this four-person chamber piece about faith. Andersson plays a mentally unbalanced woman just released from an institution who spends time on a secluded island with her father, a writer, who uses her life for his fiction. @Paramount, Tue.-Wed., 7:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.



affirms the truth of that statement. The movie's central relationship is between a grizzled manager/trainer who owns a run-down gym for wayward pugilists (Eastwood) and the determined young fighter he reluctantly agrees to show the ropes (Swank). You can't help but feel betrayed when the film executes an out-of-nowhere narrative left hook, but from that point on, the film transcends the rules of the genre and shows us, with an unvarnished simplicity, how human beings struggle to come to terms with the unthinkable. The three principals give natural and honest performances, and watching how Eastwood structures shots, directs actors, and paces scenes, you're struck – no, awed – by the economy and assuredness of everything he does; he doesn't seem content to rest on his laurels and give his audiences the tried and the true. For that reason, among many others, he and *Million Dollar Baby* are true champions. (01/28/05) – Steve Davis

★★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

### MILLIONS

D: Danny Boyle; with Alex Etel, Lewis McGibbon, Daisy Donovan, James Nesbitt. (PG, 98 min.)

*Millions* is a sweet, emotionally complex film about faith, charity, and how the workaday world tends to snuff out such simple virtues as the years go by and childhood fades. It's surely not what most people would have expected from Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *28 Days Later*). It is, however, unmistakably Boyle, rife as it is with all manner of CGI-enhanced magical realism and a chew center of bleakly British optimism. It's also markedly much like Boyle's first film, *Shallow Grave*, in that it involves stolen money and the effects such wind-falls have on the unprepared and ill-advised. Boyle's credo seems to be "fortune favors the innocent," but even the impossibly cute, freckle-faced boy wonder Etel has the pensive, dark look of a guilty party, caught with his hand in the cookie jar, much of the time. It's childhood done just right: part cotton-candy angels, part gurning adult frighteners, and all wide-eyed kidhood bravado. (03/25/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Arbor

### MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS

D: John Pasquin; with Sandra Bullock, Regina King, Enrique Murciano, William Shatner. (PG-13, 115 min.)

Sandra Bullock is back as Gracie Hart, the slovenly FBI agent who in this sequel becomes the "new face of the FBI" – a convenient device to get her out of her tomboy street clothes and into fashionable togs and make-up for the remainder of the movie. King eventually gets to display her comedic chops, while Burns and Shatner are shunted to the comedic sidelines. However, the movie's comic soul belongs to Bullock, who seems perfectly game for anything but is hampered by a weak script. In fact, the movie's purpose almost seems to be more of a conveyance for a music CD release, as every scene change is driven by a few bars of different contemporary tracks. Bullock is one of Hollywood's most talented physical and verbal comedians, yet she has yet to find a script that fully exploits these skills.

## Steamboy

**Steamboy (2004)** D: Katsuhiro Ôtomo; with the voices of Anna Paquin, Alfred Molina, Patrick Stewart, Robin Atkin Downes. (PG-13, 126 min.) Ôtomo delivers a dazzlingly straightforward animé rush that thrusts its protagonist into astonishing action set-piece after set-piece. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Tue.-Thu., 9:45pm.



Without better material, Bullock's talents will remain undercover. (03/25/05) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★✪ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

### OLDBOY

D: Chan-wook Park; with Min-sik Choi, Ji-tae Yu, Hye-jeong Kang. (R, 120 min.)

This 2003 revenge film from Korean upstart Chan-wook Park (*Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance*) is a multi-layered, intensely performed, and viscerally visual tour de force. The plot is at once pure simplicity and utterly unique: Seoul businessman Oh Dae-su (Choi) is kidnapped one drunken, rainy evening by parties unknown. He awakens in what appears to be a seedy motel room but which is, in reality, a cell. From the television, he learns that he has been framed for his wife's murder. Fifteen years later, he wakes up on a Seoul rooftop, outfitted with a finely tailored suit, a cell phone, and a wallet stuffed with cash. From here on out *Oldboy* plays like a reverse D.O.A., as Dae-su seeks the reason for and the person behind his bizarre situation. *Oldboy's* occasional outbursts of intense violence are far less disturbing than its relentlessly grim tone. As tough as it may be to endure this brutal and brilliant film, it's also a precisely constructed work of art. While the climax is admittedly something of a letdown, it's a hopelessly, helplessly original film: all guts, no glory. (04/29/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Dobie

### THE PACIFIER

D: Adam Shankman; with Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham, Faith Ford, Brittany Snow, Max Thieriot, Carol Kane, Brad Garrett. (PG, 91 min.)

I like Vin Diesel. I really do. He can be brusque and warm; he's got a slight lisp. He can break-dance. There's room for him in comedy. He seems sincere even when he's doing something risible, and this Disney family farce has plenty of risible tasks for him. Is it funny? Not for a minute. Cross-pollinate *Kindergarten Cop* with *Home Alone 3*, and you still have a hardier hybrid than this Mouse mutt. Not even Kid in the Hall Scott Thompson, as a Birkenstocked drama coach making step-ball-change jokes, can pull this movie out of the vortex of suckitude. It makes sense that the script is so antic – it was written by two alumni of *The State* – but the problem is that it's so synthetic, so absolutely by-the-book in its trajectory. Director Shankman walks the line between wholesome and wacky and ends up with the cinematic equivalent of a minivan. (03/04/05) – Marrit Ingman

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

### THE RING TWO

D: Hideo Nakata; with Naomi Watts, Simon Baker, David Dorfman, Sissy Spacek, Elizabeth Perkins, Gary Cole, Kelly Stables. (PG-13, 111 min.)

*The Ring Two* suffers from narrative listlessness and a general sense of "so what?" Worse than that, however, is the utter lack of scares. This is,

after all, a horror film, and one expects at least one or two good frissons along the way, but no, the creepiest scene we get involves an angry deer and a lonely forest road. Watts seems hamstrung by Ehren Kruger's scripting, which doesn't offer her much in the way of a character arc, or much to do at all, and Dorfman's Aidan is by turns silly and predictable. Admittedly, the thankless role of "possessed child" is a landmine for any young actor, but surely there's still more to it than a creepy smile and the overdramatic use of the word "mommy." It's only at film's end that you realize the whole soggy, overlong mess isn't going to go anywhere. (03/25/05) – Marc Savlov

★ Metropolitan

### ROBOTS

D: Chris Wedge, Carlos Saldanha; with the voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry, Greg Kinnear, Mel Brooks, Drew Carey, Amanda Bynes, Robin Williams. (PG, 90 min.)

*Robots*, the latest animated feature from *Ice Age* directors Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha, tells the story of a boy from the "burbs who conquers the big city. There's something cheekily subversive about *Robots*, much as there was in *Ice Age*. But where *Ice Age* was spare, even elegant at times, *Robots* is a terrible clutter, in both visual and story terms. The landscape is gosh-wow but so chaotic and overdrawn it's hard to appreciate the obvious artistry on display, and the story is crammed with too many wisecracking characters, very few of whom linger long on the brain. The movie can be funny in fits, but too often the scripters go for the obvious and uninspired (call me an old grump, but robots perfecting the underwear fart is strictly bargain-bin material). *Robots* nails the message – and it's a worthy one – but the magic's missing in action. (03/11/05) – Kimberley Jones

★★ CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North

### SAHARA

D: Breck Eisner; with Matthew McConaughey, Penélope Cruz, Steve Zahn, William H. Macy, Lambert Wilson, Delroy Lindo. (PG-13, 124 min.)

Based on the popular Clive Cussler book, *Sahara* may be asinine, but it's also goofy good fun, a popcorn actioner that strips away Cussler's veneer of rank conservatism and *Boys' Own* shenanigans in favor of Seventies-era classic rock and hamfisted buddy-movie clichés. The film casts Austin percussion legend McConaughey as Dirk Pitt, the novelist's Yankified James Bond-lite. With McConaughey and Zahn (as Pitt's wisecracking right-hand-man Al Giordino) in the leads this might as well have been rechristened *Romancing the Stoned*. Through a circuitous series of events, Pitt and Giordino find themselves in Africa, where they team up with a WHO field researcher (Cruz), who is hot on the trail of a deadly contagion. Pitt and Company ultimately save the world, and if that comes as a surprise, you haven't been getting out to many movies lately. *Sahara* is an updated version of the old Republic serials but plateaus before it manages anything approaching *Indiana Jones'* rugged charm. (04/08/05) – Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

### SIN CITY

D: Robert Rodriguez, Frank Miller, Quentin Tarantino; with Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis, Clive Owen, Jessica Alba, Rosario Dawson, Jaime King, Benicio Del Toro, Elijah Wood, Brittany Murphy, Nick Stahl. (R, 126 min.)

Let's not mince words: *Sin City* kicks ass. Honestly, this ultra-noir adaptation of Frank Miller's black-and-white cult comic series is a visual feast ripped straight from the original medium's blood-soaked pages. Working with a dream cast who performed nearly all their roles in front of green-screen backgrounds, *Sin City's* look and feel is genuinely unique. It's not just the top-notch (over)acting and dialogue, which, it bears noting, is so hard-boiled you could shatter a molar on it, but also Rodriguez's daring use of color in an otherwise black-and-white epic. And, again let's not mince words, it's also an incredibly violent tale of love and death, retribution and absolution. The end result is a one-of-a-kind film that's both incredibly offensive and undeniably entertaining, using casual misogyny and offhanded amorality much like its direct literary forebear Mickey Spillane. For those who enjoy their tough-guy testosterone straight up, no chaser, it's a 120-proof sucker punch to the cinematic solar plexus. (04/01/05) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

**SON OF THE MASK**

D: Lawrence Guterman; with Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming, Bob Hoskins, Traylor Howard, Steven Wright, Liam Falconer, Ryan Falconer, Ben Stein. (PG, 86 min.)  
 This semisequel to 1994's surprise breakout Jim Carrey vehicle retains absolutely none of its predecessor's manic charm, and instead relies almost entirely on a ceaseless barrage of everything-and-the-kitchen-sink humor. While it tries mightily to parrot the classic animated worlds of Tex Avery and Chuck Jones, it nonetheless falls flatter than Avery's libidinous Wolf post-steamroller on all counts. Director Guterman shoots every jittery sequence as though on a sugar-bender, with editing to match. If the film's nonstop CGI effects were anything other than just plain bad, this might be salvageable. But for anyone who assumed Kennedy's experiment couldn't sink any lower than *Malibu's Most Wanted*, there are, it appears, ever deeper depths in the realm of comedic misfires. (02/25/05) - Marc Savlov  
 Millennium

**THE UPSIDE OF ANGER**

D: Mike Binder; with Joan Allen, Kevin Costner, Erika Christensen, Evan Rachel Wood, Keri Russell, Alicia Witt. (R, 118 min.)  
 The two fantastic performances by Allen and Costner that anchor *The Upside of Anger* are the reason to see this contemporary drama about romance between two flawed adults. The script by writer-director Binder (who is also cast in a key role) crackles with sharp dialogue and insight, although conversations frequently threaten to turn glib before backing away. The script is also burdened with several distracting subplots and a trick ending that falsifies the drama that has occurred for the previous hour and a half. However, the strong performances and the film's unflinching tone make it a standout in the generally drab field of romantic drama. Even though Binder's characters are all gems, the filmmaker needs to hone his storytelling craft. (04/08/05) - Marjorie Baumgarten  
 CM Barton Creek

**WINTER SOLSTICE**

D: Josh Sternfeld; with Anthony LaPaglia, Aaron Stanford, Mark Webber, Allison Janney, Ron Livingston, Michelle Monaghan. (R, 89 min.)  
 Neither a change of seasons nor truly wonderful performances can breathe life into the dimly enervated *Winter Solstice*. Since his wife's death, Jim (LaPaglia) has lived with sons Pete (Webber) - who suffers from a case of sullen, diffident teenagerism - and Gabe (Stanford), who's out of school, has a pretty girlfriend (Monaghan), and works a dead-end job. All three Winters men are clearly unhappy, but each is unable to help himself or comfort the others. Then Molly (Janney) moves into the neighborhood and creates a few fissures in the Winters household, and a new teacher (Livingston) moves Pete from the back row of the classroom to the front. It's not much, but it's enough to create the sense of possibility that the long Winters' hibernation may be nearing its end. LaPaglia is

brilliant as the story's soft-spoken hull, but the film's characters all exude that sense of being an inconclusive lab experiment rather than flesh-and-blood human beings. We're observing this family's solstice - the point at which they are the furthest away from one another - and the chill in the air is deadening. (04/29/05) - Marjorie Baumgarten  
 \*\* Arbor

**XXX: STATE OF THE UNION**

D: Lee Tamahori; with Ice Cube, Willem Dafoe, Samuel L. Jackson, Xzibit, Peter Strauss. (PG-13, 101 min.)  
 Xander Cage, the former superagent-badass of 2002's Rob Cohen-directed *XXX*, has been killed in the line of kickassery, and so NSA spookster Augustus Gibbons (Jackson) recruits one of his old Navy Seal buddies to be the new *XXX*: Ice Cube's Darius Stone, who's spent the last nine years sitting in the brig for his pesky attitude problems. This film has attitude problems, too, chief among them being a penchant for over-the-top action set-pieces that come so fast and so furious that it's a wonder you don't have whiplash by film's end. *State of the Union*, while an exciting enough diversion for a lazy Saturday afternoon popcorn fix, is really 10 times too much, a nonstop orgy of bullets, bombs, and booty that aims low and hits the bull's-eye with enough firepower to sink the *Bismarck*. (04/29/05) - Marc Savlov  
 CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25, 11:55\*\*

**XXX: STATE OF THE UNION (PG13)**  
 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35, 11:45\*\*

**THE INTERPRETER (PG13)**  
 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:00

**AMITYVILLE HORROR (R)**  
 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30\*\*

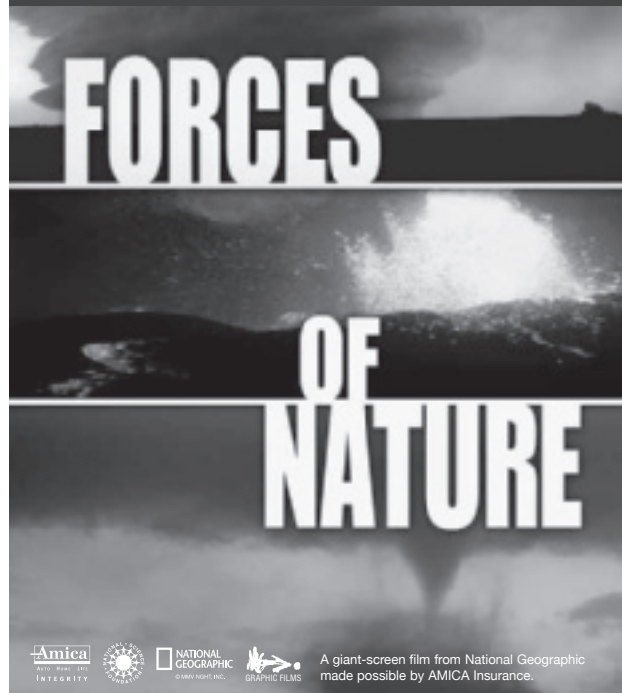
**BEAUTY SHOP (PG13)**  
 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40

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 Fri-Sat: 11 am, 2, 4, 7, 10 pm  
 Sun: 2, 4, 7 pm

**Young Black Stallion**  
 Mon-Thurs: 3, 6 pm  
 Fri-Sat: 3, 6, 9 pm  
 Sun: 3, 6 pm

**Bugs! 3D**  
 Mon-Sat: 12, 8 pm  
 Sun: 8 pm

**Texas: The Big Picture**  
 Mon-Thurs: 10 am, 1, 5 pm  
 Fri-Sat: 10 am, 1, 5 pm  
 Sun: 1, 5 pm

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# Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (\*) indicates full-length reviews available online: [austinchronicle.com/film](http://austinchronicle.com/film).

## THURSDAY 05

**Imelda (2004)** D: Ramona S. Diaz. (NR, 103 min.) **Austin Film Society.** Billed as a "behind the shoes" look at Imelda Marcos, this fascinating portrait provides unprecedented access to the former first lady of the Philippines. (See [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-01-28/screens\\_feature.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-01-28/screens_feature.html) for an interview with Diaz, who will be present following the screening for a Q&A.) @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm.

**Inside Deep Throat (2005)** D: Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato; narrated by Dennis Hopper. (NC-17, 92 min.) **Forbidden Fruit.** This documentary about the heady days of porn – when "deep throat" became a household expression and everyone viewed the movie *Deep Throat* as a breath of fresh air – is informative yet lacking historical rigor. (\*) @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

**The Amityville Horror (1979)** D: Stuart Rosenberg; with James Brolin, Margot Kidder, Rod Steiger, Don Stroud. (R, 117 min.) The original version of this haunted house story. @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid.

**The Seventh Seal (1957)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Max von Sydow, Gunnar Björnstrand. (NR, 92 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** A knight on his way home from the Crusades questions the existence of God and why he has allowed the Black Plague to ravage his country. @Paramount, 9:10pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

**The Virgin Spring (1960)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Max von Sydow, Birgitta Valberg, Gunnel Lindblom. (NR, 89 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** Winner of an Oscar for Best Foreign Film, *The Virgin Spring* is an intense film set in medieval Sweden about the aftermath that occurs when a young peasant girl is raped and murdered. @Paramount, 7:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

## OTHER SPACES

**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow (1998)** D: Joel Coen; with Jeff Bridges. (R, 117 min.) This is so much more than a parking-lot screening of the wonderful *Big Lebowski*. In addition to the outdoor screening of the film, the ticket includes bowling and White Russians. @Dart Bowl, 8:30pm.

## FRIDAY 06

**Inside Deep Throat (2005)** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Thu., 05/05)

**Star Wars Oddities** D: Various. Ninety minutes of fan-fueled obsession to set the mood for the launch of the *Siths*. @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid.

**The Amityville Horror (1979)** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid. (See Thu., 05/05)

**Travoltathon The Sinus Show.** John, Jerm, and Owen of the Sinus Show take on America's favorite disco dancer with highlights from throughout John Travolta's career. Every show features a dance-alike contest, so come in costume. @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

**Videoke** Act out scenes from various movies and win prizes. See [www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com) for details. @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 12mid.

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the May 20 issue is Monday, May 9.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): [specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com](mailto:specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com); Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): [calendar@austinchronicle.com](mailto:calendar@austinchronicle.com).

## OTHER SPACES

**Smokey and the Bandit (1977)** D: Hal Needham; with Burt Reynolds, Sally Field, Jackie Gleason. (PG, 96 min.) **I Luv Video.** The king of the "good ol' boy" movies. @Spider House, 9pm; free.

**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow (1998)** @Dart Bowl, 8:30pm. (See Thu., 05/05)

## SATURDAY 07

**Star Wars Oddities** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid. (See Fri., 05/06)

**The Amityville Horror (1979)** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid. (See Thu., 05/05)

**The Princess Bride (1987)** D: Rob Reiner; with Mel Smith, Billy Crystal, Carol Kane. (PG, 98 min.) **Chemistry 101.** The Alamo's dating game show Chemistry 101 is combined with the popular movie. See [www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com) for full description. @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 4:30pm.

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) **Austin Rocky Horror** fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 28 years straight. For more info see [www.austinrocky.org](http://www.austinrocky.org). @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 12mid.

**Travoltathon** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7, 9:45. (See Fri., 05/06)

## OTHER SPACES

**A Tale of Two Sisters (2003)** D: Kim Ji-woon; with Kim Kap-su, Yum Jung-ah. (R, 115 min.) Dread and mystery are the hallmarks of this South Korean psychological thriller. (Double bill: *The People Under the Stairs*) (\*) @Spider House, 10pm; free.

**Danny Deckchair (2003)** D: Jeff Balsmeyer; with Rhys Ifans, Miranda Otto, Justine Clarke. (PG-13, 90 min.) Good-natured Aussie import will be followed by a guided discussion on managing life's challenges. For more info see [www.humanpotentialcenter.org](http://www.humanpotentialcenter.org) or call 441-8988. (\*) @Human Potential Center, 7pm; free.

**The Big Lebowski Bowling Roadshow (1998)** @Dart Bowl, 8:30pm. (See Thu., 05/05)

**The People Under the Stairs (1991)** D: Wes Craven; with Brandon Adams, Everett McGill, Wendy Robie, A.J. Langer, Ving Rhames. (R, 102 min.) **I Luv Video.** The sinister pathologies that go on behind closed doors. (Double bill: *A Tale of Two Sisters*) (\*) @Spider House, 12mid; free.

## Offscreen

**Austin Film Festival Submission Deadlines** approach like a pale rider in the distance, so you'd best be prepared before your spurs (or reels) stop spinning, podner. The Heart of Film **screenplays** are due by May 16; the **teleplays** are due by June 16. The Film Competition has an early deadline of June 15 and a late deadline of July 15. The festival itself takes place from Oct. 20-27, and you can get the details at [www.austinfilmfestival.com](http://www.austinfilmfestival.com).

**Austin Movie Show Film Tournament** The *Austin Movie Show* is accepting submissions for their very first film tournament, to premiere on their local cable show on May 22. Short films will be judged in four categories (narrative, documentary, animation, music themed), and there will also be one overall winner. Films must be 5-10 minutes long; they can be shot in any medium, but must be submitted on DVD only. Since they'll be on TV, you've got to follow FCC regs as to content. Check the AMS Web site for more information. Deadline: May 16. Application fee: \$10. [www.austinmovieshow.com](http://www.austinmovieshow.com).

**SXSWclick Festival** is the second edition of SXSW's Web-based multimedia summer festival, formerly called SXSW Web. Submissions of all forms of graphic storytelling (from music videos to Flash animation and beyond) will be accepted via the SXSW Web site, from May 2 to June 10. (Works cannot be longer than five minutes to be eligible. Submissions are accepted as DVDs, VHS tapes, or as .swf files on disk.) Finalists chosen by the SXSW selection committee will be posted on the SXSW Web site, and the general public will be invited to vote for their favorites. Winners – who will be automatically accepted into the 2006 SXSW Film Festival – will be announced on July 29. [www.sxsw.com](http://www.sxsw.com).

**Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund Workshop** The Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund is an annual grant awarded to emerging film and video artists in the state of Texas. Elisabeth Sikes, Austin Film Society Director of Artist Services, will provide information about applying to the Fund and screen work samples from previously funded projects. In September, the Fund will award \$75,000 in grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 in cash, up to \$5,000 in Kodak filmstock, and up to \$1,000 in video tapestock to regionally produced projects, selected by a national panel of film professionals. Application forms are available through the Web site below (or from TFPF, 1901 E. 51st Street, Austin, 78723). Application deadline: June 1. 322-0145. [www.austinfilm.org](http://www.austinfilm.org).

## SUNDAY 08

**Roman Holiday** D: William Wyler; with Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, Eddie Albert, Tulio Carminati. (NR, 119 min.) Celebrate Mother's Day with this romance classic, champagne, and a full Italian meal prepared by chef John Bullington. See [www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com) for full menu and tickets. (\*) @Alamo Draffhouse South, 1:30, 6:30; \$28.

**Steel Magnolias (1989)** D: Herbert Ross; with Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Daryl Hannah, Olympia Dukakis, Julia Roberts. (PG, 117 min.) Celebrate Mother's Day with these Southern ladies. The menu includes jambalaya, sweet tea, bleeding armadilla grooms cake, mimosas, and sangria. And every mom gets a gift basket. Massages available too. @Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, 3:45pm; \$6.

**The Princess Bride (1987)** @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7, 9:45. (See Sat., 05/07)

**The Umbrellas of Cherbourg** D: Jacques Demy; with Catherine Deneuve, Nino Castelnuovo, Anne Vernon. (NR, 91 min.) Celebrate Mother's Day with this romantic musical and fine French cuisine prepared by Chef James Holmes. See [www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com) for complete menu and tickets. (\*) @Alamo Draffhouse Village, 1:30, 6:30; \$27.

## MONDAY 09

**Bonnie's Kids (1973)** D: Arthur Marks; with Tiffany Bolling, Robin Mattson, Scott Brady. (R, 84 min.) **Best of Weird Wednesdays.** After wreaking vengeance on their sexually abusive stepfather, two sisters take refuge at their uncle's place in El Paso. (For more on *Weird Wednesdays* series see [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-02-16/screens\\_feature.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-02-16/screens_feature.html) or [www.draffhouse.com](http://www.draffhouse.com).) @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm; \$1.

**Metal Storm: The Scandinavian Metal Wars (2005)** D: Kier-La Janisse. **Music Mondays.** The Scandinavian black metal scene contextualized in this in-house documentary. (See p.59 of this week's Screens and p.41 of this week's Arts sections.) @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$1.

## TUESDAY 10

**Steamboy (2004)** See p.94.

**The Silence (1963)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Ingrid Thulin, Gunnel Lindblom, Hakan Jahnber. (NR, 95 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** Two aloof but deeply connected sisters and one's son spend some emotionally fraught time together in a hotel room. One is attractive and goes out and picks up a man, the other is ill and cannot leave the room. Lesbian longings and identity mergers complicate the relationship, young boy wanders off with a troupe of dwarfs. @Paramount, 9:10pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

**Through a Glass Darkly (1961)** See p.94.

**Veer-Zaara (2004)** See p.92.

## OTHER SPACES

**Buffy the Vampire Slayer TV Episodes**

Two *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* TV episodes are screened weekly. For more info see [www.illuvideo.com](http://www.illuvideo.com). @Spider House, 8pm; free.

**Frida (2002)** D: Julie Taymor; with Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina, Geoffrey Rush, Ashley Judd, Antonio Banderas. (R, 123 min.) Salma Hayek inhabits the body and soul of the legendary Mexican artist. (\*) @Ventana del Soul (1834 E. Oltorf), 7pm; \$2.

## WEDNESDAY 11

**10 Under 10 2005 Texas Documentary Tour.**

This collection of 10 documentaries (all under 10 minutes) has been made by RTF students at the University of Texas and represents a diversity of subjects and styles. Included in the program are Josh Kinney's "Invincible," SunHee Cho's "K-Town, Texas," Caroline Hoffman's "Toilet Seat King," Naiti Gamez's "Luke," Jeanne Stern's "Sophie's Story" and "Spiral," Douglas Perkins' "My Life as the American West," Karem Sanga's "Brian and Lazzio," Devon Ryan's "Holy Crap," and Berndt Mader's "Paydirt." (The filmmakers will be present following their screenings for Q&As. See story in Screens section, p.60.) @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm; \$6, \$4 AFS members.

**Dr. Tarr's Torture Dungeon (1972)** D: Juan López Moctezuma; with Claudio Brook, Arthur Hansel, Ellen Sherman. (R, 88 min.) **Weird Wednesdays.** Asylum inmates take over the institution. @Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

**Nudge 2.0: A Micro Digital Film Festival (2005)** D: Various. (NR, 0 min.) **Austin FilmWorks.** This is the third installment of screenings of final film projects made by students in Production One and Two classes at Austin FilmWorks. The two-evening event includes short films and *The Breakdance Kid*, an independently produced feature. Student-

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See p.90 for Showtimes

**Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure (2003)** D: Mike Slee; narrated by Judi Dench. (NR, 40 min.) Little Borneo bugs become big, three-dimensional insects through the powers of this IMAX spectacle.

**Mexico (2000)** D: Lorena M. Parlee; narrated by Martin Sheen. (NR, 43 min.) Using gorgeous cinematography fit for a travel brochure, quotes from the writings of Carlos Fuentes, and velvety voiceover narration by Martin Sheen (né Estevez), *Mexico* shows the various strands of indigenous and imported Spanish culture that combine to create the modern Mexico of today. The English-language version will screen at 10am, and the Spanish-language version screens at noon for one week only, in honor of Cinco de Mayo. (\*)

**Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature (2003)** D: George Casey; narrated by Kevin Bacon. (NR, 40 min.) Earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornados: Rarely has subject matter been better suited to the spectacle of the big screen. This film provides visual explanations of the precipitating factors that cause natural disasters to occur, and footage of the scientists and engineers who are trying to circumvent them. (\*)

**Texas: The Big Picture (2003)** D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. The film won't do anything to bust the tried-and-true stereotypes about native Texans or the state's history, but here in Texas we tend to like it that way.

**The Young Black Stallion (2003)** D: Simon Wincer; with Richard Romanus, Biana Tamimi, Patrick Elyas. (G, 45 min.) Envisioned as a prequel to 1979's beautiful adventure tale *The Black Stallion*, this new film is Disney's first narrative movie made expressly for the IMAX screen. It stars Austin teenager Biana Tamimi, who was discovered following an international talent search (for more on Tamimi's debut see [austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-12-26/screens\\_feature2.html](http://austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-12-26/screens_feature2.html)). (\*)

produced shorts include "Clyde Baxter," "Cloves," and "The Noose" from Production Two, 15 five-minute shorts from Production One, and several invitational shorts. @Arbor, 7pm; \$6.

**Steamboy (2004)** @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm. (See Tue., 05/10)

**The Silence (1963)** @Paramount, 7:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Tue., 05/10)

**Through a Glass Darkly (1961)** @Paramount, 9:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Tue., 05/10)

**OTHER SPACES**

**Bombies (2002)** D: Jack Silberman. (NR, 57 min.) **Human Rights Video Project.** Investigates the ongoing problem of unexploded cluster bombs remaining in Laos and being used elsewhere. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by Tom Moran of the Austin Public Library. For more info see [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library). @Little Walnut Creek Library, 7pm; free.

**THURSDAY 1 2**

**Autumn Sonata (1978)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Ingrid Bergman, Liv Ullmann, Lena Nyman. (PG, 99 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** Ingrid Bergman is cast as a famed pianist who has ignored her children in favor of her career. When she visits her daughter, Liv Ullmann, whom she hasn't seen in many years, fireworks ultimately erupt and the pent-up emotions of decades come tumbling out. @Paramount, 7:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

**Cries and Whispers (1972)** D: Ingmar Bergman; with Harriet Andersson, Kari Sylwan, Ingrid Thulin, Liv Ullmann. (R, 106 min.) **A Tribute to Ingmar Bergman.** In the late 1800s, two sisters and their servant watch a third sister on her deathbed. Through flashbacks and actions in the present, their individual stories unfold and their legacy of deception and callousness emerges. @Paramount,

9:15pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

**Flicker Film Festival** See p.92.

**Nudge 2.0: A Micro Digital Film Festival (2005)** @Arbor, 7pm; \$6. (See Wed., 05/11)

**Steamboy (2004)** @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Tue., 05/10)

**Wet Hot American Summer (2001)** D: David Wain; with Marisa Ryan, Michael Ian Black. (R, 97 min.) Spoof of old summer-camp sexcapades is performed by a sprawling cast of comedic hams, largely culled from the comedy troupe the State. (\*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid.

**OTHER SPACES**

**512 Film Night** D: Various. The work of nine emerging filmmakers will screen, including Pritesh N. Chheda's "The Package," Evan Torchin and James Webb's "Life Against Memory," Robie Kentspeth's "The Real You," Jeffery Travis' "Evil Twinkie," Jim Stedman's "Jason and the High Cost of Electricity," Arnie Reyes' "I Feel Your Pain," Jose Lauro Mata's "Excuse Me" and "What a Man's Gotta Do," and the video for Reckless Kelly's "Stick Around," directed by Peter Zavadil. Attendance is limited, and RSVP is required. See [www.amspg.com/512filmmight](http://www.amspg.com/512filmmight) for instructions, map, and complete schedule. @AMS Production Group Studios, 6pm.

**Raising Arizona (1987)** D: Joel Coen; with Nicolas Cage, Holly Hunter, Trey Wilson, John Goodman, William Forsythe. (PG-13, 92 min.) **Movies in the Park.** Celebrate Mother's Day. Entertainment begins at 7pm; movie begins at dusk. Dogs, picnics, kids, and lawn chairs are encouraged, but alcohol is prohibited. Refreshments will be on sale and benefit the Austin Parks Foundation. (\*) @Republic Square Park, 8pm; free.

**Young Frankenstein (1974)** D: Mel Brooks; with Gene Hackman, Kenneth Mars, Cloris Leachman, Madeline Kahn. (PG, 105 min.) Hip-hop music from Arnie Sykes will be followed by Mel Brooks' spoof of the old Universal horror movie. Music starts at 7:30pm. (\*) @Jo's Hot Coffee, 8:30pm; free.

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# music listings



## Arturo Sandoval

ONE WORLD THEATRE, FRIDAY 6

The passion of Afro-Cuban jazz comes alive the moment this fiery trumpeter hits the stage. Star of legendary Seventies Cuban juggernaut Irakere, Sandoval later defected with his family while on tour in Europe and is now a naturalized U.S. citizen. He's a charismatic performer who can excite you with his daring, stratospheric high notes while romanticizing you with his warm, glowing tone. Don't be surprised if he sits down at the piano.

— Jay Trachtenberg

## Rilo Kiley

STUBB'S, FRIDAY 6

En route to their Coachella debut, L.A. quartet Rilo Kiley had a stop to make first: opening for Coldplay at the Hard Rock Cafe in Vegas.

"I don't really know what to expect," allows drummer Jason Boesel, killing time at the band's hotel across the street. "It's the 25th anniversary of the Hard Rock, and tickets are, like, \$350. We don't normally play such shows."

Even \$350 would be a bargain for many in Rilo Kiley's fan base, growing faster than ever thanks to last year's *More Adventurous* (Brute/Beaute). The reason, thinks Boesel, lies in the stark contrast between the band's sunny arrangements and their sometimes uncomfortably candid lyrics.

"There seems to be an unintentional habit we have of pairing really happy-sounding music with depressing sentiments," he says. "For some reason, that really appeals to people. The combination ends up as some weird sense of hopefulness."

Started in 1998 by former child actors Jenny Lewis and Blake Sennett, with Sennett's high school buddy Pierre de Reeder on bass, the band broke through with 2002's *The Execution of All Things*, which put Rilo Kiley on indie rock's A-list. Recorded in Lincoln, Neb., the album shivers in the ice, winter, and general frigidity.



"I don't think any of us had ever experienced prolonged weather such as that," says Boesel. "In some cases I think it's a useful metaphor for emotionally seizing up, or what have you."

Rilo Kiley's reception last October at Emo's was anything but cold. Despite a downpour of biblical proportions, the sold-out crowd was beside itself with adoration, and the band responded in kind.

"No one left, and they were just going nuts in the rain," says Boesel. "It was awesome."

— Christopher Gray

*Neva Dinova opens. Weather forecast is partly cloudy, no rain.*

## Darediablo ROOM 710, FRIDAY 6

New York trio Darediablo's gritty new shoot-out, *Twenty Paces* (Southern), duels out good, bad, and ugly frontier justice, guitar hombre Jake Garcia squaring off against organ-grinder Matt Holford while drummer Chad Royce beats it for cover. "Apache Chicken," "The Bells of Goliad," and the desperate "Billy Got Worse" summon epic battles with all the stomping instrumental expertise of mercenaries scoring a silent Western. Locals Invincible Czars, Ant Man Bee, and La La Land return the hot lead.

— Raoul Hernandez

## Dangerous Toys RED EYED FLY, SATURDAY 7

It's been 10 years since Jason McMaster told the *Chronicle*, "I just can't sing songs or write lyrics about my dick anymore. That shoo-bada-mamanna, penis reference shit is over." Never say never. Like the Arc Angels, the Dangerous Toys' semiregular reunion shows have suggested great bands don't necessarily have to stay active to stay vital. That foundation of big-bottomed, ZZ-style boogie and a stage show that hasn't lost a step add up to much more than mere nostalgia.

— Andy Langer

## The Sword

EMO'S, SATURDAY 7

Fresh off an opening spot for Trail of Dead, you can expect Austin Doom peddlers the Sword to deliver the same punishing riffage and black metal you've come to know and love, now with 50% more decibels! They'll get by with a little help from local thrashers Sea of Thousand (ex-Employer, Employee), Seattle ass crushers Akimbo, and the low-end bombastics of Austin's SteerS. Dress code casual, all black please.

— Audra Schroeder



AUBREY EDWARDS

## African Showboyz

FLAMINGO CANTINA, SATURDAY 7

Five Ghanaian brothers, the African Showboyz have garnered intercontinental acclaim with their multifaceted show of West African music and dance. The fire twirling and glass eating doesn't hurt either. The Boyz have worked with Eek-a-Mouse, Fela and Femi Kuti, Speech (Arrested Development), Alpha Blundy, and the late, great, percussion godhead Babatunde Olatunji. Building on last year's *Brothers Bold* (Blue Cow), the quintet is rhythmic and spiritual on stage, with an occasional Bob Marley tune added for good measure.

— David Lynch

## Marcia Ball BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, SUNDAY 8

With this show the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum launches a brand-new monthly live music series called the Spirit of Texas Music. For Mother's Day, this show highlights Texas women with performances by Marcia Ball — whose new live disc is a treat — blues diva Jane Bond, and the self-described "all girl, all star Southern Rock" of Sis Deville Shelley King, with Carolyn Wonderland, and Floramay Holliday.

— Jim Caligiuri

## Angels of Light

EMO'S, MONDAY 9

It's a far cry from Michael Gira's gothic Swans, but Angels of Light retain the mythical resonance of his Eighties incarnate. New disc *The Angels of Light Sing "Other People"* (Young God) streams an older Gira through a Stan Ridgway formula: lengthy stories of unique characters set in strange environments blown by a Man in Black vox. As on disc, Gira will be backed and supported by fellow Young God New Yorkers Akron/Family. Dallas' Pilotdrift opens.

— Darcie Stevens



Michael Gira

## Mice Parade, Boom Bip

THE PARISH, TUESDAY 10

You can tell a lot about someone from their tools. In the case of NYC's Adam Pierce (aka Mice Parade), it's deuce drum kits, Rhodes, nylon-string guitar, Ku-cheng (Chinese harp), violin, and vibes, fashioning sounds that are both acoustic and digital, rhythmic and melodic. Pierce — drummer in Múm, Swirlies, the Dylan Group, and HIM — also heads Bubble Core Records, who just released Mice Parade's *Bem-Vinda Vontade*. The Sunday afternoon sunbeam/Eurotechno thriller soundtrack of Cincinnati's Boom Bip opens.

— David Lynch

## Super Heavy Goat Ass, RPG

ROOM 710, WEDNESDAY 11

There's music that gets you sweaty, and music that makes you crave barbecue and beer — the kind of gnarly rock that makes you feel like taking five showers afterward. Austin's Super Heavy Goat Ass fires rounds off its new Arclight Records pounder *60,000 Years*, assuring that no armpit will be left unperspired. Virginian labelmates RPG, whose new *Fulltime* shoots Sugary tension through classic rock muscle, supports. Hognose and Possum Belly keep the masses stewed.

— Audra Schroeder

## IN-STORES

Friday: **L'Amant**, **Back Porch Vipers**, Cheapo Discs, 5pm

Monday: **Canvas**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Tuesday: **Robert Earl Keen**, Waterloo Live on the Plaza, 5pm

Thursday: **Marcia Ball**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

## Soundcheck BY DARCIE STEVENS



### THE FALL COLLECTION EP RELEASE

*The Parish, Friday 6*

Local power poppers rock their way into Austin hearts with their self-titled debut EP.

### GLENN TILBROOK & THE FLUFFERS

*Antone's, Friday 6*

Tilbrook puts the Squeeze on the 21st century.

### CHILI COLD BLOOD

*Hole in the Wall, Friday 6*

The local dirty blues trio preaches, *Jesus' Comin' ... I'm the Fuck You Up Man*.

### TOSCA & GLOVER GILL

*Cactus Cafe, Saturday 7*

The stringed beauties return home.

### BRIGHT & HOLLOW SKY CD RELEASE

*Carousel Lounge, Saturday 7*

Austin indie rockers offer bass-driven *Gem State*.

### BELAIRE, OLD-TIMERZ, DUMB HAIRCUTS

*Redrum, Sunday 8*

Get silly and dance with this local trifecta.

### BOXCAR SATAN, THE GRAVES BROTHERS DELUXE

*Room 710, Monday 9*

San Antonio rock & roll and San Fran dark garage.

### HARDCORE COUNTRY

*Broken Spoke, Tuesday 10*

James White and Alvin Crow's trad country all-stars.

### BROWNOUT!

*Whisky Bar, Wednesday 11*

The funky side of Grupo Fantasma.

### WHY?

*Emo's, Thursday 12*

The brothers Wolf master genre-crossing, layered indie rock on new Anticon EP *Sanddollars*.

### ADAM CARROLL CD RELEASE

*Threadgill's World HQ,*

*Thursday 12*

The local songwriter plays *Far Away Blues*.

live music VENUES ▶ p.100

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▶ p.102

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FRIDAY MAY 6 • 10PM  
**CHARLES THIBODEAUX and the Bayou Drifters**

TUESDAY MAY 10  
**BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM**  
**GENE TAYLOR of the blasters 8PM**

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Fri 6  
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**Ray O'Hara** 9pm

Sat 7  
**Johnny Goudie & Todd Wolfson**  
**Dragonfly Jones** 9pm

Sun DJ Tomas 4pm Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan 8pm  
 Mon's Adoniram Lipton ~ Jack Wilson & Elliot Cole  
 Tues' Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory 8:30pm  
 Wed 11 Scott Hawley ~ Jeff Luna 8pm

thur 12 Matt Williams ~ the Hudson's CD recording  
 fri 13 Southpaw Jones ~ Hudson's (CD recording)  
 sat 14 Porter Davis ~ Colin Brooks

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**Sat May 7**  
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**Tosca String Quartet & Glover Gill**



**Mon May 9**  
*New Austin Songwriter Fest*  
**Maggie Walters ★ Will Barbee**  
**Gary Graves ★ Idgy Vaughn ★ Molly Venter**  
 7:30PM ★ Free Show!

**Tue May 10**  
 CD Release ★ Free Show ★ 8:30pm  
**The Back Porch Vipers**  
 Karen Abrahams ★ Slim Richey ★ Richard Bowden  
 Chip Dolan ★ Francie Meauxjeaux ★ Richard Bowden

**Wed May 11**  
*An Evening with*  
**Georgia Middleman**  
 8:30pm



**Thur May 12**  
*Back at the Cactus*  
**Ian Moore**



**Fri May 13**  
**Kevin Welch**  
 Guest Star ★ Walk Wilkins




**Sat May 14**  
**Susan Gibson**



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The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union Building. Happy Hour 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets at the door & all shows at 9pm unless otherwise noted.  
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PAM PELTZ

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ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS  
CLOUD 8 • LOVE BUCKET

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<b>THURSDAY</b>	Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers Sigmund Fraud	[9:00] [11:00]
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Elizabeth Donihoo Dewato DJ Mel & David Miranda	[6:30] [8:00] [10:00]
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Mumbo Jumbo DJ's	[10:00]

# Tambaleo

<b>SUNDAY</b>	DJ GOBOT	[9:00]
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	HipHop Karaoke W/ DJ MEL AND DAVID MIRANDA	[10:00]

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FRI., MAY 6 **DALE WATSON**

SAT., MAY 7 **DERAILERS**

TUE., MAY 10 **JAMES M. WHITE & ALVIN CROW**

WED., MAY 11 **WILL HARREL**

PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

**CONTINENTAL**

**THURS. MAY 5**  
HAPPY HOUR  
**DENNY FREEMAN**

**MON. MAY 9**  
HAPPY HOUR 6:30  
**PARIS '49**  
**DALE WATSON**

**TUESDAY, MAY 10**  
HAPPY HOUR  
**TONI PRICE**  
+ **DOAK SHORT**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11**  
HAPPY HOUR  
**GARY CLARK JR.**

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**  
AND **FRIDAY, MAY 13**  
★ **TWO NIGHTS** ★  
★ **NON SMOKING SHOWS** ★  
6:30 THUR. HAPPY HOUR  
**DENNY FREEMAN**

**FRIDAY, MAY 6**  
HAPPY HOUR  
**BLUES SPECIALISTS**  
**D.B. HARRIS**  
FAREWELL SHOW

**SATURDAY, MAY 7**  
COUNTRY MATINEE 3-7PM  
**REDD VOLKAERT**  
12AM

**SUNDAY, MAY 8**  
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT** AND  
**EARL POOLE BALL**

**11:30PM**  
**TYRANT OF TX FUNK**  
**BARFIELD**

**10PM**  
**ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**

**8PM**  
★★★★★ **LATER** ★★★★★★  
**ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO**

**10:30PM**  
**DALE WATSON**  
**JAMES INTVELD**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**  
MATINEE 3-7PM  
**LARISSA GRADY**  
**SCOTT BIRAM**

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**NON-SMOKING HAPPY HOUR MONDAY 6PM**

**Thu 05**

**1920S CLUB** Margaret Wright (8:30)  
**311 CLUB** Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)  
**ALICE'S RESTAURANT** John Vandiver Chicken-Fried Steak Tribute w/ Shake Russell  
**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Stormy  
**ANTONE'S** Rockerfest w/ Balistica, Zayra Alvarez, Mad Mexicans, Vallejo  
**ARARAT** Cinco de Mayo w/ the Forbidden Blues, Emin Navarro  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Chris Gage & Michael Austin  
**BACK ROOM** Mewyn, Whore of Babylon, Scattered Remains  
**BIG RED SUN** Sustainable Food Center Benefit w/ Kinky Friedman (6:30)  
**BOOMERZ** Jamie  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes  
**CACTUS CAFE** Ed Miller  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Underwater Sleep Project  
**CEDAR STREET** Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** South Austin Jug Band  
**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Rich Harney (7:00)  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** David Holt, Eleven Hundred Springs (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Out of Phase  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** The Brew  
**COTTON CLUB** Outlaw Underground  
**DALE'S ESSENHAUS** Karaoke  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Small Stars Revue, Ricky Broussard's 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Pete Rodriguez Quartet (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Puppy 38  
**EMO'S** Straight Jackets, Completer Control, Krum Bums  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** John Emory

**FIESTA GARDENS** Cinco de Mayo Music Fest Fiesta Stage: Raza Humilde, Joel Guzman; Town Lake Stage: Mensaje, Jaime y los Chamacoas (6:30)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** I Voted for Kodos (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Jayson Bales, Graham Wilkinson (8:00)  
**THE FOUNDATION** Coy West  
**GIDDY UP'S** Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Michael Ballew  
**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Austin Civic Wind Ensemble (6:30)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Will Sexton, Joe Ramos, Pia Ramos, Rick Fuentes & Bobby Fuentes, Monsters of the Midway (6:00)  
**HANOVER'S** Karaoke  
**HEADHUNTERS** Ray Cashman, L'Amant, Black Joe Lewis  
**HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE** L'Amant  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Stan Killian Trio (7:00)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Pam Peltz, Darling New Neighbors, Ethan Azarian (10:00)  
**JO'S HOT COFFEE** Gary Primich & the First Thursday All-Stars (7:30)  
**JOHNNY FINNS** DJ Your Way (7:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)  
**LATITUDE 30** F.E.E.L. w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N., Rob Scullion, Tall Dave  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), 8 Million Stories (9:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Steve Carlson Bad, Meatwood, Alligator Dave  
**MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS** David Webb  
**MOMOS** Rachel Loy, Stephen Clarke, Ryan Desiato, Michael Romero (8:00)  
**MOON RIVER** Devon Heath  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Blues Jam w/ Ted Hall (7:30)  
**NAT'S PUB** Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Texas Renegades

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is generally Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

**THE OASIS** Guy Forsyth  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Raquel  
**OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD** Shane Bartell (8:30)  
**OSLO** Flashback Thursday w/ DJ Mel  
**THE PARISH** Augustana, Stereophonics  
**PLUSH** DJ Phytteen  
**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Al  
**RED EYED FLY** Dreamt the End, Failsafe, Fair to Midland  
**RED'S SCOOT INN** The Nortons  
**REDRUM** Paul's Garage, Faith 257, Subrosa Union, Dirty White Boys  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)  
**RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK** Prentice James  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Karaoke  
**ROADHOUSE** Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Cotton Inks  
**RUTA MAYA** Guy Forsyth, Austin Daze w/ Echobase, Hairy Apes BMX (6:00)  
**SABA BLUE WATER CAFE** Jeff Strange (10:00)

roadshows

**MAY**

**THU 5**

**Shake Russell**, Alice's Restaurant  
**Mad Mexicans**, Zayra Alvarez, Antone's  
**Eleven Hundred Springs**, Continental Club  
**I Voted for Kodos**, Flamingo Cantina  
**Stereophonics**, Augustana, the Parish  
**Failsafe**, Red Eyed Fly  
**Benevento-Russo Duo**, Stubb's  
**Benevento-Russo Duo**, Waterloo Records

**FRI 6**

**Glenn Tilbrook & the Fluffers**, Gabriel Mann, Antone's  
**Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez**, Cactus Cafe  
**L'Amant**, Cheapo Discs  
**Melvin Sparks**, Elephant Room  
**The Ponys**, Emo's  
**Arturo Sandoval**, One World Theatre  
**Graves Brothers Deluxe**, Red Eyed Fly

**Darediablo**, Room 710

**Hog Legg** Ellis, Saengerhalle  
**The Greencards**, Saxon Pub  
**Rilo Kiley**, Neva Dinova, Stubb's

**SAT 7**

**Big Wu**, Olospo, Antone's  
**Muse**, Razorlight, Austin Music Hall  
**Vehemence**, Crematorium, the Red Death, the Losa, Back Room  
**Inside: Akimbo; Outside: British Sea Power**, Feist, Emo's  
**African Showboyz**, Flamingo Cantina  
**Abhijit Banerjee**, Kushal Das, George Washington Carver Museum  
**The Rocketz**, Headhunters  
**Pale**, Stubb's

**SUN 8**

**Early: Bowling for Soup**, American Hi-Fi; **Later: The Life & Times**, Emo's  
**Captured! by Robots**, Red Eyed Fly

**MON 9**

**Angels of Light**, Akron/Family, Pilotdrift, Emo's  
**Rising Up Out of the Sea**, Headhunters  
**Boxcar Satan**, Graves Brothers Deluxe, Room 710

**TUE 10**

**Mice Parade**, Boom Bip, the Parish  
**R Rated Kids**, Redrum

**WED 11**

**Justin King & the Apologies**, Bigsby's  
**Southerly**, Church of the Friendly Ghost  
**Hey Mike**, Drake Equation, Emo's  
**Decibators**, Shame Club, Redrum  
**RPG**, Room 710

**THU 12**

**Why?, Loxsly**, Emo's  
**MOPA**, the Funeral, Pale, Flamingo Cantina  
**Keith Anderson**, Stubb's  
**OCS Traveling World Show**, Whisky Bar

see austinchronicle.com for complete listings

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**TUE JUL 12**

**CAFÉ TACVBA**

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**SAT JUL 23**

**John Hiatt**  
and North Mississippi Allstars

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## IN THE CLUB

**THU MAY 5**  
**BENEVENTO RUSSO DUO**  
WITH **JOHN BIZZ**

**FRI MAY 6**  
**KELLEY HUNT**

**SAT MAY 7**  
**ENDOCHINE**  
WITH **FRIENDS OF LIZZY ARTHUR YORIA AND PALE**

**GOSPEL BRUNCH SUN MAY 8**  
WITH **THE DURDENS**

**WED MAY 11**  
**BO JONES**  
WITH **HATCHBACK**

**KASE 101 NEW FACE SHOWCASE**  
**KEITH ANDERSON**  
FRI MAY 13 - FREE SHOW!

**REBIRTH BRASS BAND**

**SAT MAY 14**  
**TUCKER LIVINGSTON**  
WITH **DAVID NEWBOULD** AND **SHANE BARTELL**

**TUE MAY 17**  
**ARI HEST**  
WITH **ASLYN**

**WED MAY 18**  
**MAKTUB**  
WITH **SCRATCH TRACK**

**THU MAY 26**  
**OLIVER FUTURE**  
WITH **STEELTRAIN AND LIMBECK**

**FRI MAY 27**  
**DISHWALLA**  
**FRI JUN 3**  
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Ocean Forest...\$15\*\* (10+...\$14\*\*)

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club listings << FROM THURSDAY

**SAENGERHALLE** Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison  
**SAXON PUB** James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Billy D  
**SKY LOUNGE** Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M  
**SPEAKEASY** King James (9:30)  
**STARS COFFEE** Stardust Jazz Jam (7:00)  
**STUBB'S** Benevento-Russo Duo  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Bad Influence  
**THE VELVET SPADE** VISION feat. Downbeat w/ Architektur  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** The Mother Truckers, the Downliners (8:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Los Gallos, R.C. Banks  
**TROPHY'S** Patrick Godbey  
**THE VIBE** Plane of Existence, Moving Matter, Grackle  
**VUE DJ AM**  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** The Hudsons (6:00)  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Benevento-Russo Duo (5:00)  
**WHOLE FOODS MARKET** Carolyn Wonderland (6:00)  
**Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Cinco de Mayo w/ Floramay Holliday, Shelley King (7:00)  
**Z'TEJAS GRILL** Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** The Hudsons  
**CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST** Austin People's Legal Collective Benefit w/ Woody Helmet, Probate Clerks, Cue  
**CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB** Mike Clifford & Jeff Tverraas  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30), Cornell Hurd Band, D.B. Harris (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Jawbreaker  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons, Global Soul, DJ Fabian (8:30)  
**COTTON CLUB** Cotton Pickers (8:30)  
**THE COUNTY LINE BAR-B-Q** Guys With Guitars  
**DAN MCKLUSKY'S** Bobby Doyle (7:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**THE DRISKILL** Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldzhey (6:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Abra Moore (8:00)  
**EGO'S** Crawling With Kings, Billy Dee (8:30)  
**ELEMENT** DJ 2DQ (10:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** 34th Street Trio (6:00), Gnappy, Melvin Sparks (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Machine in the Garden  
**EMO'S** Camp X-Ray, Faceless Werewolves, the Ponys  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Charles Thibodeaux & the Bayou Drifters  
**FADO** The Onion  
**FIESTA GARDENS** Cinco de Mayo Music Fest Fiesta Stage: La Traizion, Eddie Gonzales, K1; Town Lake Stage: Joe Jama, Roberto Pulido (6:00)  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Erick Sanger Benefit w/ Velorum, the Lampshade Serenade, the Cutaway (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Ray O'Hara, Matt the Electrician (9:00)  
**GIDDY UP'S** Wake Eastman (9:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN** SALOON Bear & the Essentials (9:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Patty McLean  
**GREEN MUSE CAFE** Adam Turner, Raquel Orsini (7:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoI Bros. (6:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkeys, Resonate, the Lifters, Teabag, Super Heavy Goat Ass  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Summer Erickson, Ricky Stein, Black Joe Lewis, Chili Cold Blood (8:00)  
**JAVA ROCKS** Pat Garvey (7:00)  
**K LOUNGE + KITCHEN** Jeff Strange (11:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim  
**LOVE** Ginger Leigh Band (8:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Primm (8:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** The Valentines, Animus, Plinko  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (6:30)  
**MOJO'S DAILY GRIND** Low Line Caller (9:00)  
**MOMOS** Futurecast, Alex Woodard & Creed Williams, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)  
**MOON RIVER** The Swinging Johnsons

**THE OASIS** The Eggmen  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Capitol Suspects  
**OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL** Micah Harris & Ramblin' Fever  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Arturo Sandoval (7:00, 9:30)  
**OSLO** DJ Kurv, DJ Roger Wilson  
**THE PALLADIUM** Vibe  
**PARDNERS** DJ Dancin' Don (7:00)  
**THE PARISH** Fall Collection CD Release, the Real Heroes, Oliver Future  
**THE PIER** The Big Time (7:00)  
**PLUSH** BLAKK w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N. (10:00)  
**THE PUB** Dewayne Davis  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)  
**RAGGEDY ANNE'S** Karaoke  
**RED EYED FLY** Ethan Azarian, Tammany Hall Machine, Graves Brothers Deluxe, the Bigamy Sisters  
**REDRUM** Ohma, Cicada 17, Following the Fallout, Ill Fix, Freebleeder  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Mr. Fabulous  
**RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK** 4:19  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Dukes of Haphazzard  
**ROADHOUSE** Fusion  
**ROOM 710** La La Land, Ant Man Bee, Darediablo, the Invincible Czars  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Turtle Creek  
**ROY'S AUSTIN** Combo Mahalo  
**RUTA MAYA** Subrosa Union, Toumai (9:00)  
**SAENGERHALLE** Hog Legg Ellis  
**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Open Mic w/ Jeff McCrary (8:30)  
**SAMPAIO'S** Central Time, Joel Shuler (7:15)  
**SAXON PUB** The Greencards, Robyn Ludwick, The Regulars (6:30)  
**SHENANIGANS** David Latimer  
**SKI SHORES** Stephen Doster (5:30)  
**SPIROS** Baccaabajo (11:00)  
**STARDUST CLUB** Melissa Sellers  
**STARS COFFEE** Jahrel w/ James Graves (7:00)  
**STUBB'S** Neva Dinova, Riilo Kiley  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Krackerjack w/ Bruce Bowland, Uncle John Turner, John Stahley, Tommy Shannon (9:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Zydeco Blanco (6:00), Lemurs, What Made Milwaukee Famous, Stacy Steger (9:00)  
**TRIUMPH CAFE** Rick Steinburg & the Stonecastle Family Band (7:00), Scott Hawley (7:30)  
**THE VIBE** Subrosa Union, Quixote Joe, the Civilians, One Year Leap Day, Astoria Arms (8:00)  
**VUE** Mumbojumbo w/ DJ Supafly, DJ AM, Nathan Castle, Mike C.  
**THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ R.J.  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Mike Austin  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** UT Brazilian & Afro Pop Ensemble, Radio Empire  
**YOGI'S** Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (8:00)  
**Z'TEJAS GRILL** Tres (7:00)

Fri 06

**219 WEST** DJ Trace  
**311 CLUB** Catherine Denise, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)  
**ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Jan Seides, Purlly Gates, (Jim & Larry's) Occasional Band  
**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** The Chevelles  
**ANTONE'S** Gabriel Mann, Glenn Tilbrook & the Fluffers  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** George Enslé  
**AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR** Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)  
**BACK ROOM** Trepanation, 57 State, Transparency, Dirty Wormz  
**BOOMERZ** The Beamers  
**BOUT TIME** DJ Kim Hicks  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Dale Watson  
**BROWN BAR** DJ Gray, Steven Ripley (9:00)  
**BUSTER'S BBQ** Paul Cox (7:00)  
**CACTUS CAFE** Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez  
**CAFE MUNDI** Cinco de Mayo/TULA Benefit w/ Nelson Saga, Lalo y Recuerdos de Zacateca, Troy Dillinger (7:00)  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (6:00), T. Jarrro (6:30)  
**CEDAR STREET** John Pointer (6:00), T.U.B. (9:30)  
**CENTRAL MARKET CAFE** Donna Hightower  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Cooper's Uncle  
**CHEAPO DISCS** Back Porch Vipers (5:00), L'Amant (6:00)

**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Erick Sanger Benefit w/ Velorum, the Lampshade Serenade, the Cutaway (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Ray O'Hara, Matt the Electrician (9:00)  
**GIDDY UP'S** Wake Eastman (9:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN** SALOON Bear & the Essentials (9:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Patty McLean  
**GREEN MUSE CAFE** Adam Turner, Raquel Orsini (7:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** LeRoI Bros. (6:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkeys, Resonate, the Lifters, Teabag, Super Heavy Goat Ass  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Summer Erickson, Ricky Stein, Black Joe Lewis, Chili Cold Blood (8:00)  
**JAVA ROCKS** Pat Garvey (7:00)  
**K LOUNGE + KITCHEN** Jeff Strange (11:00)  
**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim  
**LOVE** Ginger Leigh Band (8:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Primm (8:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** The Valentines, Animus, Plinko  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (6:30)  
**MOJO'S DAILY GRIND** Low Line Caller (9:00)  
**MOMOS** Futurecast, Alex Woodard & Creed Williams, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)  
**MOON RIVER** The Swinging Johnsons

**THE OASIS** The Eggmen  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Capitol Suspects  
**OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL** Micah Harris & Ramblin' Fever  
**ONE WORLD THEATRE** Arturo Sandoval (7:00, 9:30)  
**OSLO** DJ Kurv, DJ Roger Wilson  
**THE PALLADIUM** Vibe  
**PARDNERS** DJ Dancin' Don (7:00)  
**THE PARISH** Fall Collection CD Release, the Real Heroes, Oliver Future  
**THE PIER** The Big Time (7:00)  
**PLUSH** BLAKK w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N. (10:00)  
**THE PUB** Dewayne Davis  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)  
**RAGGEDY ANNE'S** Karaoke  
**RED EYED FLY** Ethan Azarian, Tammany Hall Machine, Graves Brothers Deluxe, the Bigamy Sisters  
**REDRUM** Ohma, Cicada 17, Following the Fallout, Ill Fix, Freebleeder  
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**THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ R.J.  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Mike Austin  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** UT Brazilian & Afro Pop Ensemble, Radio Empire  
**YOGI'S** Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (8:00)  
**Z'TEJAS GRILL** Tres (7:00)

# COYOTE UGLY

AUSTIN, TEXAS Saloon

ATTENTION ALL MEN!

## NO MORE TIES!!

TIES OUTLAWED IN ALL COYOTE UGLY SALOON LOCATIONS!

2 HAPPY HOURS YOU CAN COUNT ON!  
 MON-FRI 5-7PM  
 SAT&SUN 12-7PM


AUSTIN'S SEXIEST BARTENDERS!

501A E 6TH ST - AUSTIN, TEXAS - 512-236-UGLY

HOURS: MON-FRI 5-2AM  
 SAT-SUN NOON-2AM

AVAILABLE FROM THE TOILET!

FREE DRINKS EVERYDAY



FRI. MAY 6 9PM-1AM  
**BLUE MIDNIGHT**

SAT. MAY 7 9PM-1AM  
**DEWAYNE DAVIS**

SUN. MAY 8 3-6PM  
**MIKE & JESSE KARAOKE WITH STORMY**

1113 RR 620 N. • 266-2219  
 LAKEWAY, TX  
 3 MILES S. OF MANSFIELD DAM

OPEN 7 DAYS  
 SUN 12PM-MID  
 MON-WED 11:30AM-MID  
 THUR-SAT 11:30AM-2AM

BEST PRICES AT THE LAKE



# DRAUGHT HOUSE PUB & BREWERY

VOTED BEST PUB 2003

M 2.75 Guinness & Murphy's Pints  
 T 2.75 ALL PINTS  
 W Free Pizza  
 TH 2.25 House Beers  
 F 2.75 Independence Ale  
 S Free Bratwurst  
 S 1.75 Domestic Pints

fresh this week

## VANILLA PORTER

VOTED BEST PUB 2001

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# THREADGILL'S

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
301 W. RIVERSIDE DR.  
512.472.9304

THURS. 5/5 (8PM)  
**DOWNLINERS**

OPENING SHOW:  
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO

FRI. 5/6 (9PM) **\$10**



**Krackerjack**

TOMMY SHANNON, BRUCE BOWLAND,  
UNCLE JOHN TURNER, DICK SIMS,  
JOHN STAHELY

SAT. 5/7 (7PM) **\$15**



**ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS**

OPENING SHOW: WHITE GHOST SHIVERS  
TICKETS ON SALE THRU FRONT GATE TICKETS

SUN. 5/8 (MOTHER'S DAY) 6PM

11AM GOSPEL BRUNCH **FREE**

**LZ PHOENIX**

**BECK & CALL**  
ROSCOE BECK  
MIKE CROSS  
DAVID MURRAY  
RILEY OSBOURN  
BRANON TEMPIL

WED. 5/11 (8PM) **\$5**

**ALFREDO GUERRERO**

800 FREE PARKING SPACES  
NO COVER FOR KIDS UNDER 12

## UP COMING SHOWS:

5/13	 <b>BILLY JOE SHAVER</b>
	 <b>DALE WATSON</b>
	 <b>YOUNG HEART ATTACK</b>
5/14	 <b>IRENE MASTRANGELI</b>
	 <b>MOUNTAIN</b>
	 <b>STEPHEN BRUTON</b>
	 <b>MONTE MONTGOMERY &amp; CHRIS DUARTE</b>
5/15	 <b>JAMES MCMURTRY</b>
	 <b>GRUPO FANTASMA</b> <i>American Food &amp; Music Southern Style</i>
	 <b>JIMMY LAFAVE</b>

**OLD NO. ONE**  
Oldest live music venue in Austin  
6416 N. LAMAR BLVD.  
512.451.5440

TUES. 5/10 (8:30PM) **FREE**



**CAROLYN WONDERLAND**

TUESDAY'S IN MAY

WWW.THREADGILLS.COM

# THE BACK ROOM

2015 E. Riverside 441-4677 backrm.com

THURSDAY, MAY 5- 9 PM

## SCATTERED REMAINS

**WHORE OF BABYLON**  
**MEYVN**

\$2 PINTS OF MILLER, ICEHOUSE,  
\$5 LONE STAR PITCHERS

FRIDAY, MAY 6- 8 PM

## DIRTY WORMZ

**TRANSPARENCY**  
**57 STATE**  
**TREPANATION**

75 CENT WELL DRINKS 8-10:30  
\$5.50 BUD ICE PITCHERS ALL DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 7- 8 PM- \$5/\$7



**HATCHETWORK**  
**DISTEMPERED**  
**WAR WITHIN**

\$1 WELL DRINKS, \$1 DRAFT BEER 8-10:30

SUN, 5/8: \$1.75 ICEHOUSE, \$5.50 BUSCH PITCHERS  
MON, 5/9: \$1.75 HIGH LIFE LONGNECKS,  
\$5.50 ICEHOUSE PITCHERS  
TUE, 5/10: POOL TOURNAMENT  
\$1.75 BUD, BUD LT., \$5.50 COORS PITCHERS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

**KARAOKE** with Edie  
\$1.75 LONE STAR BOTTLES,  
\$5.50 PITCHERS OF ZIEGENBOCK

THURSDAY, MAY 12

**RED LIGHT DISTRICT**  
**SHELLEY KNIGHT**

May 13

**BACKLIT REVOLVER**  
**CORD STONE**  
**RAINSLIVER**

May 14

**SOLAR FUSE**  
**FAKTION**  
**SPINNING CHAIN EMPATHYS**

5/20: HELL WITHIN, POWDERBURN  
5/21: DISTEMPERED, CIVIAS REUNION  
5/26: SHADOWKEEP,  
MEYVN, IGNITOR  
5/27: IMAGES OF VIOLENCE,  
INSIDIOUS DECREPANCY  
5/28: EXTREME METAL PRESENTS  
WAR WITHIN MALO SUERTE  
MASOCHISM VEX  
NINTH KINGDOM GATES OF ENOCH

\*JUNE 18



ALL AGES

\*ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE  
HERE AT THE BACK ROOM, GETTIX.NET, OR STARTICKETS.COM

# MOMOS Club

618 West 6th Street Above Katz's

• 6th & Rio Grande • 479 8848

FREE WI-FI :: FREE WI-FI ::

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THURSDAY MAY 5 / \$5

**RYAN DESIATO** 11

**STEPHEN CLARKE** 9:30

**RACHEL LOY** 8

**MICHAEL ROMERO** 12:30

FRIDAY MAY 6 / \$10

## SOUTH AUSTIN

**JUG BAND** 11

**ALEX WOODARD & CREED WILLIAMS** 9:30

**FUTURECAST** 8

SATURDAY MAY 7 / \$10

## ANAGEN

CD RELEASE PARTY :: 12

**ULTRASONIC** 10:30

**B.O.I.° TRANSIT WAR** 8

SUNDAY MAY 8

NOW EVERY SUNDAY AT 10!

## WARREN HOOD

& THE HOODLUMS

W/ SETH WALKER & MIKE KELLER

**EDDIE WARREN** 12

**MATT DUNNAM BAND** 7

MONDAY MAY 9

## JOSEPH KING

ACOUSTIC INDULGENCE WITH

**A.J. VALLEJO** 10

**STEPHANIE FIX** 12

**RAVEN** 8:30 **GORDY QUEST** 7

NO COVER AFTER 9:15

TUESDAY MAY 10 / \$5

## PATRICE PIKE

EVERY TUESDAY! 8

**JOY DAVIS** 12

**CLUSTER FUNK** 10

WEDNESDAY MAY 11

**UT ETHNOMUSICOLOGY ENSEMBLES** 7

**STEVE WEDEMEYER** 12

UPCOMING SHOWS

# BREED LOVE

A REUNION MAY 13-14

BROADCAST LIVE ON KLBJ-FM

TICKETS AT ALL FRONT GATE TICKET OUTLETS

WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM / 1-888-512-SHOW

# Nutty Brown CAFE

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301-4648 • NUTTYBROWN.COM



## FRIDAY, MAY • 6

# 98.1 KVET NIGHT

# RECKLESS KELLY

Last Austin Show in May!  
—JUST \$10 COVER! • 8PM—



Live **at the Nutt** **JUST \$3!**  
\$1 GOES TO MIRACLE FOUNDATION  
PLUS, \$3 ZIEGENBOCKS

## SATURDAY, MAY • 7

# SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND

—\$3 COVER • 8PM—

**SUNDAY BRUNCH** BRUNCH BUFFET  
LIVE MUSIC  
GREAT DRINK SPECIALS

◆ Citysearch's Best Martini, Best Dance Club, & Best Date Spot ◆

◆ Austin Chronicle's BEST OF AUSTIN WINNER SINCE '97 ◆

# speakeasy

Austin's "Original Swanky Joint"

BOOK YOUR EVENTS NOW!

## 47-PARTY

Come check out our new heated, covered rooftop for year-round partying!

THURSDAY, MAY 5	<b>CINCO DE MAYO</b> THURSDAY NIGHT JACKET CLUB KING JAMES 9:30PM LADIES FREE
FRIDAY, MAY 6	<b>ROTEL AND THE HOT TOMATOES</b> 9:30PM
SATURDAY, MAY 7	<b>THE BREW</b> 9:30PM
MONDAY, MAY 9	<b>JAMES GOSSETT</b> 9:30PM, FREE SHOW
TUESDAY, MAY 10	<b>JAZZ NIGHT - KKK QUINTET</b> 9:30PM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11	<b>LATIN WEDNESDAY</b> <b>THE BREW</b> 9:30PM Salsa Lessons 10:30PM

PLEASE VOTE "NO" ON THE SMOKING BAN MAY 7

412-D CONGRESS AVE. • 512 476-8017  
(entrance in the alley) [speakeasyaustin.com](http://speakeasyaustin.com)

GIRARD DIVERSIFIED INTEREST

WEDNESDAY 8PM - MIDNIGHT  
**MAY 18, 2005**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF  
**PREMIERE RUM SAMPLING**  
OF RUMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

# RUMBA



SALSA TO THE LIVE LATIN SOUNDS OF  
**CADAQUES**

\$7 PRESALE TICKETS AT CUBA LIBRE  
OR CALL 47-PARTY \$10 AT THE DOOR  
409 COLORADO • WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

GIRARD DIVERSIFIED INTEREST

## Sat 07

**219 WEST** DJ Trace  
**311 CLUB** Randy Pavlock, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)  
**ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Jackson, Turtle Creek, Carolyn Wonderland  
**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Michael Shane Borden  
**ANTONE'S** Olospo, Big Wu (9:30)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Jerry Sires  
**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN** Daytripper, Will Harell & Chris Collins, Stephen Kearly (10:00 am)  
**AUSTIN MUSIC HALL** Razorlight, Muse (8:00)  
**BACK ROOM** Distempered, Hatchetwork, the Losa, the Red Death, Crematorium, Vehemence  
**BIG RED SUN** Sustainable Food Center Benefit: Sara Hickman, Tish Hinojosa (noon)  
**BOOMERZ** Pickle Tink  
**BOUT TIME** DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)  
**BRENTWOOD PARK** Violet Crown Festival: McCallum Steel Drum Band, Dale Watson, Jim Scarborough, Hop Culture, the Good Looks, Patrice Pike (noon)  
**BROKEN SPOKE** The Derailers

**BROWN BAR** David Miranda (10:00)  
**CACTUS CAFE** Tosca & Glover Gill  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Indian Cowboys (5:00), Leo Rondeau, Bright & Hollow Sky CD Release (7:00)  
**CEDAR STREET** Kalico Kings (9:30)  
**CENTRAL MARKET CAFE** Dale Watson  
**CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH** Rob Roy Parnell  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Texas WettneX, Mike Sanford  
**CLUB 21** Ricky Calmbach  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)  
**CONGRESS AT FIFTH** Fiesta Mexico w/ DJ Soto, St. Edwards Mariachi, Patricia Vonne, Cienfuegos (6:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Redd Volkaert (3:00), Gary Clark Jr., Barfield (10:00)  
**COOL RIVER CAFE** Out of Phase  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Salsa Lessons w/ Cesar Vargas, Rhonda Peters, DJ Alvaro Aguilar  
**THE COUNTY LINE BAR-B-Q** Sam Shepherd

**CURRA'S GRILL** Will Dunlap (7:00)  
**DAN MCKLUSKY'S** Mac Bynum (7:30)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** The Recliners  
**THE DRISKILL** Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldziej (6:00)  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Abra Moore (8:00)  
**EGO'S** James Rider & the 420 Turnaround, Back Porch Mary (8:30)  
**ELEMENT** DJ 2DQ (10:00)  
**EMO'S** Inside: SteerS, Sea of Thousand, Akimbo, the Sword; Outside: The Arm, Feist, British Sea Power  
**FIESTA GARDENS** Cinco de Mayo Music Fest Fiesta Stage: Eddie Lalo Torres, C'est La Vie, Tejano Funk, Joe Jama, Ruben Ramos & the Texas Revolution; Town Lake Stage: Toumain, Cuatro por Cuatro, Corasol, Alma Tejana, La Tropa F (1:00)  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ Buckley  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Hip-Hop Roots Ragga w/ D-Madness, African Showboyz (8:30)  
**FLIP'S SATELLITE CAFE** Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Dragonfly Jones, Johnny Goudie & Todd V. Wolfson (9:00)  
**GALAXY CAFE** Paul White Quartet (7:00)

thurs

flashback  
with DJ Mel  
10:00-2:00

fri

DJ Kurv

sat

Mike Swing

tues

Lucy's Wild  
with DJ Shane  
& DJ John Gomi

wed

ATTAYAC  
featuring  
DJ Aaron Morris  
Tee Double  
Ephraim Owens  
El John  
10:00-2:00

oslo

daily tapas under \$5.50

food : drink : dancing  
301 west 6th St 480.9433  
[www.osloaustin.com](http://www.osloaustin.com)  
hrs: tues & wed 8-2, thurs 7-2, fri and sat 6-2

**DJ Mel** Voted  
Austin's best DJ  
by the  
Austin Music Awards

**FLASHBACK**  
thursdays

**MOTOWN  
and FUNK**  
m o n d a y s  
DJ In/Verse

thurs Nuthin' New All Stars 10:00-2:00

fri Tody Castillo 8:30-10:30  
Mike Swing 10:30-2:00

sat KJV 8:30-10:30  
DJ Kurv 10:30-2:00

sun DJ Kurupt 9:00-2:00

mon DJ In/Verse  
motown and funk 9:30-2:00

tues Crayon's Colorful Hour  
of Music 9:00-10:15  
TWIST UP DJ Manny 10:15-2:00

wed GLAM ROCK DJ Linda

**RED FEZ**

209 B West 5th St | 478-5120 | [www.red-fez.com](http://www.red-fez.com)

# LIGHT

**TUESDAY \$4 Frosted Towers**

**WEDNESDAY** "Hump Day Happy Hour"  
Happy Hour specials till 10pm

**THURSDAY** Ladies Night

**FRIDAY LIVE MUSIC @ LIGHT** - on the rooftop  
10pm - 2am, no cover, May 6th  
Austin's hottest bands play @ LIGHT

**SATURDAY** DJ Paul Focus spins in the  
main bar 10-2

**SUNDAY** SIN \$3 drafts \$2 well

open tuesday-sunday 5pm-2am  
happy hour tuesday-friday 5pm-8pm  
for private parties/events call 512-473-8544

CORNER  
4th & Congress

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LIVE MUSIC  
ON THE ROOFTOP

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408 Congress  
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512-473-8544

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# THE PARISH ROOM

214 E.6TH ST. UPSTAIRS AUSTIN TX NON-SMOKING  
info 512.478.6372 ★ www.theparishroom.com

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM  
Waterloo Records FactoryPeople 512.389.0315  
THURS 5/5/5 ..... DOORS 8PM SHOW 8:30PM - NON - SMOKING



**AUGUSTANA**  
TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS  
FRI 5/6/5 ..... DOORS 9:30PM SHOW 10PM NON-SMOKING

**OLIVER FUTURE**  
**THE REAL HEROES**  
**FALL COLLECTION**  
CD RELEASE SHOW  
SAT 5/7/5 ..... DOORS 9PM SHOW 10PM NON-SMOKING

**MONTE MONTGOMERY**  
**ERIC TESSMER BAND**  
TIX ONSALE

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO  
TUES 5/10/5 ..... DOORS 9PM SHOW 9:30PM ALL AGES

**MICE PARADE**  
BUBBLECORE RECORDS TIX ONSALE

**BOOM BIP**  
TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO  
5/13 ..... TIX ONSALE NOW @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**CARIBOU**  
FORMERLY MANITOBA / DOMINO RECORDS  
**JUNIOR BOYS • RUSSIAN FUTURIST**  
5/17 ..... TIX ONSALE NOW @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**RAVEONETTES**  
**AUTOLUX ★ THE PEELS**  
5/18 ..... TIX ONSALE NOW @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**THE PERCEPTIONISTS**  
FEAT: MR. LIF + FAKTS ONE + ARKOBATIK  
5/20 & 21 ..... TIX ONSALE @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**ANTIBALAS AFROBEAT ORCHESTRA**  
2 BIG NIGHTS !! 5/20 w/ BROWNOUT! - 5/21 w/ ECHO BASE  
5/25 ..... TIX ONSALE NOW @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**AUTECHRE**  
5/27 ..... TIX ONSALE NOW @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

**PREFUSE 73**  
TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM  
6/2 STEREO TOTAL 6/3 DREDD 6/5 HEADPHONES / CRYSTAL SKULLS  
6/10 OF MONTREAL 6/14 AQUALUNG 6/15 KASABIAN 6/18 MOSQUITOS  
6/19 JUANA MOLINA 6/24 MOFRO 7/6 EISLEY 7/21 KID 606



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LIVE MUSIC VENUE  
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**GREAT FOOD**  
FULL BAR-ALL AGES!

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT!  
**CORNELL HURD BAND**  
NO COVER! 8-10PM  
WWW.CORNELLHURDBAND.COM

**FRIDAY 5/6**  
9-11PM NO COVER!  
**ONION CREEK CRAWDADDIES**  
7-8:30PM **BLACK WATER GOSPEL**

**SATURDAY 5/7**  
**THE GOURDS** 9-11PM \$12  
7:30-8:30PM **ETHAN AZZARIAN**

**SUNDAY 5/8**  
**"POP" STARS** 6-8PM  
[BADS WHO ROCK] NO COVER!  
NATHAN HAMILTON BEAVER NELSON  
MATT THE ELECTRICIAN MICHAEL FRAGASSI

**TUESDAY 5/10** 8-10PM NO COVER!  
**TEXAS SWING KINGS**  
MARTA MARTA 6:00-7:30PM

**WEDNESDAY 5/11** 8-10PM NO COVER!  
**JON EMERY BAND**

COMING SOON:  
SHELLEY KING 5/13  
AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS 5/14  
JOVITA'S LIVE MUSIC VENUE  
1619 S. 1ST ST 447-7825  
AD BY UNITYDESIGN.NET

## DAVE ATTELL

**THE INSOMNIAC SHOW**

**FRIDAY, MAY 13TH - 9PM**  
**AUSTIN MUSIC HALL**

Comedian Dave Attell, just named one of Entertainment Weekly's 25 Funniest People in America, has appeared on HBO, The Late Show with David Letterman, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart & is the writer & host of Insomniac with Dave Attell.

to WIN tickets to see DAVE ATTELL log on to  
[www.austinchronicle.com/contests](http://www.austinchronicle.com/contests)

TICKET GIVE AWAY

**HAPPY HOUR** 11am - 7pm Mon - Sat

**HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY SUN**

**JAZZ**

AUTHENTIC CAJUN CUISINE ... BOUSSE LES BON TEMPS ROLLER  
214 E.6TH ST., AUSTIN TX 78701 ph (512) 479-0474 fx (512) 479-8646

Fine Louisiana Cuisine featuring Blackened Seafoods, Fresh Boilled Crawfish, Delicious Steaks, Pasta Favorites, Fresh Oysters, and all your favorite Cajun / Creole delights

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BRING IN YOUR PARKING VOUCHER FROM ANY DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE

Bringing the Tastes of New Orleans to Austin for over 15 years!

# DOES AUSTIN NEED A NEW SMOKING BAN?

Of 46,000 businesses in Austin, over 99% are smoke free.  
 No smoking is allowed anywhere children under 18 are present.  
 Over 400 bars are smoke free. Only 200 allow smoking.  
 Only 211 businesses and their employees have chosen to allow smoking in Austin.  
 There should be places for smokers and non-smokers, and there are right now.  
 The Prohibitionists are trying to take away your Freedom of Choice.  
**DON'T LET ANY MORE OF YOUR RIGHTS BE TAKEN AWAY!**

**No SMOKING?!?**  
 It's a bar, Stupid...  
**SAVE LIVE MUSIC!**  
**VOTE NO ON THE BAN!**  
[www.KeepAustinFree.com](http://www.KeepAustinFree.com)

FREE WFL 50-CENT POOL.  
 HADDDY HOUR TL 8PM MONDAY-FRIDAY.

## the side bar

(EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE ON THE SIDE)

602 EAST 7TH ST.  
 322.0697

# HEADHUNTERS

[www.headhuntersclub.com](http://www.headhuntersclub.com)

THU 5/5 > BLACK JOE LEWIS · L'AMANT · RAY CASHMAN FRI 5/6 > SUPER HEAVY GOAT ASS · TEABAG · LIFTERS · RESONATE · MAGICALLY DELICIOUS SMOKING SKUNK MONKEYS SAT 5/7 > CHAD THOMAS & CRAZY KINGS · the ROCKETZ · the TRANSMISSIONS (Patio) · the HARLOTS SUN 5/8 > DISFIGURED · INDISGUST · SCATTERED REMAINS · MEETFIST MON 5/9 > ROMAN GABRIEL · TODD BEAST · RISING UP OUT OF THE SEA (Mobile, AL) · MALCONTENT PARTY TUE 5/10 > KARAOKE UNDERGROUND WED 5/11 > the BAD RACKETS

**Headhunters BBQ Sat. 6-10pm Free Food + 4 Bands**

Bull McCabe's  
 Irish Pub



714 Red River  
 478-4022



live music  
 715 RED RIVER AUSTIN, TEXAS  
 RECEIVED ROOM

HAPPY HOUR 5PM-8PM  
 \$1.50 LONESTAR & PBR TALLBOYS

Thursday MAY 5 **FAIR TO MIDLAND FAILSAFE, DREMINT THE END**

Friday MAY 6 **THE BIGAMY SISTERS THE GRAVES BROTHERS DELUXE TAMMANY HALL MACHINE ETHAN AZARIAN**

Saturday MAY 7 **DANGEROUS TOYS**

Sunday MAY 8 **RIDDLE OF STEEL CAPTURED! BY ROBOTS JEREMY PARKER BAND**

Monday MAY 9 **SHAWN FUSSELL JABARVY**

Tuesday MAY 10 **HOLLYWOOD BLACK OUR LEAP YEAR DAVID NEWBOULD**

Wednesday MAY 11 **GRADY BACKLIT REVOLVER, DEEJER**

Thursday MAY 12 **A FIVE & DIME SHIP STEZALOMITA**

FRIDAY MAY 13 **BREWITALITY, INC HEKILL THREE (ORUMON SHOW) BURNING MERCURY**

SATURDAY MAY 14 **ACTIVATOR TEABAG SHRAPNEL DEVOLA**

UPCOMING SHOWS  
 6-9 THE VAN, GOODING, THE MIBEL WORKS, FARMELL SHOW  
 6-20 ICON THE MC KINGS, AVAR, DJ BEAM, BLOREAL, LOS DUDES DE DICE  
 6-21 SKUNKWEED, THE JOSH GOODE BAND  
 6-26 THE FIFEERD BAND, JOHN LAVONICA, BALUSTICA

**5-27 BAD WIZARD**

5-31 BRITTY THE BEAR, PABLO, CHESTER & YOSHIKI UPBE, LUDS  
 6-1 BUCKLE UP! (BANDS) (BANDS)

for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

Open Mon-Fri 5pm-2am  
 Sat-Sun 7pm-2am

Happy Hour everyday till 9pm  
 21+ Up

Booking Wed 5:30-7pm  
 Sat 6-7pm

Room 710  
 710 Red River  
 ROOM 710.net

476-0997

Thu 5.5 **BLOOD BURNIN' HOMECOMIN' DRUG FREE DISCO MONGO LIKE CANDY HOBBIT OF THE SHIRE 7pm: Vacation Gold**

Fri 5.6 **INVINCIBLE CZARS DARE DIABLO HALO RINGS HER HEAD ANT MAN BEE**

Sat 5.7 **HOBBLE EXCESS LETTUCE PUDDING**

Sun 5.8 **DJ KON KARNE**

Mon 5.9 **BOXCAR SATAN GRAVES BROTHERS DELUXE THE SNAKE TRAP**

Tue 5.10 **NOETIC BLACKHOLICUS & FRIENDS**

Wed 5.11 **SUPERHEAVY GOATASS RPG HOGNOSE POSSUM BELLY 7pm: The Bearded Clam Diggers**

UPCOMING SHOWS  
 5.12 Roazy 5.13 Morochino 5.14 Grady 5.20 Dibe Witch

Please vote, and let's not bitch about it later.

# ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

THU SPECIAL EVENT! MAY 5  
**puppy38**  
 AN EVENING OF ELECTRONIC MAYHEM  
 new/fused/old/rare/remixed -ambient.noise  
 minimalist-techno.ebm.proto-industrial.gothick

FRI LIVE! MAY 6  
**Machine in the Garden Jasmine Reign HOLLOW**

SAT HAVEN MAY 7  
 gothic, industrial, synthpop, eurodance  
 DJs VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

SUN retro 80's MAY 8  
**REGRESSION**  
 DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & SPIDER LILY


TUE lesbian night MAY 10  
**SAPPHO'S ISLE**  
 DJ AMERYKAH

WED DJ SPIDER LILY MAY 11  
**RESURRECTION**  
 underground retro & old school goth  
 & featuring LIVE!  
**THE SPAZMATICS**  
 The Ultimate 80's New Wave Show!

UPCOMING EVENTS  
 Thu May 12 \* Live! Dax, Null, Electrolytic  
 Fri May 13 \* Live! Lucid Dementia & Lust Murder Box w/ DJ Johnny Slugg  
 Thu May 19 \* Live! Hungry Lucy, Bloodwire  
 Fri May 20 \* Live! Halo Rings Her Head, Black Novas, Mike Haaga, The Action Is

21+ only, doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified  
 more detailed information available at:  
[www.elysiumonline.net](http://www.elysiumonline.net) (512) 478-2979

live music arcade



**VOTE AGAINST THE SMOKING BAN MAY 7**  
 see [KeepAustinFree.com](http://KeepAustinFree.com) for more info

th 5 **A.M. Syndicate, Purchase New York, DJ Fuckysuck**

fr 6 **Kodiaks, Vain, Tokyo Nites Mr. Lewls & the Funeral 5, Ghostwriter @7**  
 \*\*ComputerConnectings.com presents Beer:30--Tekken 5 Tournament @4:30\*\*

sa 7 **Flametrick Subs, Satan's Cheerleaders, Los Skarnales**

su 8 **Beast Rising From the Sea, Skullening, We Can Cut You, Noise Ramones, Walmart**

mo 9 **Karaoke 9pm 1000+ songs. no cover. BBC stars Al G., Tyler, Johnny Walker @7**

tu 10 **Nasti Donk Charlie & Spot 7pm**

we 11 **Face in the Crowd @ 7pm**

th 12 **Umbrellas (San Diego), tha**

fr 13 **Brettany Boozers grad party**

sa 14 **Stepbrothers, Hotrails, Cryin' Jags, Manikin**

711 1/2 Red River 479-ROCK  
[beerlandtexas.com](http://beerlandtexas.com)



OPEN FOR  
HAPPY HOUR  
FROM 8-10PM

Thursday, May 5  
**KRUMBUMS • COMPLETE CONTROL**  
STRAIGHT JACKET • RITCHIE WHITES • BRICKS ATX  
MUSIC AT 9PM

Friday, May 6

  
**THE PONYS**  
FACELESS WEREWOLVES • CAMP X-RAY  
TICKETS AVAILABLE  
DMC DJ FINALS POSTPONED

Saturday, May 7


**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOWS**  
  
**BRITISH SEA POWER**  
FEIST • THE ARM  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**THE SWORD • AKIMBO**  
SEA OF THOUSAND • THE STEERS  
SYSTEM OF A DOWN CD LISTENING PARTY 7-9PM FREE

Sunday, May 8


EARLY SHOW/OUTSIDE

  
DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30PM  
**BOWLING FOR SOUP**  
AMERICAN HI FI  
RIDDLIN KIDS • MC LARS

INSIDE

**LIFE AND TIMES (EX SHINER)**  
VELORUM • MAGNET SCHOOL  
POOR POSTURE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Monday, May 9

**ANGELS OF LIGHT**  
(MICHAEL GIRA OF THE SWANS)  
AKRON/FAMILY  
  
**PILOTDRIFT**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tuesday, May 10 **CLOSED**

Wednesday, May 11

**CRUISERWEIGHT**  
FIREKILLS • HEY MIKE  
DRAKE EQUATION

Thursday, May 12

  
**WHY?**  
(ANTICON)  
WEIRD WEEDS  
LOXSLY  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Friday, May 13

**GLASS CANDY**  
MY EDUCATION (CD RELEASE SHOW)  
TUXEDO KILLERS • SKULLENING

Saturday, May 14

**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOWS**

  
**PINBACK**  
PIT ER PAT (THRILL JOCKEY)  
MAHJONGG  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**THOSE PEABODYS**  
BRANT BJORK & THE BROS.  
(FORMERLY OF KYUSS AND FU MANCHU)  
**NERVOUS EXITS**

Sunday, May 15

**ZOM ZOMS (RECORD RELEASE)**  
ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE  
MISSION GIANT • YIP YIP

Monday, May 16

  
**MANDO DIAO**  
**THE COMAS**  
DANKO JONES  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tuesday, May 17


**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOWS**

  
**RASPUTINA**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**SUPERSYSTEM**  
(FORMERLY EL GUAPO/TOUCH & GO RECORDS)  
SINGLE FRAME • VOLUME  
JEFF HANSEN (KILL ROCK STARS)

Wednesday, May 18

  
**TEAM SLEEP**

(FEATURING CHINO MORENO FROM THE DEFTONES)  
WITH TODD WILKINSON, JOHN "CROOK" MOLINA,  
ZACH HILL AND RICK VERRETT

**STRIKE HIM CENTURION • TBA**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Thursday, May 19

**A FIVE AND DIME SHIP**  
**GREY DATURAS (FROM AUSTRALIA)**  
RUBBLE • DOUGLAS FERGUSON

Friday, May 20

**KISSINGER (CD RELEASE SHOW)**  
YOUNG HEART ATTACK • GOLDEN FALCONS

Saturday, May 21

**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOWS**  
**AUSTIN AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
FEATURING LIVE  
MUSIC BY BIG BALLS  
PRESENTED BY ALAMO DRAFHOUSE  
VISIT [AUSTINAIRGUITAR.COM](http://AUSTINAIRGUITAR.COM) FOR MORE INFO  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

FLAMETRICK SUBS W/SATAN'S CHEERLEADERS  
THE VON EHRICS • CASEY JUST AND THE PSYKOPHONIKS

Sunday, May 22

  
**UNSANE**  
BLACKFIRE REVELATION  
RUSTED SHUT • THESE MEN ARE LIARS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Monday, May 23

EARLY SHOW DOORS 5, SHOW 5:30PM  
  
**ALL AMERICAN REJECTS**  
OVER IT • HELLO GOODBYE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LATE SHOW TBA

Tuesday, May 24

**CLOSED**


Wednesday, May 25

EARLY SHOW DOORS 5, SHOW 5:30PM  
  
**DEATH BY STEREO**  
AT ALL COST  
IRON AGE  
AIRTIGHT ALIBI  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LATE SHOW TBA

Thursday, May 26

**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOW**

  
**PROJECT BLOWED**  
FEATURING ACEYALONE • ABSTRACT RUDE  
MEDUSA • C.V.E. • BUSDRIVER • HIP HOP CLAN  
JAH ORAH • CUSTOMER SERVICE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**SALLY CREWE & THE SUDDEN MOVES (CD RELEASE)**  
BRITT DANIEL (OF SPOON)  
WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS  
DUNG BEATLES

Friday, May 27

  
**MONADE**  
(LAETITIA OF STEREO LAB)  
**THE ZINCS • SHEARWATER**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Saturday, May 28

**OUTSIDE-SEPARATE SHOWS**

  
**MELT BANANA DAUGHTERS**  
INVINCIBLE CZARS • THOR & FRIENDS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**SONS OF HERCULES**  
KNOCKOUT PILLS (ESTRUS RECORDS)  
THE ORDER OF SVENGALIS (FEAT. MEMBERS OF  
MARKED MEN, RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS, THIS DAMN TOWN)

Sunday, May 29

**MS. LED • TBA**  
MERIDIAN • LORD HENRY

Monday, May 30

**CLOSED**

Tuesday, May 31

**OUTSIDE**

  
**THE (INTERNATIONAL) NOISE CONSPIRACY**  
RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS • THE ARM

INSIDE

**IMPOSSIBLE SHAPES (SECRETLY CANADIAN)**  
ODAWAS • WE ARE WOLVES  
TICKETS AVAILABLE • MUSIC AT 9PM

Wednesday, June 1

**TBA**

Thursday, June 2

**RECOVER • VISITORS**  
YOUR HIGHNESS (EX CHRISTIANSEN)  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Friday, June 3

  
**DEATHRAY DAVIES**  
(CD/RELEASE/SHOW)  
GRAND CHAMPEEN • THE UGLY BEATS

Saturday, June 4

A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND COMEDY WITH  
**CANOE • EUGENE MIRMAN**  
TBA • LANGHORNE SLIM  
TICKETS AVAILABLE (HALF PRICE W/  
BRIGHT EYES/FAINT WRISTBAND FROM STUBB'S)

Sunday, June 5

**TED LEO/PHARMACISTS**  
**ORANGES BAND**  
THE FALL COLLECTION  
TICKETS AVAILABLE

**CHAOS IN TEJAS FESTIVAL**

DAY ONE 6/3

AVSKUM • TRAGEDY • SIGNAL LOST • CLOCKCLEANER  
CHRONICLE A.D. • COMPLETE CONTROL • MANIKIN

DAY TWO 6/4

DEATHREAT • THE STATE • BORN DEAD ICONS  
WORLDS BURN TO DEATH • BURY THE LIVING  
KAJUN SS • BUMBKLAATT • ARMY OF JESUS

DAY THREE 6/5

SELFISH • HELLSHOCK • DARVOGETS • CIDER • BRAINWASHED  
YOUTH • HOLY SHIT • CUT-THROAT • BASTARD SONS OF APOCALYPSE  
TICKETS AVAILABLE (MUSIC AT 8PM ALL NIGHTS)  
SEE BELOW FOR CHAOS IN TEJAS FESTIVAL

COMING SOON

• 6/5 TED LEO • 6/7 MAE\* (EARLY) • 6/10 I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE CHOSEN DARKNESS • 6/11 BELTONES • 6/12 PLANES MISTAKEN FOR STARS\* • 6/13 DROWNINGMAN • 6/14 LOW\* (10:30PM) PLUS AFTER-PARTY W/MARY TIMONY  
6/15 NAPTOWN AMPLIFIER CO. (CD RELEASE) • 6/16 ZYKOS • 6/17 EASY ACTION/SCOTT BIRAM\* • 6/18 GANG GANG DANCE\* • 6/20 J-LIVE / VAST AIRE (CANNIBAL OX) / C-RAYZ WALZ (DEF JUX)\* • 6/22 ARCHITECTURE IN HELSINKI\*  
6/23 MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK (EARLY) / BULEMICS • 6/24 VOXTROT • 6/25 VARUKERS\* • 6/27 NEKROMANTIX\* • 6/28 MADE OUT OF BABIES • 7/1 ACTION ACTION (EARLY) • 7/2 COMETS ON FIRE\* / THE DOUBLE • 8/26 WRENS / CENTRO-MATIC\*

\*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE THROUGH [www.emosaustin.com](http://www.emosaustin.com) OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT WATERLOO RECORDS

**The Pier**  
RESTAURANT AND LAKESIDE GARDEN

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

FULL BAR & MENU

AUSTIN WEIRD SINCE 1958 • LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND  
ALL SHOWS ALL AGES

**FRI 5/6 THE BIG TIME BAND** 7-10PM

**SAT 5/7 THE EGGMEN** 7-10PM

**SUN 5/8 ELI YOUNG** 3-7PM

FROM 360, TAKE 2244 (BEE CAVE RD.) WEST 2 MI., TURN RIGHT ON RIVER HILLS RD.

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WWW.PIERLAKEAUSTIN.COM

# Triple Crown

San Marcos, TX (512) 396-2236  
www.triplecrownlive.com

Th 5 RC Banks 6pm  
Los Gallos 9pm

Fr 6 Zydeco Blanco 6pm  
The Lemurs, What Made Milwaukee Famous, Stacy Steger 9pm

Sa 7 The Spiders, Attention Spaniards, Molly & the Hatchets 10pm

Su 8 Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken

Mo 9 Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns 6pm  
Smarty Pants - Trivia Contest 8pm

Tu 10 Holly Aiken 6pm  
Jamie Krueger Group 9pm

We 11 Shotgun Hopkins 6pm  
Hundred Year Storm, This Will Destroy You 10pm

Th 12 Paul Logan 6pm  
Uh-Huh Jackson, Humble 9pm

Fr 13 Callous Taoboyz 6pm  
Grupo Fantasma 9pm

Sa 14 Darling Sinister, Pushfactor, Eradicator 10pm

club listings ◀◀ FROM SATURDAY

**GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM** Kushal Das, Abhijit Banerjee (4:00)

**GIDDY UP'S** Travis County Line w/ Earl Beatty (9:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Shaun Young (9:00)

**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Will Harrell

**GRUENE HALL** Bill Hearne Trio (1:00), Los Aztex, Joe Ely Band (9:00)

**HEADHUNTERS** The Harlots, the Transmissions, the Rocketz, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings

**HOLE IN THE WALL** Cloud 8, Love Buckit, Adrian & the Sickness (10:00)

**IRON GATE STUDIOS** Student Radio Prom w/ Clap! Clap! (8:00)

**JAVA ROCKS** Singer/Songwriter Open Mic (1:00)

**JOVITA'S** Ethan Azarian, the Gourds (7:30)

**LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim

**LIGHT BAR** DJ Paul Focus (10:00)

**LUCKY LOUNGE** Matt White (8:00)

**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** \$5 Friend, Johnny Goudie, A+ Machines

**MOMOS** Transit War, B.O.L., Ultrasonic, Anagen CD Release

**MOON RIVER** Karma Dogs

**MR. NATURAL** Will Dunlap (noon)

**NAT'S PUB** Founders Without Eyes

**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** South Austin Jug Band

**THE OASIS** Jane Bond, Billy Joe Shaver, Kinky Friedman

**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mr. K, James Brandon

**OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL** Lost Wolf

**OSLO DJ** Chicken George (10:00)

**THE PARISH** Eric Tessmer, Monte Montgomery

**THE PIER** The Eggmen (7:00)

**PLUSH** DJ Phytteen

**POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Chili Cold Blood

**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Billy D.

**RED EYED FLY** Dangerous Toys

**REDRUM** AMP Benefit w/ Courtney Aleyah, Asian Noodle House, Aaron A. & Friends, Goonies Never Say Die, Fiasco, the Frets, the Salesman, the Fashionable Comes Before the Martyrs, Peach Fuzz (3:30), This Side Up, Vox Populi, Set Aflame CD Release, Consider the Source (9:00)

**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Pamela Hart (8:30)

**RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK** Code Blue

**ROADHOUSE** James Brandon Band

**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Native Sons

**RUTA MAYA** Maneja Beto, Grimy Styles (9:00)

**SAENGERHALLE** Full Throttle

**SAM'S TOWN POINT** Melissa Sellers (9:00)

**SAMPAIO'S** Bem Brazil (7:30)

**SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH** Mas Caliente Celebration Del Sur w/ John Arthur Martinez (11:00 am)

**SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM** Daniel Hall, Meryl, Oedipus Tex

**SAXON PUB** Omar & the Howlers, W.C. Clark

**SHENANIGANS** Fusion

**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Karaoke w/ Pinto

**SIDEKICKS/XTRME** DJ Bryan Conrad, Nick Matthews

**SKI SHORES** Jenny Reynolds

**SKY LOUNGE** DJ Abe, Paz Joaquin

**SPIDER HOUSE** lalaland, Attention Spaniards

**STARDUST CLUB** Diamond Simon & the Rough Cuts

**STUBB'S** Pale, Arthur Yoria, Friends of Lizzy

**TAMBALEO** Juice

**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Chad Tracy Band

**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** White Ghost Shivers, Asylum Street Spankers (8:00)

**TRIPLE CROWN** The Spiders, Attention Spaniards, Molly & the Hatchets (10:00)

**TRIUMPH CAFE** Brian MacLeod's HIFI

**THE VIBE** Fusion, Illustrated Band, Copper Child (8:00)

**VUE DJ AM**

**THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ R.J.

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** Will Dunlap CD Release

**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Graham Webber

**Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Je Renee & John Wilson

**ZAX PINTS & PLATES** Central Time

## Sun 08

219 WEST DJ Trace

**ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Middle Ground, Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench

**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Grazmatics

**AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR** Jazz Brunch (11:00 am)

**B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Irish Tune Session (8:00)

**BIG DAVE'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (8:00)

**BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM** Spirit of Texas Music Series w/ Marcia Ball, Jane Bond, Sis Deville

**BOOMERZ** Raquel

**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Steve

**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke

**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke

**CEDAR STREET** Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)

**CENTRAL MARKET CAFE** Monster Big Band

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** The Ash Family

**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)

**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Heybale! w/ Redd Volkert & Earl Poole Ball (10:00)

**COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)

**THE DRINK** SHU (9:00)

# FLAMINGO CANTINA

515 SIXTH ST. 512-494-9336  
13 GREAT YEARS LIVE MUSIC

THURS 5/5 8:00 DOORS, SHOW 8:30  
**FIVE TON CHICKEN**  
PLUS DJ MIKE NICE

FRI 5/6 8:00 DOORS, 9 SHOW  
**ERICK SANGER'S BENEFIT THE CUTAWAY**  
THE LAMP SHADE SERENADE CASSETTE, VELORUM

SAT 5/7 WORLD 8:30 DOORS, 9 SHOW  
**AFRICAN SHOWBOYZ**  
THE FLYING CLUB

TUES 5/10 ROCK DOORS 8:30, 9 SHOW  
**MUCHOS BACKFLIPS**  
WHITMAN

WEDS 5/11 ROCK DOORS 8:30, SHOW 9  
**BETA VALENTINE**  
GREY HOLIDAY SET AFLAME

05/12 - mopa, the Funeral, Fullservice, the hat medec pole  
05/13 - blaze, afrofreque, d madness  
05/14 - tribal nation, mau mau  
5/18 - toumai, microphone stingers etx, jolly science  
5/19 - Tran Tram, For those who know (cd release), belaire, danica newell, dollyrots  
5/20 - blaze it up!  
5/21 - the rockland eagles, the good looks, secret weapons (cd release)  
5/25 - new mexican disaster squad

VOTE AGAINST THE SMOKING BAN MAY 7  
WWW.KEPAUSTINFREE.COM

WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

# MOTHER EGAN'S

## Irish pub

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH 11AM EVERY DAY!

th 5/5 THURSDAY LUNCH SPECIAL HAWAIIAN CHICKEN SALAD \$5.25  
**MOTHER EGAN'S BLUES JAM**  
7:30-10:30PM  
THIS WEEK'S HOST TED HALL  
A BLUES SOCIETY OF AUSTIN EVENT

fr 5/6 FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIAL TURKEY POT PIE \$5.25  
**HAPPY HOUR** 4-7PM  
COME CHECK OUT OUR NEIGHBORS' ARTIST MARKET SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS EVERY WEEK

sa 5/7 **HONKY TONK BRUNCH**  
WITH TBA 12-3PM NO COVER  
**KARAOKE** WITH EDIE 9PM-1AM

su 5/8 MONDAY LUNCH SPECIAL FISH AND CHIPS \$5.25  
**TEXAS SWING**  
WITH JIM STRINGER AND HIS BAND

mo 5/9 TUESDAY LUNCH SPECIAL CHEESEBURGER \$5.25  
WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SOUP, SALAD, OR FRIES  
**MOTHER EGAN'S TRIVIA QUIZ**  
7:30-10:30PM EVERYONE WELCOME NO COVER

tu 5/10 WEDNESDAY LUNCH SPECIAL MINI SHEPARD'S PIE \$5.25  
WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SOUP, SALAD, STEAMED VEGETABLES, OR FRIES

we 5/11

FREE WIRELESS INTERNET NOW AVAILABLE. MOTHER EGAN'S IS AN OVER 21 PUB. VOTED BEST IRISH PUB, BEST BAR MENU, AND BEST PUB GRUB BY AUSTINCITYSEARCH.COM 2004  
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# Buffalo Billiards

MONDAY \$1 NATTY LIGHT & PBR \$1.50 HIGH LIFE

TUESDAY \$2 TECATE

WEDNESDAY \$2 LONESTAR TALL BOYS  
1/2 PRICE SHUFFLEBOARD

THURSDAY \$2 WELLS & SELECTED DRAFTS

FRI. & SAT. \$2 OFF VODKA/RED BULL FROM 8-11PM  
\$2 WELLS IN ORBIT ALL NIGHT

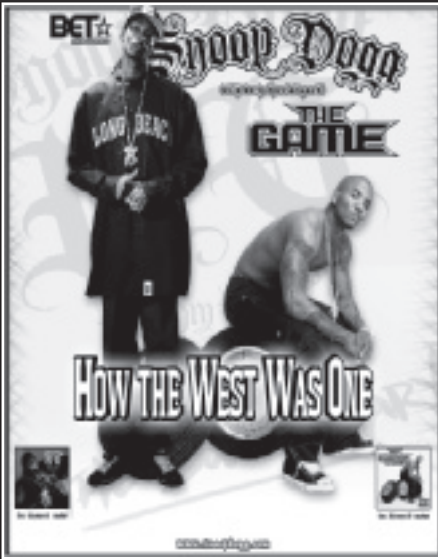
SUNDAY \$2.50 BLOODY MARYS 1-5PM  
\$2.50 WELLS AND DRAFTS ALL DAY

SERVING FOOD 'TIL LATE • CALL TINA AT EXT 203 FOR PRIVATE PARTY INFO

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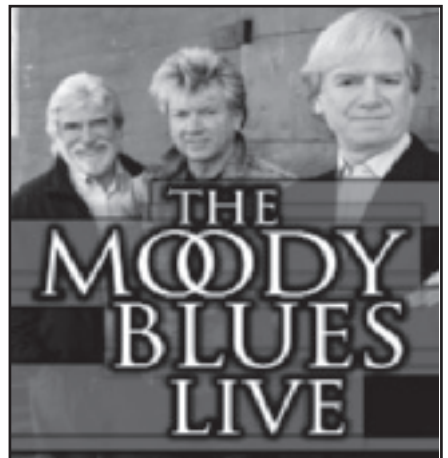
**SATURDAY, MAY 14**



**JUNE 26**



Tickets from the March 19 date will be honored at the rescheduled show.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 18**



**SAT, JUNE 25**



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE**  
Austin's far-out music hall in San Marcos

THU: **THE GOUGERS**  
FRI: **THE HUDSONS**  
SAT: **TEXAS WETTNETX**  
SUN: **ASH FAMILY** 4-8PM  
TUE: **TEXAS RENEGADE**  
WED: **KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE**

..... **COMING** .....  
5/12: **SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND**  
5/13: **THE GOUGERS**  
5/14: **TOM GILLAM**

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Liz Morphis - Jazz  
Wednesdays 8:30- 10:30 pm  
Appetizers served Mon. - Sat. 6-10 pm  
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**Central Market** show times: 6:30 - 9pm

Free Live Music on the Patio

<b>Central Park</b> under the oaks	<b>Westgate</b> under the moon tower
<b>FRIDAY MAY 6</b> DONNA HIGHTOWER blues sensation legend	<b>FRIDAY MAY 6</b> COOPER'S UNCLE bluegrass fiddle music
<b>SATURDAY MAY 7</b> RIDGETOP SYNCOPATERS western swing	<b>SATURDAY MAY 7</b> ROB ROY PARNELL roadhouse blues
<b>SUNDAY MAY 8</b> MONSTER BIG BAND a 25-piece ultra modern jazz big band	<b>FRIDAY MAY 13</b> HUMMING BIRDS country, gospel
<b>FRIDAY MAY 13</b> ALBERT & GAGE americana	<b>SATURDAY MAY 14</b> COWBOY JOHNSON country

**UPCOMING NORTH LAMAR SHOWS:**

May 14 <b>Grassy Knoll Boys</b>	May 21 <b>Rumbullion</b>
May 15 <b>Alex Coke</b>	May 22 <b>Marc Devine</b>
May 20 <b>Glover Tango/Tosca Strings</b>	May 27 <b>Beat Divas</b>

Call 512-206-1000 for details  
**Central Park**  
40th & N. Lamar  
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7AM-10PM Friday and Saturday  
free music • great food  
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free music • great food  
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# FADÓ IRISH PUB

WOMEN TO MEET,  
BEER TO BE DRUNK

THURS. 5/5: **PATRICK FLEMING** 9PM  
 FRI. 5/6: **DJ GERRY** 10PM  
 SAT. 5/7: **DJ GERRY** 10PM  
 SUN. 5/8: **OPEN MIC** 8PM  
 MON. 5/9: **TEXAS HOLD 'EM** 7PM  
CHRIS' 'MONEYMAKER' WILL BE HERE MONDAY 5/16  
 TUES. 5/10: **TEA MERCHANTS** 9PM  
 WED. 5/11: **PUB QUIZ** 8PM



**Fadó Irish Pub**  
 214 W. 4th  
 457-0172  
 www.fadoirishpub.com

club listings ◀◀ FROM SUNDAY

**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Mac Bynum (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Terrific Show, Bill Davis' Always Drunk on Sunday (8:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** John Fremgen Trio (9:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Sliver Cyber Slut, DJ Spider Lily  
**EMO'S** Outside Early: MC Lars, the Riddlin' Kids, American Hi-Fi, Bowling for Soup; Inside Later: Poor Posture, Magnet School, Velorum, the Life & Times  
**ETERNAL** Rick Harvey's Open Auditions for Bands and Songwriters  
**FADÓ** Prize Mic  
**FIESTA GARDENS** Austin Conjunto Festival Fiesta Stage: The Texas Wranglers, Santiago Jimenez, Ricky Naranjo y los Gambleros, Nick Villareal, Johnny Degollado, Los Fantasma, Los Dos Gilbertos; Town Lake Stage: Benny G, Five Star, TexManiacs, Atrapado (noon)  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ Ali Elwaki & DJ Josh Sweet  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** DJ Tomas, Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan, DJ Tomas (4:00)  
**FRIENDS** Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (4:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Ted Hall's Blues Jam (7:30)  
**GRUENE HALL** Gospel Brunch w/ a Texas Twist (10:30 am), Bret Graham (12:30), Jason Allen (5:00)  
**GUERO'S TACO BAR** Gulf Coast Playboys  
**HEADHUNTERS** Meetfist, Scattered Remains, Indisgust, Disfigured  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Golden Bear, Early Tapes, Kevin Carroll (9:00)  
**JAVA ROCKS** Singer/Songwriter Open Mic (1:00)  
**JO'S HOT COFFEE** Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)  
**JOVITA'S** Pop Stars! Dads Who Rock (6:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Tucker Livingston & the Wildcards (10:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Eidalon, Apse Affinity  
**MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Hippie Church w/ P.J. & the Gospel Project, Golden Crown Harmonizers (10:30)  
**MOMOS** Matt Dunham Band, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Eddie Warren  
**MOON RIVER** Doc Pointer  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Honkytonk Brunch (noon), Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)  
**NUEVA ONDA** Will Dunlap

**NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)  
**NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Java Jazz  
**THE OASIS** The Brew  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mrs. K  
**THE PIER** Eli Young (3:00)  
**POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Sunny Sweeney (9:00)  
**RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)  
**RED EYED FLY** Captured! by Robots  
**REDRUM** Pancake Massacre, Teenage Dog, Dumb Haircuts, Old Timerz, Belaire  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Stephanie & Matt  
**ROADHOUSE** Open Mic w/ Josh  
**SAN MARCOS RIVER PUB & GRILL** Gary Clark Jr.  
**SAXON PUB** South Austin Jug Band, Walter Tragert, Drew Smith  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D  
**SKI SHORES** Danny Britt (5:30)  
**STARS COFFEE** Obataallah (2:00)  
**STUBB'S** Gospel Brunch w/ the Durdens (noon)  
**TAMBALEO** Rubinchik's Yiddische Ensemble (8:00)  
**TAZ COUNTRY** Karaoke w/ Big Al  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken (9:00)  
**THE VIBE** Creature of Unusual Size, Girl Working (8:00)  
**THE WATER TANK** Open Mic w/ Andy Lemaster  
**WHOLE FOODS MARKET** Guy Forsyth (noon)  
**ZILKER PARK HILLSIDE THEATER** Austin Symphonic Band (7:00)

## Mon 09

**ANTONE'S** Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 w/ Bill Maddox; Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty (11:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned  
**BIGSBY'S** Open Mic  
**'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Steve  
**CANARY HUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CEDAR STREET** Kevin Ahart (6:00); Texas Eastside Kings (9:30)  
**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Rich Demarco (6:00)  
**CLUB ONE 15** Natalie Zoe's Songwriter Showcase (10:00)  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Paris '49 (6:30); Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Mac Bynum (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Hambone Jr., the Sapphires (8:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Jam w/ Freddie Mendoza (9:30)  
**EMO'S** Pilotdrift, Akron/Family, Angels of Light  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ AM  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Jack Wilson & Elliott Cole, Adoniram Lipton (7:00)  
**FRIENDS** Catherine Denise, Eric Tessmer (7:00)  
**GIDDY UP'S** Karaoke w/ Stormy (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Billy Dee (9:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Marvin Boterra & Friends  
**HANOVER'S** Open Mic w/ Corey Michael  
**HEADHUNTERS** Malcontent Party, Rising Up Out of the Sea, Todd Beast, Roman Gabriel  
**HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE** Karaoke (7:30)  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Solo Vato (noon), Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)  
**JACK'S BACKYARD** Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)  
**K LOUNGE + KITCHEN** Attayac w/ DJ Aaron Morris, MC Tee Double, Ephraim Owens, El John  
**LONGBRANCH INN** Singer-Songwriter Night  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** 54 Seconds (10:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Jared Francis' Songwriters Showcase  
**MOMOS** Gordy Quest, Raven, AJ Vallejo, Joseph King & the Acoustic Indulgence  
**MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Jim Stringer  
**MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce

*Mundi*  
**IN CONCERT**  
 SATURDAY, MAY 7  
 8:00PM // \$5.00  
**SYMPHONY SQUARE**  
 -1101 RED RIVER-  
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 PRESENTS  
**MUSE**  
 with special guests  
**RAZORLIGHT**  
**THIS SATURDAY!**  
**MAY 7**  
 DOORS 7PM • SHOW 8PM  
service charge may apply

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**DAVE ATTELL**  
**THE INSOMNIAC TOUR**  
**MAY 13**  
 DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM

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**FRIDAY 5/6**  
**PETE BENZ** 10PM  
**SATURDAY 5/7**  
**US AND THEM**  
**PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE BAND** 10PM  
**SUNDAY 5/8**  
**FREE POKER** 5pm & 8PM  
**TUESDAY 5/10**  
**MERIT** 7:30PM  
**SATURDAY 5/14**  
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**SATURDAY, MAY 7TH**  
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**FRIDAY, MAY 6TH**  
**PINK SWORDS, STAGE OF EXISTENCE, ICONS OF INDUSTRY, KINETIK**

**THURSDAY, MAY 5TH**  
**TORN AND FRAYED**

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A SINGO DE MAYO LATIN ROCK CELEBRATION  
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ZAYRA ALVAREZ  
BALISTICA

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FROM SQUEEZE  
AND THE FLUFFERS  
WITH  
GABRIEL MANN

**SAT MAY 7TH** DOORS 8PM SHOW 9:30 TICKETS AT THE DOOR!

**THE BIG WU** WITH OLOSPO

**MON MAY 9TH**

*Blue Monday*  
WITH  
**GARY CLARK JR.**

**THU MAY 12TH** TICKETS AT THE DOOR!

**HAPPY HOUR** **THE GENE POOL** WITH THE STEPS  
DOORS 8:30 • SHOW 9PM

**Pudge Zeppelin**  
Oliver Future • La La Land  
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM

**SAT MAY 14TH** DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM ON SALE NOW!

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DUAL-CD RELEASE PARTY!

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WITH AMERICAN MIND

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WITH CHARLIE MARS

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CD RELEASE PARTY

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**PUSHMONKEY**

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**PODUNK**  
WITH BANG

**SUN MAY 29TH** DOORS 8PM SHOW 9PM ON SALE NOW!

**BOOM BOX**

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**WED 6/1** JOHN POINTER'S BRAINWRECK WITH KID REYDOND (SAN FRANCISCO)

**FRI 6/3** THE REAL HEROS JENNY BODDIE • THE BLACK ANGELS

**SAT 6/4** SCHRÖDINGERS CAT REUNION SHOW

**SAT 6/11** YOUNG HEART ATTACK TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**TUE 6/21** NEKO CASE WITH ALL AGES • NON-SMOKING SHOW

**SUN 7/17** ROGER CLYNE AND THE PEASNBKERS

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**THURSDAY 5/5**  
**MICHAEL BALLEW**

**FRIDAY 5/6**  
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★SAT., MAY 7★  
**WILL DUNLAP** AND FRIENDS  
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HAPPY HOUR EACH WED  
W/ PTARMIGAN  
PERFORMANCE TIMES 8-10PM  
★FRI., MAY 6★  
**MIKE AUSTIN**  
★SAT., MAY 7★  
**GRAHAM WEBER**  
★FRI., MAY 13★  
KEVEN McCOLLOUGH  
KEVIN SMITH  
BRANDON JOHNSON  
★SAT., MAY 14★  
**BRADY MUCKELROY**

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**MON JUN 27** DOORS 8 • SHOW 9

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THURSDAY 5/5  
4PM-2 **CINCO DE MAYO PARTY**  
HipHop w/DJ LL / KARAOKE

FRIDAY 5/6  
MUSIC, FUN & FRIENDS W/DJ AMERIKA

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9PM **CASINO NIGHT**  
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**ERIC TESSMER BAND**

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SXSW RETURN ENGAGEMENT!  
Collin Herring Band with The Dime Store Poets

DOUBLE BILL - 10:00 / 12 MID

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club listings <<< FROM MONDAY

**NASTY'S** DJ Mel, Jahmighty  
**REDRUM** Slow Motion Crush, Abythos, Disfigured, Masochism  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (8:30)  
**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D & Dan  
**ROOM 710** Graves Brothers Deluxe, Boxcar Satan  
**RUTA MAYA** Carolyn Wonderland & Matt Hubbard, Michael Shay  
**SAXON PUB** Zak Perry, Guy Forsyth, Walt Wilkins  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns (6:00)  
**THE WATER TANK** Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Canvas (5:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Roger Wallace (9:00)  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Stop the Truck  
**GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Open Mic (8:00)  
**HEADHUNTERS** Karaoke Underground  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Josh (7:30)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Claire Hamilton, Troy Campbell, Doe Montoya (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Maria, Maria, Texas Swing Kings (6:00)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Almost There, Pimpadelic, 57 State  
**MOMOS** Patrice Pike, Joy Davis, Cluster Funk  
**NAT'S PUB** Karaoke w/ Big Jim  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Billy D  
**OSLO** Lucy's Wild Tuesdays w/ DJ Shane, DJ John Gomi  
**THE PARISH** Boom Bip, Mice Parade  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos  
**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Justin  
**REDRUM** Sophie, Man Against Stars, R Rated Kids, Talk Means Trouble  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine & Denia Ridley (6:30)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Bo Carter, Adam Lamar  
**ROADHOUSE** Meter Peakers  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** T.R. Sterzing  
**RUTA MAYA** Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)  
**SAHARA NIGHTCLUB** Improv Jazz  
**SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM** Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)  
**SAXON PUB** Austin Songwriters Group (6:00), Craig Marshall CD Release, Mad 3, Will Sexton's All-Star band (8:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae  
**SPEAKEASY** KKQ (9:30)  
**TAVERN ON THE GRUENE** Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle  
**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED** Austin Civic Wind Ensemble (7:30)  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Songwriters' Supper Session w/ Neil Kaiser (7:30)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Holly Aiken (6:00), Jamie Krueger Group (9:00)  
**TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis  
**THE VIBE** Famby, Dancin' Bare (9:00)  
**THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ RJ  
**WHOLE FOODS MARKET** Waterloo Live w/ Robert Earl Keen (5:00)

# Wed 11

**1920S CLUB** Liz Morphis (8:30)  
**219 WEST** The SG Project (7:00)  
**311 CLUB** Dewayne Davis (8:30)  
**AGAVE** Jackson Eli, Eric Tessmer (9:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland  
**AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)  
**BIGSBY'S** Justin King & the Apologies (9:00)  
**BOOMERX** Diamond Karaoke  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Will Harrell  
**BROWN BAR** DJ Manny  
**CAFE MUNDI** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Bruce Hughes (8:00)  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** The Stepsiders  
**CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave (6:00), Juice (9:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle  
**CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST** Southerly  
**CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB** Karaoke (8:00)  
**CLUB ONE 15** Ter'ell Shahid, DJ LL w/ Intelligent Hip-Hop  
**COFFEE CREATOR** Je Renee, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), James McMurtry (12mid)  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** Fashionably Shy Wednesday w/ DJ Kurupt, DJ Baby G  
**CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)  
**CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN** Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Chip Dolan & Marvin Dykhuus  
**THE DRISKILL** Kirk Hale  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Austin Poetry Slam, Dale Watson (7:30)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00)  
**ELYSIUM** Resurrection w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice, DJ Spider Lily; 80's Party w/ the Spazmatics  
**EMO'S** Drake Equation, Hey Mike, FireKills, Cruiserweight  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Cowboy Johnson  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** Centro w/ Richard Henry, Luis Ramirez  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Grey Holiday, Beta Valentine (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Jeff Luna, Scott Hawley (9:00)  
**FRESH UP CLUB** Fancy Feast, Assacre, Powwow, Diamond Caverns (6:00)  
**FRIENDS** Trent Turner, John McVey & the Stumble (10:30)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Justin Trevino  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Open Mic w/ Rusty Bier  
**GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke (8:00)  
**GUADALAJARA RESTAURANT & CANTINA** El Mariachi y la Compania (6:00)

# Tue 10

**219 WEST** Crucial Prophet  
**311 CLUB** Alan Haynes (8:30)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam  
**B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Open Mic (7:30)  
**BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)  
**BIGSBY'S** Open Jazz Jam w/ Eric Hargett  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Hardcore Country All-Stars  
**BROWN BAR** DJ Gray (9:00)  
**CACTUS CAFE** Karen Abrahams  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CEDAR STREET** Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00), Trent Durham (9:30)  
**CHARLIE'S** Margaret Wright  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Texas Renegades  
**CLUB ONE 15** Ephraim Owens  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), the Weary Boys (11:00)  
**CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Redd Volkaert, Stevie Tombstone (8:30)  
**EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE** "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Christine Young, Melissa Mullins (7:00)  
**ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith (4:00)  
**ELYSIUM** Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Ameriykah  
**EVANGELINE CAFE** Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor (6:00)  
**FADO** Tea Merchants (8:00)  
**FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ Toddy B, DJ J.A.M.O.N.  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Muchos Backflips! (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory

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**311 CLUB** Alan Haynes (8:30)  
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**B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Open Mic (7:30)  
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**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Muchos Backflips! (9:00)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory

# Starlight Terrace

THURSDAY, MAY 5 7-10 PM  
**Guy Forsyth**

FRIDAY, MAY 6 7-10 PM  
**The EggMen**

SUNDAY, MAY 8 7-10 PM  
**The Brew**

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**club listings** ◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

**HEADHUNTERS** The Bad Rackets  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Woode Wood's Solo Humor & Guitar (noon), Western Electric w/ Lawrence Glass (10:00)  
**HILL'S CAFE** Allie Danielle  
**HILLTOP TAVERN** Open Mic  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** The Ridgeway Syncopators, W.T. Special, Rose County Fair (9:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Jon Emery Band (8:00)  
**LAS PALOMAS** Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Endochine (9:00)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Electric Mayhem  
**MOMOS** UT Ethnomusicology Ensembles, Steve Wedemeyer  
**MOON RIVER** Karaoke w/ Big Jim  
**MULLIGAN'S** Karaoke w/ Mr. K (9:00)  
**NAT'S PUB** DJ Jason  
**NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Natalie Zoe & Beth Garner (6:00)  
**PLUSH** Get Broke: DJ Merrick Brown, DJ Tyler, DJ Will B. (10:00)  
**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones the Singing Bartender  
**POODLE DOG LOUNGE** The Stepsiders, Gina Lee & the Brisket Boys (9:00)  
**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Trip  
**RAGGEDY ANNE'S** Karaoke  
**REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE** "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)  
**RED EYED FLY** Deejer, Backlit Revolver, Grady  
**REDRUM** Elvis on Speed, Shame Club, Burning Mercury, the Decibators, Born to Lose  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine Trio (7:00)  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** J.R. Castro  
**ROADHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Billy D  
**ROOM 710** Possum Belly, Hognose, RPG, Super Heavy Goat Ass  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Glenn Collins Open Mic  
**RUTA MAYA** Steve Bernal Cello Trio, Abi Tapia (6:00)  
**SAENGERHALLE** Back Porch Wednesday w/ Django Walker  
**SAHARA NIGHTCLUB** Neo-Soul Lounge & Poetry Reading Open Mic (7:30)  
**SAKE ON SIXTH** Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown  
**SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM** Round Rock Blues Jam w/ Mark Goodwin  
**SAXON PUB** Pauline Reese (6:00)  
**SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Shooting Star Karaoke (8:00)  
**SPEAKEASY** The Brew, Salsa Lessons (9:30)  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Alfredo Guerrero (8:00)  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Shotgun Hopkins (6:00), Hundred Year Storm, This Will Destroy You (10:00)  
**THE VIBE** Burning Still

**VUE DJ AM**  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Ptarmigan  
**WHISKY BAR** Brownout!  
**Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Singer-Songwriter Night with Jenni Lord  
**Z'TEJAS GRILL** Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Friends (6:00)

## Thu 1 2

**1920S CLUB** Margaret Wright (8:30)  
**311 CLUB** Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)  
**ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Flying \$ Bunkhouse Band, Bear's Songwriter Circle  
**ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Karaoke w/ Stormy  
**ANTONE'S** La La Land, Oliver Future, Pudge Zeppelin, the Gene Pool (6:00)  
**ARTZ RIB HOUSE** The Studebakers  
**BOOMERZ** Jamie  
**BROKEN SPOKE** Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes  
**CACTUS CAFE** Ian Moore  
**CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke  
**THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke  
**CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Teri Joyce & the Tagalongs, Whisky Sharks  
**CEDAR STREET** Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)  
**CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** South Austin Jug Band  
**CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Connie Blake (7:00)  
**COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)  
**CONTINENTAL CLUB** Denny Freeman, Barfield, Alejandro Escovedo (6:30)  
**COPA BAR & GRILL** The Brew  
**COTTON CLUB** Michael Ballew  
**DALE'S ESSENHAUS** Karaoke  
**DONN'S DEPOT** Murphy's Inlaws  
**EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)  
**EGO'S** Boxspring Hogs, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)  
**ELYSIUM** Null, Dax  
**EMO'S** Loxsly, the Weird Weeds, Why?  
**FLAMINGO CANTINA** Pale, the Hat Madder, Full Service, the Funeral, MOPA (8:30)  
**FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** The Hudsons, Matt Williams (8:00)  
**THE FOUNDATION** Coy West  
**GIDDY UP'S** Will Sexton (4:00), Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)  
**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson  
**GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Erik Hokkanen  
**GRUENE HALL** Walt Wilkins (7:30)  
**HANOVER'S** Karaoke  
**THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Stan Killian Trio (7:00)  
**HOLE IN THE WALL** Casting Couch, Fluffers Union  
**JO'S HOT COFFEE** Rock & Reel w/ Arnie Sykes (7:30)  
**JOHNNY FINS** DJ Your Way (7:00)  
**JOVITA'S** Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

**LATITUDE 30** F.E.E.L. w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N., Rob Scullion, Tall Dave  
**LONGBRANCH INN** The Ridgeway Syncopators (9:30)  
**LUCKY LOUNGE** Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Dragonfly Jones (9:30)  
**LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Famous Danger Agents, Suzanna Choffel  
**MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS** Guitarras del Meson  
**MOMOS** Rachel Loy, Stephen Clarke, Blythe, Weeden  
**MOON RIVER** Devon Heath  
**NAT'S PUB** Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham  
**THE OASIS** Weary Boys  
**THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Raquel  
**OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD** Grand Opening/ Pet Food Bank Benefit w/ Penny Jo Pullus, Patricia Vonne, Toni Price  
**OSLO** Flashback Thursday w/ DJ Mel  
**PLUSH** DJ Phytteen  
**THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Al  
**RED'S SCOOT INN** The Nortons  
**REDRUM** Chakra Blue, the Drawing Board, the Diving Bell, Misguided Lemmings, Pooka  
**REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)  
**RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK** Prentice James  
**RILEY'S TAVERN** Karaoke  
**ROADHOUSE** Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)  
**ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Cotton Inks  
**SABA BLUE WATER CAFE** Jeff Strange (10:00)  
**SAENGERHALLE** Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison  
**SAXON PUB** James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)  
**SHENANIGANS** Billy D  
**SKY LOUNGE** Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M  
**SPEAKEASY** King James (9:30)  
**STARS COFFEE** Stardust Jazz Jam (7:00)  
**STUBB'S** Keith Anderson  
**TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Bad Influence  
**THE VELVET SPADE** VISION feat. Downbeat w/ Architektur  
**THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Adam Carroll CD Release, Walter Tragert  
**TRIPLE CROWN** Paul Logan (6:00), Uh-Huh Jackson, Humble (9:00)  
**VUE DJ AM**  
**WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** The Hudsons (6:00)  
**WATERLOO RECORDS** Marcia Ball (5:00)  
**WHISKY BAR** OCS Traveling World Show  
**WHOLE FOODS MARKET** Sidehill Gougers  
**Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Bonnie Bishop  
**Z'TEJAS GRILL** Thomas Hughes & Glenn Rexach (6:00)



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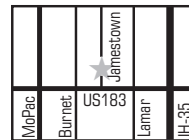
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Thursday, May 5, Doors 8:00 P.M.

**DIRTY WHITE BOYS**  
**SUBROSA UNION**  
**FAITH 257**  
**PAUL'S GARAGE**  
**PERMAKIDS**

Friday, May 6, Doors 8:00 P.M.

**FREEBLEEDER**  
**ILL FX**  
**FOLLOWING THE FALLOUT**  
**CICADA 17**  
**OHMA**

Saturday, May 7

Early Show, Doors 3:30 P.M.

Austin AMP Benefit

**PEACH FUZZ**

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**THE SALESMAN**

**THE FRETS**

**FIASCO**

**GOONIES NEVER SAY DIE**

**AARON A. AND FRIENDS**

**ASIAN NOODLE HOUSE**

**COURTNEY ALEYAH**

Late Show, Doors 8:30 P.M.

**CONSIDER THE SOURCE**

**SET AFLAME** CD Release

**VOX POPULI**

**THIS SIDE UP**

**THE ENEMY SLEEPS** CD Release

Sunday, May 8, Doors 7:30 P.M.

**BELAIRE**

**OLD TIMERZ**

**DUMB HAIRCUTS**

**TEENAGE DOG**

**PANCAKE MASSACRE**

Monday, May 9, Doors 7:30 P.M.

**MASOCHISM**

**DISFIGURED**

**ABYTHOS**

**SLOW MOTION CRUSH**

Tuesday, May 10, Doors 7:30 P.M.

**TALK MEANS TROUBLE** CD Release

**THE R RATED KIDS** Rosenberg, Tex.

**MAN AGAINST STARS**

**SOPHIE**

Wednesday, May 11, Doors 7:30 P.M.

Kevin Brennan's Homecoming Party

**BORN TO LOSE**

**THE DECIBATORS** Chicago, Ill.

**BURNING MERCURY**

**SHAME CLUB** St. Louis, Mo.

**ELVIS ON SPEED**

Thursday, May 12, Doors 8:00 P.M.

**POOKA**

**THE MISGUIDED LEMMINGS**

**THE DIVING BELL**

**THE DRAWING BOARD**

**CHAKRA BLUE**

Friday, May 13, Doors 8:00 P.M.

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**MELANOMA**

**SCATTERED REMAINS**

**RELENTLESS**

Saturday, May 14, Doors 8:00 P.M.

**CAPT. BRINGDOWN & THE BUZZKILLERS** CD Release

**THE DEXTERS** CD Release

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Solo Vato 11:30 am  
David Novian 3:00 pm  
Cory Michael 5:30 pm

**MAIN STAGE**

Thursday 5/5  
**South Austin Blues Jam**  
with Kim Sessons  
& Alan Haynes!  
8:00 pm

Friday 5/6  
**Toby Anderson**  
9:00 pm \$3 cover

Saturday 5/7  
**Steven Pyle**  
9:00 pm \$3 cover

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THURSDAY MAY 5 6PM  
HAPPY HOUR WITH 'THE LEGENDARY' IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND  
9:30PM  
LATER: 8 MILLION STORIES

FRIDAY MAY 6 8PM  
**PRIMM**

SATURDAY MAY 7 8PM  
**MATT WHITE**

SUNDAY MAY 8 10PM  
**TUCKER LIVINGSTON & THE WILDCARDS**

MONDAY MAY 9 10PM  
**54 SECONDS**

TUESDAY MAY 10 11PM  
**BOOMBOX**

WEDNESDAY MAY 11 9PM  
**ENDOCHINE**

THURSDAY MAY 12 6PM  
9:30 PM  
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Thurs., May 5  
**Carolyn Wonderland** 8:00pm  
**George Devore**  
**The Manuel Brothers** 11:00pm  
Happy Hr. 6:00-7:30pm No Cover!

Fri., May 6  
**The Greencards**  
KGSR Live Radio Broadcast 11:00pm  
**Robyn Ludwick** 9:30pm  
**Austin Collins** 8:00pm  
Happy Hr. The Regulars 5:30pm

Sat., May 7  
**W.G. Clark** 11:00pm  
**Omar & the Howlers** 8:00pm

Sun., May 8  
Voted No. 1 Bluegrass Band at the Austin Music Awards  
**South Austin Jug Band** 7:00pm  
**Walter Tragert** 10:30pm **Drew Smith** 12:00am

Mon., May 9  
**Guy Forsyth** 8:30pm  
**Zak Perry** 7:00pm **Walt Wilkens** 11:00pm

Tues., May 10  
**Will Sexton** 12:00am  
**Mad 6** 10:00pm  
**Craig Marchall** CD release 8:00pm  
**The Austin Songwriters Group** 6:00pm

Wed., May 11  
**Love County** 11:00pm  
**Hayden Vitera** 9:30pm  
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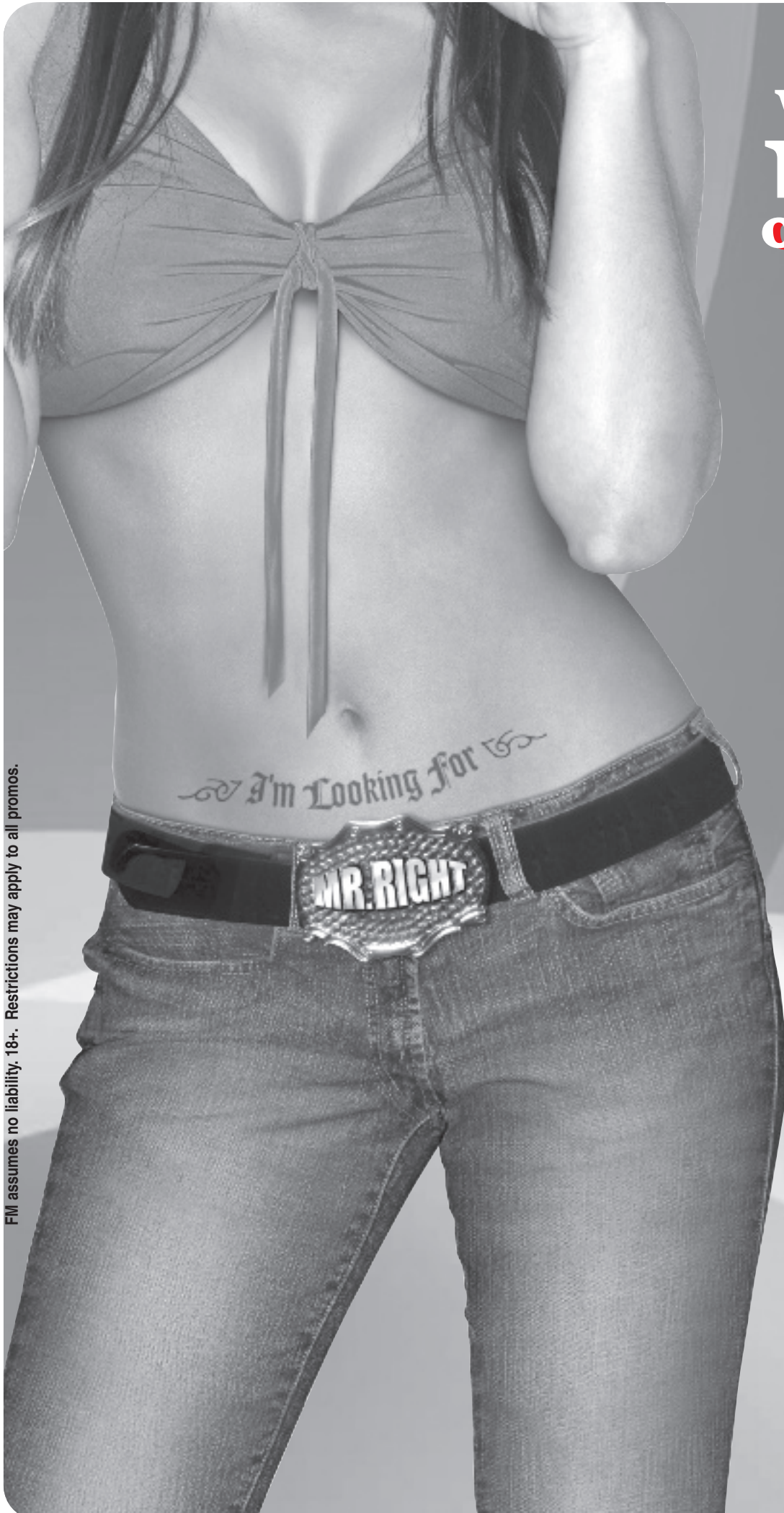
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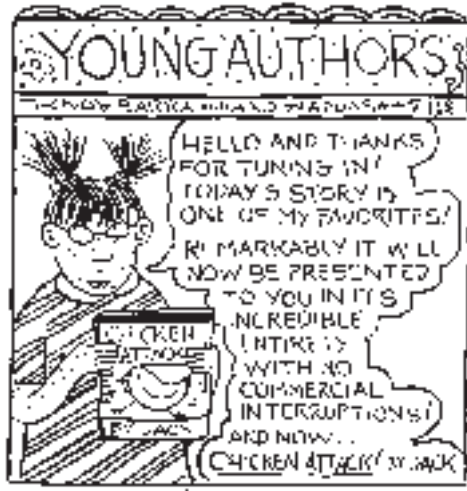
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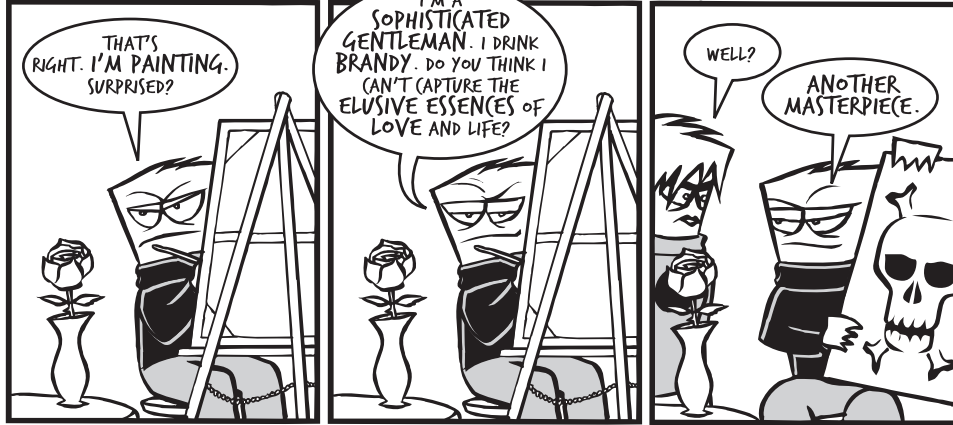
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# COMICS

## TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN BY SHANNON WHEELER



## BITTER YETI IN THE CITY BY JASON STOUT



## TROUBLETOWN BY LOYD DANIEL



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The word “shampoo” comes from the Hindi “chmpn,” meaning to massage or knead.

According to one traveler, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, is not the end of the world, but it feels like it can't be more than a short bus ride away.

South Korean women associate men with Type-B blood to be cads, even though scientists say there is no link between blood type and personality. Type-B women, on the other hand, seem to have escaped the wrath. In 2004, a song from singer Kim Hyun-jung called “Type-B Men” soared to the top of the charts.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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# TO YOUR HEALTH



by James Heffley, Ph.D.

Q. What are the benefits of taking the "fancy" form of folic acid, 5-methyl tetrahydrofolate, and how would I know if it is better for me if I decide to try it?

A. For well over half a century folic acid has been classified as an essential B-vitamin. Until the 1980s folic acid deficiency was mainly associated with anemia, because folic acid is needed to form new red blood cells. More recent research shows that folic acid deficiency during pregnancy increases the risk of a mother giving birth to a baby affected with a neural tube defect such as spina bifida, probably due to the involvement of folic acid in DNA synthesis. Now folic acid is also considered the most important nutrient deficiency that leads to elevated homocysteine, the amino acid connected to increased risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and mental illness.

Actually, "folic acid" is not the naturally occurring form that is found in food or in our bodies. Mostly folic acid circulates in our bodies in the form called 5-methyltetrahydrofolate, an activated form of folic acid. When we take folic acid as a food supplement, it is slowly converted to 5-MTHF or another of folic acid's active forms. Taking a folic acid supplement as 5-MTHF has several advantages such as more rapid absorption, and several disadvantages such as increased cost.

Most of us will do fine taking folic acid in the form that is easily and inexpensively available, but with new information from the Human Genome Project, we are now aware that some people would benefit from using folic acid in the 5-MTHF form. To date, mutations have been found at two locations on the gene needed to convert folic acid into 5-MTHF and that roughly a quarter of the population has one or both of the mutations. The conversion of folic acid to 5-MTHF still takes place in these people but even more slowly than normal, and there is a tendency for homocysteine to become elevated.

The test that reveals the mutations is expensive, and relatively few health care providers are comfortable interpreting the results, but an alternative is to check your blood homocysteine level before and after taking 5-MTHF for about three months. Assuming this is the only change in your diet and supplement program, a sharp drop in blood homocysteine level would indicate that you are probably one of the minority of people who would benefit from using 5-MTHF as your folic acid supplement.

Imbalance in B-vitamin intake does not develop rapidly, so during the three-month test period you can simply continue the same supplements you have been using, in order to make it easier to decide whether you need to use 5-MTHF. If you decide to continue using 5-MTHF, be sure your supplements include a complete B-complex, one that provides at least 5 micrograms per day or more of vitamin B12, to make certain you can safely use 5-MTHF for the rest of your life.

Bear in mind that blood homocysteine levels can conceivably drop too low, and that folic acid insufficiency is not the only factor in elevated blood homocysteine level, so it would be prudent to seek the advice of a nutrition-oriented practitioner to assist you both in obtaining and interpreting these tests.

James Heffley, Ph.D., is a certified clinical nutritionist. The information he provides is for educational use only. If you believe you have a medical problem, see your physician.

## LICENSED MASSAGE

CONTINUED

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# FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky • for May 6 - May 12

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** On a family member's 60th birthday, the Japanese celebrate a holiday known as *kanreki*. It's a time of rebirth, when the celebrant ritually becomes a baby again and enters a second childhood. Among the many gifts given on the occasion is a red kimono, which signifies that in a sense the person is now freed from the responsibilities of adulthood. I recommend that you treat yourself to a similar rite of passage, Taurus. Even though you may not be turning 60, you are at the beginning of an extraordinarily fresh new cycle. You deserve a red kimono and at least a temporary respite from adult burdens.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** It's time to declare amnesty for the part of you that you don't love very well. Forgive that poor sucker. Hold its hand and take it out to dinner and a movie. Tactfully offer it a chance to make amends for the dumb things it has done. And then do a dramatic reading of this proclamation by the playwright Theodore Rubin: "I must learn to love the fool in me - the one who feels too much, talks too much, takes too many chances, wins sometimes and loses often, lacks self-control, loves and hates, hurts and gets hurt, promises and breaks promises, laughs and cries. It alone protects me against that utterly self-controlled, masterful tyrant whom I also harbor and who would rob me of human aliveness, humility, and dignity but for my fool."

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Every hundred years, says a Scottish myth, a scrap of paradise appears on earth for just one day. Hidden from the profane world for decades at a time, this little town, known as Brigadoon, briefly materializes out of the mists, becoming accessible to any lucky person who happens by. I predict that something resembling Brigadoon will appear to many members of the Cancerian tribe in the coming week. To increase your chances for being in the right place at the right time, you should not simply follow your heart. Rather, follow the most audacious impulses of your heart, radiate mischievous warmth, and be vigilant with your peripheral vision.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** According to legend, influential blues guitarist Robert Johnson made a pact with the Devil in a crossroads. In exchange for his soul, the Devil gave him tremendous musical skill, including an unparalleled ability to affect his audiences emotionally. I predict that you will soon be tempted to negotiate a comparable deal in a crossroads, Leo. Please keep in mind that there will be some extremely fine print in the proposed contract. Besides that, I want you to know that while the progress you'd make with the Devil's help may initially be faster, in the long run it wouldn't be anywhere near as great as what you can accomplish without it.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Of all the world's landlocked countries, only one maintains a navy: Bolivia. Until 1879, it had a seaport, but lost it in a war with Chile. More than a century later, it has thousands of sailors but only a single sea-worthy ship, which it keeps docked in Argentina a thousand miles away. Its quixotic fixity of purpose seems to be a symbolic declaration that it intends to someday once again have land bordering the ocean. I see a certain resemblance between Bolivia and you right now, Virgo. You also cling fiercely to a starry-eyed commitment that might appear unrealistic to casual observers. The difference is that your dream, as opposed to Bolivia's, is not entirely hopeless. You will receive a sign this week that reveals why.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** "The proverb warns that 'You should not bite the hand that feeds you.' But maybe you should, if it prevents you from feeding yourself." So said the critic of psychiatry Thomas Szasz. He was urging us to think about how our dependence on seemingly benevolent providers might paralyze our free will and interfere with our ability to take care of ourselves. In the song "The Hand That Feeds," Trent Reznor of the band Nine Inch Nails expresses a further doubt about the proverb. He suggests the hand that feeds us may supply us with stuff that doesn't really nourish us and that is tainted by the supplier's questionable motivations. "Will you stay down on your knees," he sings, or "will you bite the hand that feeds you?" I present these views for your consideration, Libra. It's a good time to re-evaluate your relationship with authorities who purport to be helping you.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** For about half the year, Cambodia's Tonle Sap River flows north. Soon after the beginning of the rainy season, however, it reverses its direction and flows south for six months. I bring this up, Scorpio, because the astrological omens suggest that you're now in a phase comparable to the time when the river makes its turnaround. The experience may feel a bit odd at first, but it's completely natural. Go with the opposite flow.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** History's longest conflict between nations was the Hundred Years' War, which England and France fought for 116 years between 1337 and 1453. The shortest war ever was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. It lasted 38 minutes. Whether the hostilities you enter into in the coming week will resemble the former or the latter may all depend on two factors: 1) how open you are to learning from the other side; 2) how willing you are to acknowledge your own role in creating the circumstances that led to the dispute.

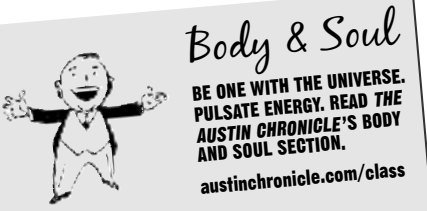
**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Studies show that judicious chocolate consumption promotes longevity. People who ingest it three times a month are more likely to live into their 90s than those who either refrain from eating it or else gorge on it frequently. The astrological omens suggest, however, that your health will be well-served by eating 300% more than the judicious amount this May, beginning with a virtual orgy of chocolate feasting this week. I recommend that you also seek out other experiences that generate feelings similar to those stirred by a chocolate feast.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You now have the power to modify three situations that are overdue for change. First, you could heal a nagging ailment. Second, you could expand your awareness so much that you will detect an important fact about your life that you've been oblivious to. Third, you could end your preoccupation with a trivial problem, thereby freeing up energy to be used for the first two tasks. But none of these things will transpire, Aquarius, if you merely think about them and talk about them. You need a special kind of jolt that bypasses your rational faculties: a new medicine song. So call on all your resources - friends with vast musical knowledge, Web radio stations like Radio Paradise or 3WK, the playlists of people whose taste you like - to track down the tune that will rejuvenate your soul. (Here's one suggestion: "Stones" by Sonic Youth.)

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Sniffing basil and rosemary can make your thinking processes more agile and effective, say aromatherapists. You probably won't really need any such boost in the coming week, though, since according to the astrological omens your mental faculties will be at their peak. But on the other hand, why not go for the superbrain effect? If you feed the odors of basil and rosemary to your already dexterous mind, you may break through into a new order of intelligence, allowing you to solve puzzles that have confounded you for months.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** The planning for a typical wedding lasts from seven to 12 months. Getting ready for the birth of a child usually requires every minute from the time people find out they're pregnant until the delivery day. I foresee your experiencing an event in early 2006 that will resemble both of these happy yet challenging events. It might be something like the birth or dramatic renewal of a relationship. Or it could be the launch of a partnership that will ask everything of you, and give just as much. I suggest you start your preparations.

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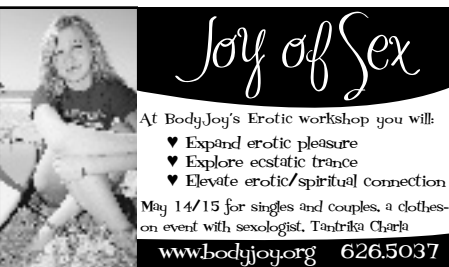
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**BASS** Seeking bass for minimalist 70's pop / post-punk project. Wire, Talking Heads, Spoon, Scott Walker, PIL, Big Star's 3rd. [tonylamont@gmail.com](mailto:tonylamont@gmail.com)

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**SINGER** Needed for Screamo/Hardcore/Indie band. dedicated band looking for talented singer (age 15-20). Influences include: Thrive, Alexisonfire, Saosin, Thursday. Myspace: www.myspace.com/angushirforaughstine E-MAIL: a4abooking@yahoo.com.

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**VOCALIST** BEATLES Band Seeks John Lennon-must have voice, ability to play Lennon guitar parts. Gigs pending. David 481-9877 davidjnathan@netscape.net

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**VOCALIST** fem. pref.-sound fun, melodic, not "pretty;" - able to front a band. Think Cibo Matic, Metric, or japanese. thenewblack.info 320-8103

**VOCALIST** female singer wanted for rock project. We Like The Replacements, Superchunk and Guided By Voices. Call Ty @ 633-8753.

**VOCALIST** female wanted, featured lead and harmonies, 60s/70s part time cover band for fun and gigs, 9127999.

**VOCALIST** female, looking for a band. Great performer, great singer, and just ready to get out there and entertain! 913-7511 or amoon@austin.rr.com

**VOCALIST** Hardcore singer, seeking dynamic melodic hardcore band. No Metal. (Darkest Hour, Fear before the march of flames, Hopsefall) Jarrett - 512-636-7401. hms.memorex@gmail.com.

**VOCALIST** Looking for a good singer/frontman that can do GNR style, not too heavy not to soft, just straight up no BS 512-422-7115

**VOCALIST** needed! Pro band needs vocalist. Sing Dynamically/Scream tastefully. Inf. Sevendust, Cold, Staind, Incubus, Mudvayne. Call Jonathan 512-964-7111

**VOCALIST** needed. Thunder needs a lead vocalist for upcoming gigs. Can you growl like Bon Scott/Brian Johnson? jmanning@austin.rr.com.

**VOCALIST** Original/cover country band seeking backup male/female singer with good harmony. Have gigs, sponsors, management, equipment. jaydirks.com 512-657-1254. jay@jaydirks.com.

**VOCALIST** 202/f to start or join a band. Rilo Kiley, Metric, Fiona Apple, Postal Service, APC. Portishead-stage experience. 409-454-0718. GINRUIN@YAHOO.COM.

**VOCALIST** Punk band seeking vocalist age 21-30. Must have transport, good attitude. We have practice space, PA. 512-699-2778. 2minutehate@gmail.com.

**VOCALIST** Record label specializing in Latin-based hybrid music seeking Female vocalist to write/record songs. Must be bilingual. 413-3520.

**VOCALIST** Sex & Violence needs YOU! Our frontman is moving to L.A. We need a rock vocalist: APC, STP, NIN, etc. 214-450-7077. starvingartistproductionsllc@yahoo.com.

**VOCALIST** Versital with hooks and you must have something to say,no barkers please. machine head, chimiara, fear factory, etc. call 775-2650 or 426-2793. mstathos@evl1.net.

**VOCALIST** vocalist needed for old country (1940-1960)jim reeves,marty robbins styles. call lucy 512-278-1399 austin area PHONE: 512-278-1393.

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# personals

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## Women meeting men

## men meeting Women

## Women meeting Women

## messages

**I AM AN** exotic flower, I will infuse with a exotic nectar that will soar your senses and leave you begging for more, tell me why I should. ☎5725

**SWM, 40, 6'2"** 210 lbs. nice, friendly, clean & honest. Like movies, dining out, animals, day trips. Seeking nice/friendly female for fun/friendship. Elgin, Manor & Austin area. ☎5707

**BLACK FEMALE LOOKING** for female to hang out with and have fun. 33, Austin. ☎5648

**JENN MY GOODS** train, my rollercoaster. Miss you.

**ARTIST OF ENJOYMENT** seeks partner: discreet, generous, curious, mature gentleman to share pursuit of pleasures with intelligent, educated, passionate, slim redhead. Seeking respectful, intimate, amusing, mutually beneficial ongoing relationship. ☎5716

**ARE YOU READY** for someone who will appreciate all of you? WM 29, 5'10", 165lbs, athletic, drug/disease-free, seeks plus-size woman for fun and more. Age unimportant. ☎5709

**50 YEAR OLD SWF** looking to expand circle of friends. Like movies-the lake, travel, happy hour, animals, music, craft fairs. Down to earth and adventuresome. ☎5596

**SCOTT, WANNA HAVE** breakfast? Remember that pinup calendar? TF

**CHRISTINE: I THINK** the world of you. Thank you. Love you.

**GRUMPAPOTAMUS: GUESS WHAT?** One week. Not soon enough. Your Ramona.

**JULIE: WHEN YOUR** done flippin gymnastics, call me already. V.

**SWF, 35 YEARS** old. Dorky buck toothed rock-n-roll groupie chick seeks a converse wearing, punk rock guitar playing cartoonist man (50+) for good times and lascivious adventures. ☎5721

**LOOKING FOR WOMAN**, 35-50, artistic, fun, for friendship/exploration. I am young 40, professional/creative - very passionate. Discreet, exciting, and caring pursuit of joy is what I'm after. ☎5712

## men meeting men

**IT'S WRONG TO** want more than a folk song. ☎5710

**CUTE GIRL ALWAYS** working, ACC library. Me: always playing, glancing.

**TIME HEALS ALL** wounds, Imzadi. 5 years is a long time.

**CHRIS V: YOU'VE** become my sexual addiction. Don't stop now. Sassy.

**MONROE: THE FIRE** rages on! BW.

**BEEN ROUND THE** world and back... Pretty gal, 5'2", 110, seeks humorous, height/weight proportionate SWM late 20s to mid-40s who's done the same. Make the next go-round together? ☎5727

**ADULT TIME? SINGLE** dad with 2 kids seeks companion with kids. Good conversation, friendship, swimming and walking. ☎5730

**GBM, 6', 178, 33, black/brown**, attractive. Told I have a nice smile. Like to sing, dance, travel, theater, cook/bake. Looking for W/H/M for dating. Must be Attractive. ☎5704

**MR. BLACK: NOW WE** know what's inside a dog. Thank you!

**AMSTERDAM? OKAY.**

**STINKER: GLAD YOU** are back in my life! PITA.

**BOO BOO KITTY:** Love you, want to buy you corn dogs.

**ALOOOOOOOOOHA!**

**ZERO: I'M GLAD** you're home. Love you.

**GO-GO GIRL:** Paint your toes? Mister Mom.

**BCB: I AM** trying to forget so we can be friends.

**WHY WOULD YOU** throw away a good thing and keep the bad?

**MORGAN: ANOTHER CHANCE?** Imperfect, but dying to prove myself. T.

**WEST SEEKING EAST.** SBF, Taurus/Horse. Thick, cute, curvy, 35+. Post-Graduate seeking Asian male for cultural exchange and maybe more. Humor, spontaneity, passion and whimsy important. ☎5701

**YOUNG 40, PROFESSIONAL** creative, very passionate, looking for woman, 35-50, artistic, fun, for friendship/exploration. Discreet, exciting, and caring pursuit of joy is what I'm after. ☎5656

**GWM, 50, 5'10"**, 155 lbs. seeks "bear". You: 35-50, clean shaven, bearish, receding hairlines, goatees. fantastic! Height/weight proportionate. Be honest, drug free. Me: various interests, true romantic, compulsive cuddler. Take a chance. ☎5607

**MEGHAN, AUSTIN MISSES** your random acts of kindness. Come back!

**STUPID, WHY'D YOU** let Broken Teeth man contaminate you?

**RACHEL: I AM** a banana! Love, TT

**WANTED: JACK OF** all trades/multi-dimensional real MAN. Must be take-charge type, very good looking. Let's road trip, have dinner parties, and anything else we happen to come up with. ☎5649

**WM, 31, SEEKS WF,** Gretchen Wilson/Redneck woman type for relationship, I like old school muscle cars, custom motorcycles, pickups, Country, classic rock. Call. Let's see if we belong together. ☎5588

**SENIOR GWM SEEKS** same, 65+, non-smoker, healthy, friendly, financially secure. ☎5531

**MEGHAN, AUSTIN MISSES** your random acts of kindness. Come back!

**STUPID, WHY'D YOU** let Broken Teeth man contaminate you?

**RACHEL: I AM** a banana! Love, TT

**BEAUTIFUL BLONDE, 41** intelligent, single mom. Seeking honest, physically fit W/H man, 40-50 for friendship and fun. ☎5599

**SWM, 54, AND** there's so much more. Live alone in a paradise that makes me think of two. Nature, music, food, work, play, gratitude, kindness, tolerance, sharing. We could talk. ☎5586

**MY SWEET MARMOT:** You are my favorite dessert! Love, Girlfriend.

**MEGHAN, AUSTIN MISSES** your random acts of kindness. Come back!

**STUPID, WHY'D YOU** let Broken Teeth man contaminate you?

**RACHEL: I AM** a banana! Love, TT

**SHF, 44 YEARS** old, new to Austin on summer. I would like to make friends and a long term relationship, we can start by e-mailing. See you soon. ☎5532

**ANIME, YOU'VE FLOWN** under the radar. Darius.

**S: I WANT** you and need you! K.

**NEGATIVE GHOST RIDER.** the pattern is full.

**LAYLA LIKES PARLIAMENT** works proshop pitches tent wanna meet?

**SILVERSPACE: CRAZY RIDE** so far. Fun still to come. :)Spice

**BOOM BOOM: THANKS** for luring me so well. Love, Seven.

**NO WOMAN WANTS** a man who's not his own man.

**CAN SHE LOVE** you if she doesn't understand you?

**PETRO & ANDY:** Happy 0th anniversary!! Jim and Daddie.

**BEV: SUPERMAN IS** powerless without Lois Lane. Me.

**HURSH** So glad you came to Austin - best buds for 18 years! Get ready to party down Texas style. Love Hursh

**BUMP** 1 year together & a million more to come. You are the love of my life. Buzz Buzz - Boo Boo Kitty F\*K

**JW: YOU SUCKED** the life from Mojo's. You are hated.

**MEGAN: I LOVE** you, take me back. - Zach T.

**BOOM-BOOM, WE** love you. - Little buds.

**RED: SORRY FOR** cutting you off! - Orange

**G. REEVES: I** wanna be your Justin one more time.

**C: I MISS** your love dip. I need you baby.

**A SENSUOUS KISS;** placed on apocalypse. - Gemini

**BLONDIE: STILL HAVEN'T** taken you out for your birthday. Jorge's?

**RAQUELITA: HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Don't get too drunk. Love you, Pookie.

**LIL' MISS HOT** Stuph: I will not see you again. Me send messages!

**(FROM A MOUNTAINTOP):** Pete loves him some DMF!!!

**JPR: IN YOUR** eyes I see what's on my mind.

**MY SWEET MARMOT:** You are my favorite dessert! Love, Girlfriend.

**MEGHAN, AUSTIN MISSES** your random acts of kindness. Come back!

**STUPID, WHY'D YOU** let Broken Teeth man contaminate you?

**RACHEL: I AM** a banana! Love, TT

**WE HIT A** one year homer Babybabe. Love ure Babygurli!

**CPM"" "PLATONIC" IS** tougher than I thought. You're so yummy! John.

**WHAT IF I** am a hypocritical deity? :)

**ANGEL: WAITING, LOVING** you. Want/need you. Marry me at sea!

**PABLO: YOU MAKE** me smile. May=terlingua! Love you, Sexypants.

**HANDSOME FACE: I** get that happy feeling when I'm with you.

**TO POOKY AND** Maggie's homegirl: keep runnin' for them roses!

**PUNKASS: THIS ONE** is for you. Love ya, TAT.

**WHO IS WRITING** to whom here? Don't know. Do you?

**SONJA: YOU ARE** sad, pathetic, selfish and mean.

**THOSE THAT SPEAK** the word usually know little at all of giving it.

**JENSAL, GO LIGHT** up SF! I love you. K. ☎5650

**THIS GURL MISSES** her boy in Dallas ever so much.

**KYLE!?!?! WHERE ARE** you?

**BECK: LOVING BEING** in cahoots with you. -Sarah

**I WANT MY** Shark back.

**JEN: I LIVE** to love you. -Ty.

**WLD: WHAT DOES** the Grey Goose say?!?! - LSS

**SCOTT, BREAKFAST AT** Trudy's? Watch some David Lynch? I!

## a shot in the dark

**WHOLE FOODS BULK.** You: attractive girl glasses, hairy armpits me: caught staring at your feet. we talked about blackberry cobbler, like to taste yours. ☎5706

**BARRY, SIDEKICKS, 4/22/05.** You weren't there long enough to introduce myself. Thought you were handsome! Me: GHM standing at the bar with friends. Would like to meet you! ☎5708



## flavor o' the week

**SWF, 35 YEARS** old. Dorky buck toothed rock-n-roll groupie chick seeks a converse wearing, punk rock guitar playing cartoonist man (50+) for good times and lascivious adventures. ☎5721



**the Luv Doc**

**Vagina Monologues**  
Zach Scott Theatre • 1510 Toomey Rd.  
Through May 29  
www.zachscott.com

\*\*\*\*\*

**Questions? Suggestions?**  
email: luvdoc@austinchronicle.com

Be honest with yourself: Mother's Day weekend is a pretty abysmal time to be trying to get your mack on, gay or straight - even if you're working some sort of weird lactation fetish. Mother's Day isn't about sex, it's about giving props to those who have paid the consequences thereof. There's no way around it, everybody has a mother. Yours may be living or dead, overbearing or absentee, hot or not, but unless you happen to be a jellyfish with the uncanny ability to read five-point type, you probably made the luge ride down the meat canal just like everyone else. Hell, even Jesus had a mother, and he was "begotten, not made," which basically means that Mother Mary had to deal with all the ugly and painful consequences of sex... but without actually getting laid. Bummer to be sure, but you can bet that the Virgin Mary got mommy perks far beyond the obligatory hand imprint clay mold or Popsicle-stick Polaroid picture frame. Plus, if there's any divine justice, she and Joe got it on like rabbits after the Lord and Savior was off the tit. After all, a woman has needs. For the rest of motherdom, however, a poorly fabricated construction-paper card scrawled with unintelligible Crayola will have to suffice at some time or another as thanks for hours of excruciating labor, stretch marks, perineal tearing, and a lifetime of worry. Suffice it to say that only a few people in the history of mankind - maybe Jesus, Elvis, Bill Gates, and Liberace - have ever come close to providing sufficient payback to moms. Really, it's an impossible dream. The best you can hope for is to someday endure the agony and spectacle of motherhood yourself, if only as a form of karmic penance for not showing proper respect and sympathy to she from whose loins you issued. Some call it a miracle, but those who have witnessed birth firsthand know that it's really more of a cross between the prom scene in *Carrie* and the prison break at the beginning of *Raising Arizona*. More than anything, it's a fascinating introduction to Biomechanics, specifically in relation to the superelasticity of the vagina. In comparison, the penis is just a badly shaped water balloon, a one-trick pony. It's no wonder then that over the centuries the vagina - veritable font of life that it is - has been the subject of much intrigue and mystery, but it's only recently that this dark nether region of womanhood has been explored extensively - brought to light, if you will. No more so than in the smash theatrical sensation *The Vagina Monologues* an oratory paean to punani written by Eve Ensler, who interviewed more than 200 women about their downstairs neighbors for the piece. This Sunday Zach Scott Theatre continues its ongoing production of *VM*, directed by Ann Ciccolella and featuring a talented cast of local actors: Franchelle S. Dorn, Janelle Buchanan, and Lauren Lane, who starred as the blond hottie in *The Nanny* with Fran Drescher. What better way to celebrate MD than by watching *VM* at Zach Scott Theatre?

**BEERLAND 4/22! YOU:** in striped shirt! Possibly the most deserving boy of a shot in the dark in the whole joint. Me: drew flaming hair on your arm. Mimosas perhaps? 📞5711

**LAVACA STREET, TUESDAY 4/26:** You: in grey polo (David?) Me: in aqua shirt, black skirt, denim jacket. Wanted to talk to you more/again! You were totally my type. 📞5714

**4/27 (OUR SCHOOL library):** You: sexy chica in yellow sundress, supremely beautiful. Me: deer in your headlights "doing homework" on the couch across the way. You're pretty, make you smile? 📞5715

**BURNET AND BRAKER, 9pm Wednesday:** You: large doe eyes playing with hair in Toyota? SUV. Me: blue truck, singing, exchanged glances, want to exchange more? 📞5717

**STARSEEDS: ALMOST EVERY** weekend. You: the most beautiful waitress ever. Me: pancakes and water. Because of you, I will never go to Kerby or Magnolia again. 📞5718

**SXSW: YOU: CUTE** blonde who asked me for a hug. I swung you around. May I have a copy of the picture? 📞5722

**NAUGHTY ROLLERGIRL: SHORT** black skirt, long legs, dirty skates. Me: Tall, tattooed guy thinkin' the dirty thoughts. Was that a wink or was I dreaming? 📞5723

**MSI SHOW AT Emo's:** You: Petra, wearing cool vintage blouse. Me: Lucas, short, skinny guy, black shirt. We danced together and had a great time. Wanna meet at another show? 📞5724

**KERRY: I'M INTRIGUED** by you and your mysterious notebook. Longbranch on Saturday night? 📞5726

**WERE YOU TEASING** me or him in those hot pink sweats? You: laptop girl. Me: black hat next to you ACCRG, trying not to stare. Get together and, um, study? 📞5728

**JUSTIN: I STILL** owe you coffee for all your help with my phone. Let me know when is good for you. I hope it's soon! Emily. 📞5729

**OLD SETTLER'S FEST:** You: naughty beer girl with fetish for "fatties." Me: with fantastic property in AZ. Wanna be the oasis in my desert? 📞5702

**YOU: COTTON GODDESS** in apparel at Whole Foods on 6th. Me: In need of a good pickin' free of pesticides. Thanks for the free sample. I can't get enough. 📞5698

**HEB OLTORF, FRI, 22:** You were ahead in line wearing green top blue, jeans. You cleared space on conveyor. I wore white t/khaki shorts. You look good. Coffee? 📞5699

**ME: NO CREDIT** card or 900 # ability, YOU: left shot in the dark 5590 - (knees, pong show). Everyone knows me, ask one of your friends for number. 📞5703

**HOT RED HEAD** at Pier One on Airport. You helped me find the perfect candle. Wanna help me light my fire? 📞5654

**ACC. "WHITE RABBIT"**scull and cross-bone/orange cat backpack girl" who laughed at my jokes, gave me granola bars, and helped me with math. This class blows without you. 📞5655

**RED HEAD, WHITE** tank, Freddie's on S. 1st Saturday night 4/16. First time this couple ever agreed on who's hot. Let us get to know you. 📞5658

**VESPA 4/16, CODY** from Arkansas: we were both interested in a retro. Love the braid -- have time for coffee? 📞5659

**NEW WHOLE FOODS, 4/17:** You: your button said "Jesse." Me: tall blonde with green shirt. Your eyes matched my shirt! Can I make you dinner sometime? 📞5660

**4/15 EXODUS: YOU** wore red beanie, VERY HOT. We danced and you saved me from "the guy." Save me again. 📞5661

**MET YOU "S"** at Jackalope, elbowed you, bought you Fireman's Four. Sat at table with your friend/neighbor, would like to catch up before you move to San Francisco. 📞5662

**YOU: WHITE BELT**/black hair rocking out to the Crack Pipes' new CD, "Beauty School," want to meet at their record release Friday at Beerland? 📞5647

**4/19 CONTINENTAL. YOU:** "Evil Bitch", wore pigtails just to torment me. Me: "Cruel Bastard". Your tremendous height won't matter when we are both lying down. I dare ya. 📞5651

**MARIA (TORI) IT'S** me, Bob. Where are you? 📞5653

# placing a personals or variations ad\*\*\*\*\*

Placing an *Austin Chronicle* personal ad is fun and simple! You can submit a free 30 word personal ad (10 words free for "Messages" ads) Monday through Friday the following ways: **BY FAX:** 458-6910 \***ON THE WEB:** austinchronicle.com/personals/form.html \**if all else fails:* **BY PHONE:** 454-5765 x137 \***IN PERSON:** 4000 N. IH-35 **REQUIRED INFO:** name, address, phone number (all ads may be edited for content). One ad at a time. Instructions on how to retrieve messages will be sent to you by mail. *We reserve the right to refuse any ad for any reason.*

# \*\*\*\*\*responding to personals ads\*\*\*\*\*

Responding to an ad by phone: To listen and respond to *Austin Chronicle* Personal ads, call **1-800-284-0865** (Visa, MC, AmEx) or **1-900-226-0242** (\$1.99/minute, 18+). You will have the opportunity to browse through ads by category or to respond to specific ads using the four digit voice-mail box number that follows each ad. Responding to an ad with Mail Forwarding: Write the five digit Mail Forwarding Number in the center of a regular envelope and then write the following address beneath it: **P.O. Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.** Ads with mail forwarding have a five digit number and this symbol: ✉

\*\*\*\*\*

# variations

# listening and responding to

## \*\*\*\*\*variations ads\*\*\*\*\*

**1-888-829-9137** with Visa, MC or AmEx or call **1-900-226-0274** \$1.99 PER MINUTE • 18 or over • See the "Personals" for instructions on placing a variations ad.

**HANDSOME BI/WHITE** male, 48, dark hair, very fit healthy, clean, passionate. My fetish is shaving myself. Seeking Bi (White/Hispanic) male/couple, 30-50, in shape, for quality play times. 📞1339

**LADIES-COUPLES, COMPLETE** relaxation and de-stress sessions offered by Mature white male. 📞1281

**MWC, MID 30'S,** Male Dom, Female Bottom: Austin area Dom seeking female submissive. Likes: spanking, mind games, rope bondage, fire/ice electric play and more. Dislikes: drinking to excess. 📞1433

**SEXY, 28 DARK** hair/eyes 5'9", looking to please sexy older women for playful fun! safe/discreet! 📞1284

**FORTYSOMETHING MARRIED MALE** straight, fit, healthy, successful. Wants to spend occasional quiet evenings with an over 30, attractive crossdresser who would like the attention of a handsome man. 📞1437

**ATTRACTIVE EXECUTIVE SEEKS** sexy married woman who would enjoy afternoon ecstasy with a highly sexual, intelligent, successful man. No strings, no pressure, just discreet exciting fun. 📞1343

**WM 41 HEIGHT**/weight proportionate looking for 2 men for some fun. Am especially attracted to Hispanic or Black men. Bring a bud and let's have some no strings fun. 📞1398

**COUPLE SEEKS GENTLEMAN.** Very attractive, refined, educated, professional friends. She: 33, tall, athletic, girl next door, inexperienced. He: straight, 43, silver fox, worldly. If one gentleman is wonderful, two must be? 📞1440

**BIC: WF, 44,** blonde, 36C, height/weight proportionate seeks WF, 38-48, of same stature, drug/disease free for 1st time pleasures. Be fun and discreet! 📞1396

**BM, EARLY 50'S,** trim, fit, healthy seeks mature, passionate, thoughtful woman for long-term relationship, friend, lover, confidante. Be D/D free, neat, attractive, height/weight proportionate. Marital status, ethnicity unimportant. 📞1392

**WEALTHY AND GENEROUS SWM** seeks very attractive female, 18-35, to spend time with when in Austin. Should be discreet and open-minded. 📞1288

**ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, 24,** seeking couple or male into cuckolding. I need someone to show my man the way it should be done. 📞1337

**ROUGH LOVE, DOMINANT SWM** with motorcycle painting business seeks open minded lady for spanking, bondage, toys, role playing, and light S&M. I'm 46, 5'8", attractive face and body. 📞1435

**HAVE YOU EVER** thought of making it with another guy? MHM wants to try one on one with another married guy. 📞1441

**CUDDLE PARTY? PROFESSIONAL** SWM, non-smoker, 49, offers private cuddle party to women under 45. This is a great way to relax and have fun. Your limits always respected. 📞1393

**I LOVE TRANNIES!** You work so hard for us, let me work hard for you. I will pamper and please. Me, SWM, 40, 180, handsome. 📞1394

**STRAIGHT BM AND** straight WM seek females, M/F and F/F couples 18-45 of all races and body types for good times. Serious inquiries only. 📞1335

**WATERSPORTS IN AUSTIN** SWM, 33, seeks female with similar interest for fun. 📞1336

**LET'S START WITH** conversation. MWF, late 50s, good listener, seeks discreet, non-smoking man near my age who also listens. I'm traditionally built, well-educated and traveling. Interests: conversation, slow dancing. 📞Box #54349, PO Box 49066, Austin TX 78765

**HANDSOME MALE SEEKS** companion. Young female wanted who likes to dress sexy and show off in public. I'm very generous at all times. Many benefits for the right girl. 📞1286

**BEAUTIFUL, CAMEL COMPLEXION,** sexy, voluptuous (36D's), shemale looking to meet nice looking men for erotic encounter. No scrubs. 📞1397

**BIWM, 30, 6'2,** 200, athletic/utility build. Tired of high-maintenance chicks, dislike scenes/anonymity. Looking for other bored burly masculine good-looking healthy (HIV-) guys. Beer/Greens OK. 📞1432

**DOMINANT, SANE MWM,** attractive, straight, imaginative. 40's seeks height-weight proportionate submissive WF into role-playing, bondage, spanking, etc. as powerful erotic tools. Friendship, discretion, trust important. 📞1338

**LIKE TO SHOW** off? I like to admire. Seeking a hunk to quench my desire. Flex your pecs and baseball biceps. I'll be a guy in heaven. Let's get together. 📞1334

**BIWM YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE,** shaved, in shape, looking for same for naked fun. Pics a plus. Please be or look under 30. Leave e-mail or number. 📞1283

**SUBMISSIVE SWM LOOKING** to explore service to a mistress. Beginner or experienced, let me please you any day of the week. 📞1400

**DISABLED MALE, LOOKING** for those ever so curious, whispering females, wondering if the "wheelchair guy" can have a good time. "I" can. Kinda cute, kinda kinky. All may apply. 📞1401

**DO YOU HAVE** what it takes? Be you, and explore your wildest intimate and erotic pleasures with a transsexual suited for you! There are no limitations. I won't tell!!! 📞1342

**STAR SEARCH. HANDSOME,** generous SHM seeks very pretty, soft, sexy, hot feminine she-male or gay to be my friend. 📞1340

**SEEKING SUMMER PRINCESS** Two straight DWM gentlemen 40's, handsome, sophisticated, healthy, considerate, trust-worthy wish to pamper, spoil, share attractive, bright, fit younger-woman 20-30's within fantasy friendship. Be nice like us. 📞1439

**46 YEAR OLD** Hispanic bi-male looking one or two good men. I am a definite bottom looking for tops only. I am submissive and eager to please. 📞1395

**WHO'S THE HAIREST** dude around????? Discreet, massaged trained Biker/Bear wants to know.....Be Cool! 📞1399

**SPRING IS HERE!** Are you ready for a fling? Let's go! Cute single hetero guy seeks adventure and more. You have nothing to lose! 📞1438

**LOOKING FOR ASIAN** women for short term relationship. Dont matter if you are single or in relationship needing more attention. Hang out, dine, movies, walks, make out, make love, whatever. 📞1332

**ATTRACTIVE WM, 33,** seeks attractive female partner, 20-35, with interest in breathplay and erotic asphyxia. I'm experienced, safe, respectful, and easy-going. 📞1436

**I AM A** 23 year old very attractive female looking for a wealthy and very generous man, single or married to spoil me and in return I will spoil you! 📞1434



# about AIDS

## Candlelight Memorial Set for Sunday, May 15

It isn't often that the community has an opportunity to remember those lost to AIDS, while also honoring those who are struggling today with HIV disease, much less to do so worldwide. Just such an event will be held on Sunday evening, May 15: the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial service.

The Candlelight Memorial, now in its 22nd year, is organized by the Global Health Council, one of America's most respected health policy organizations. This is the sixth year that Austin has participated, joining more than 1500 communities in 85 countries around the world. Turning Remembrance Into Action will be this year's worldwide theme. Locally, the Candlelight service will include speakers, music, poems, and songs.

This year's event will be on Sunday, May 15, at 8pm. Austin's location will be Republic Square Park on Guadalupe between Fourth and Fifth streets. Individual or group speakers, singers and musicians, poem readers, and performing artists are encouraged to participate. To participate or to help with the Candlelight Memorial service, please e-mail the event coordinator, Eric Crabtree, at ozparade@aol.com. For more information on the service itself, please visit www.candlelightmemorial.org.

Sandy Bartlett, AIDS Services of Austin  
with Eric Crabtree, Austin Candlelight Memorial Coordinator

**Have questions about HIV or AIDS? Call the ASA Info-Line at 458-AIDS  
or e-mail Sandy.Bartlett@ASAustin.org**

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