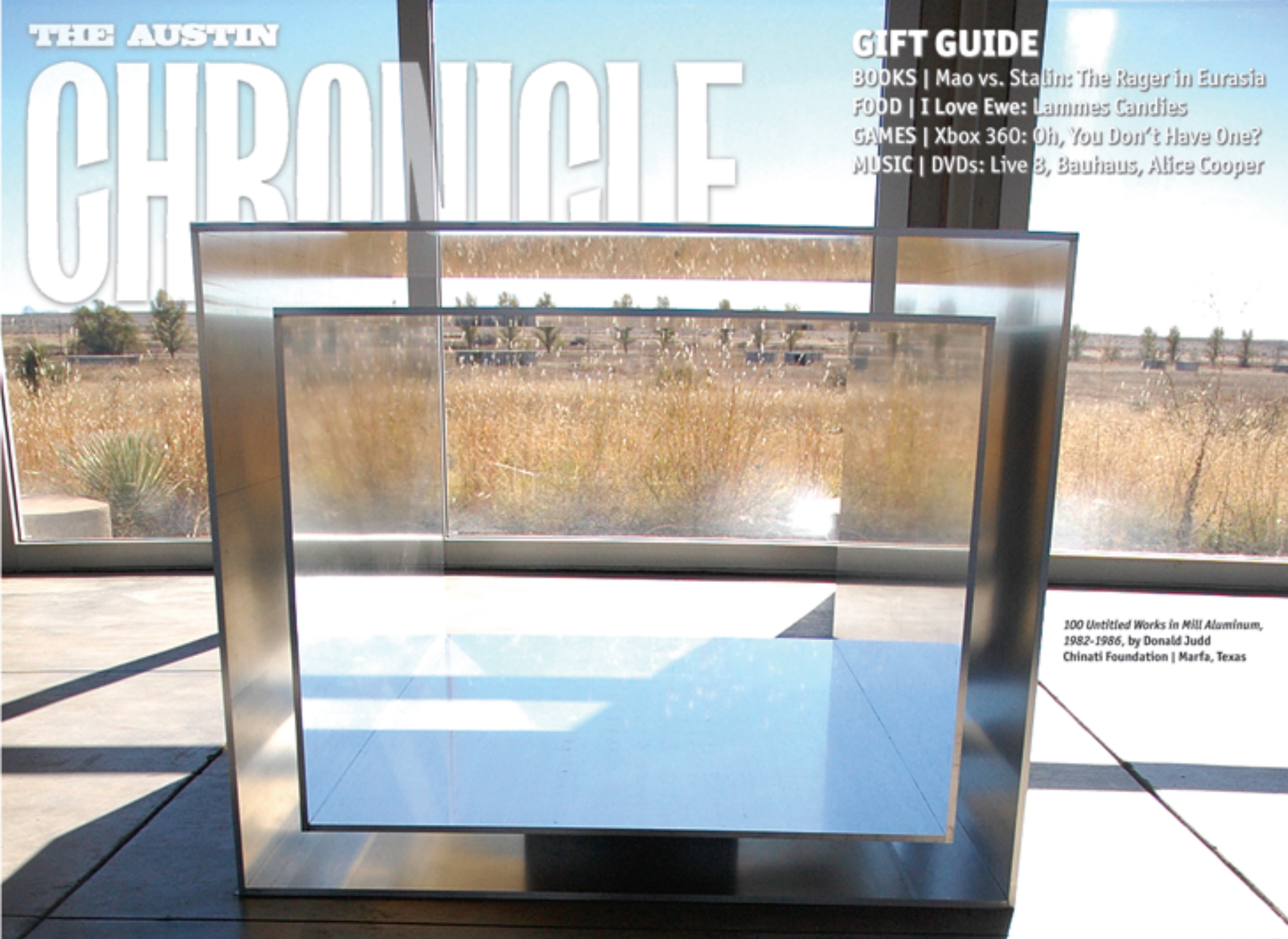
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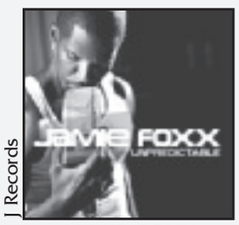


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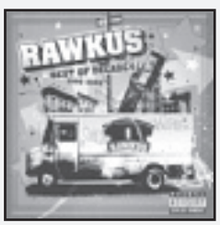
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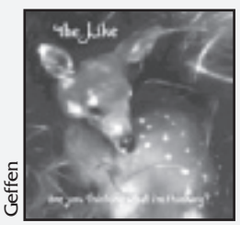

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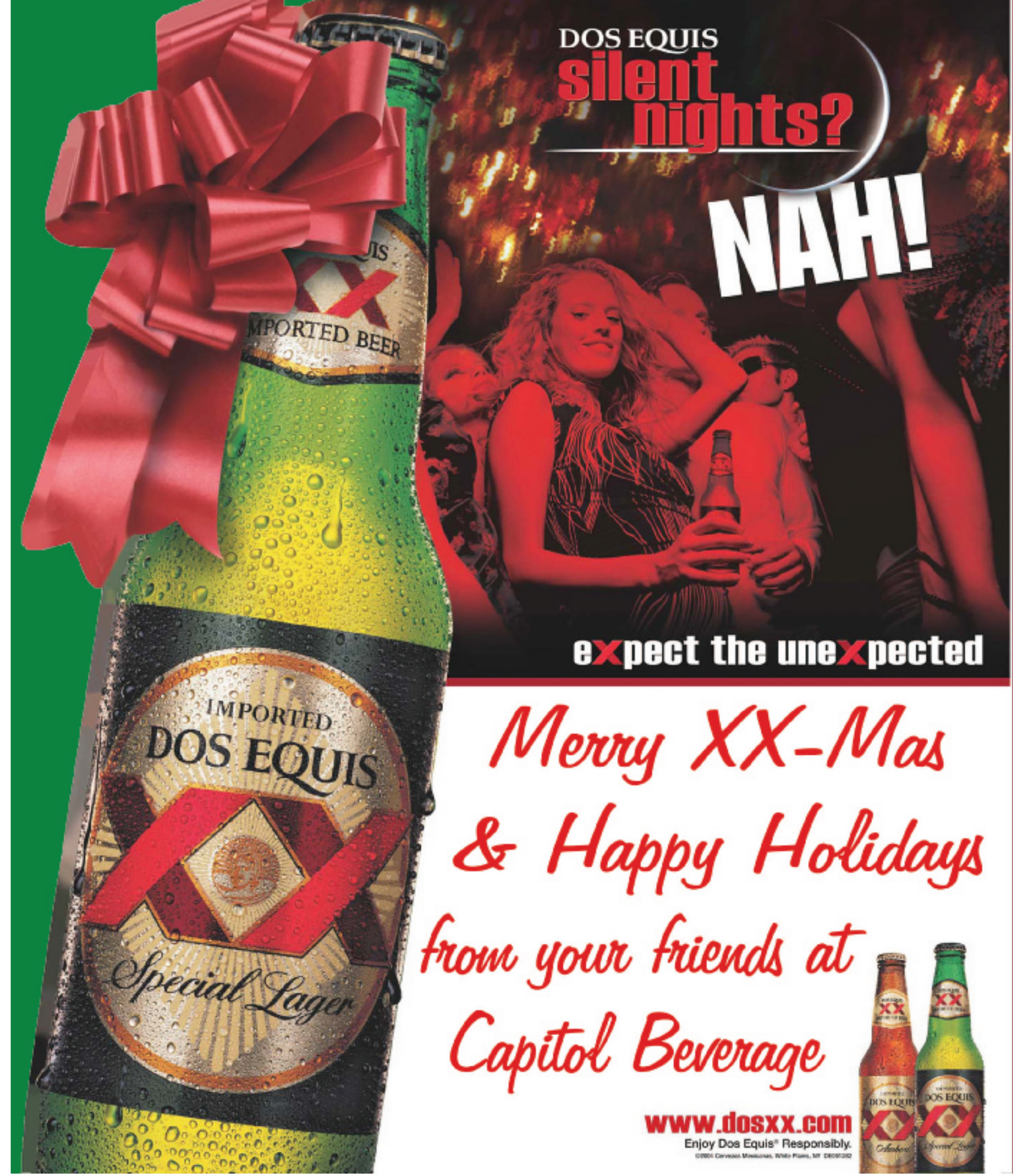
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By Any Means Necessary

What it takes to win the War on the War on Christmas

BY LOUIS BLACK

REPORT FROM THE FRONT:
FIGHTING THE WAR AGAINST
"THE WAR ON CHRISTMAS"

A found document
Somewhere in suburban America,
Dec. 21, 2005

Dear parents,

The war on "The War on Christmas" has turned out to be much more difficult and protracted than I expected. After all, three quarters of this country is Christian – demographically, Americans tend to be far more religious than Europeans, who seem to have no problem with Christmas – and the fast-growing religions are evangelical Protestant (you can tell they've been teaching us a lot here). This is a democracy, so we should have our way with no problem, but those God-hating, secular humanist atheists can't be trusted, just as you raised us to understand. They are sneaky devils, always claiming innocence as they plot against all Christians, the Ten Commandments, and anything related to Christ the Savior.

Let me tell you about yesterday, a typical day in our campaign. In the morning, we had Bible study. The discussion was on Christmas trees (a sacred Christian symbol). In the Gospel According to St. Luke, it is made explicit that liberal Democrats are evil, and a Christmas tree is taller than the tallest male member of the household, has to go inside, and has an angel on top. In John, the wording isn't as clear; he seems to agree with the first two of those provisions but argues that, instead of an angel, it should be a star. As you can imagine, we really got into this one.

Then we went out to save Christmas. The first convenience store we came to not only didn't have the travesty of a Happy Holidays banner – they had no banner or decorations at all. This just days before Christmas! Aren't they Americans?

We broke all their windows. Then we moved on. We came to a large furniture store strewn with Happy Holidays banners. We grabbed the store manager and asked him why he hated Christ, Christians, God, the United States of America, and Christmas so much. He denied this, claiming the signs were not an attack on anyone, but welcome all to the joy of the season. We tried the old witch trick on him in a river running nearby; he drowned, so we knew he was lying.

Next, we came to a bookstore and burned all the anti-Christian, anti-Jesus, anti-Bill O'Reilly, anti-Bush books. This took quite a while.

Then we hit a toy store, where we made them take down the Happy Holidays banner and put up ones that said "Merry Christmas!"

Don't these people get it?!? This is a Christian country: The Jesus-haters, the Christian-haters, the Christmas-haters can't win!

We took a break for a late lunch and more Bible study. We read some of my favorite passages from the Gospel According to St. Matthew (Chapter 2):

"1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came three wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the King had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Then Herod the King looked out on to the sky, when what to his wondering eyes should appear but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

5 With a little old driver, so lively and quick, Herod the King knew in a moment it must be Saint Nick."

After this break, we walked through the shopping malls outside of town, where we were thrilled to see they had really embraced the spirit of Christmas. All the important symbols associated with the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ were there in abundance – candy canes, sleds, fat Santas, elves in green – and every sign said "Merry Christmas!"

We headed back to our hostel. When we got there, some men were picketing. We decided they must be gay to hate Christians, Jesus, and Christmas so much. Now, though we all hate the sin, being true believers, we love the sinner. Unfortunately, we had to stone them for quite a while. I mean, we didn't want to hurt the sinner, but it was the only way to drive the sin out of their bodies.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No. 3 in a Series – Collect Them All

Background: Conflict of interest is in the eye of the beholder. It is never your problem, as you always have a good, fair reason for feeling and reacting as you do. It's other people who are corrupted by their conflicts of interests. Especially media people.

Given the *Chronicle* advocates active involvement in the community, few publications are as flush with conflict of interest as the *Chronicle*, and in terms of wearing way too many hats, quite modestly I'd have to suggest I'm the staff's leader in tainted acts.

There used to be a music writer for another publication in this town who would note all the conflicts of interest I routinely confessed to and accuse me of having the very conflicts of interest I'd just acknowledged. I was so diligent about noting them that editors and proofreaders had long taken to removing my disclaimers as redundant and boring. Now, this writer's kids regularly swam in the pool of a manager whose acts he liked. He knew that, even though there was this apparent conflict, he wouldn't let it affect him: He liked this act's music anyway, and the fact the his kids were swimming in their manager's pool all the time didn't influence him; he knew that, so he never had to mention it.

Here at the *Chronicle*, we encourage involvement, and we even more strongly encourage noting our involvement when it is even marginally relevant.

Arts Editor Robert Faires is not only a superb critic, but also a terrific actor and excellent director. His wife, *Chronicle* contributor and actress Barbara Chisholm, is not only brilliantly talented, but a true Austin *stah*! Critic Barry Pineo and writer/editor Wayne Alan Brenner are both involved in the theatre community; Food Editor Virginia B. Wood and the food-reviewing gang have worked at any number of restaurants.

Staff writer Margaret Moser essentially created, institutionalized, and conceived of a Dewey decimal system for Austin's groupie scene. I'm almost positive that's true, but it doesn't really matter, as I'm contractually bound to say it.

There really isn't the space to begin to list *Chronicle* staffers who are musicians and their many different bands.

In almost every area, we can detail extensive staff involvement in the areas they cover. When appropriate, we do.

□

Last issue, I quoted from the song "For What It's Worth," by Stephen Stills as performed by Buffalo Springfield. As originally written, my column was by no means explicit about this authorship, as I thought this piece of information was a given. Editing further obscured the point. Nowhere, however, did I suggest the song was written by Neil Young, as it wasn't. Since the piece was there to praise Young, some made an understandable mistake of thinking I was really stupid. I probably am, but I know who wrote the damn song! ■







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POSTMARKS

Office Closed The *Chronicle* offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, and will reopen for regular business hours Tuesday, Dec. 27.

'Chronicle' Hypocritical

Dear *Chronicle*,

Seems as if your paper has been putting lots of effort into whistle-blowing and finger-wagging at the supposed wrongdoings of AMD and its CEO ["Back to the Trenches," News, Dec. 16].

But I have happened to notice that every week you run a quarter-page ad from Laboratory Computers, who, despite selling Intel systems, mainly promotes AMD products. The ad is a real eye-catcher for every red-blooded male in Austin who reads your publication. There is always some computer vixen in a very tight, short lab smock suggestively displaying computers and other *hard*ware. This ad only mentions AMD computers that have really cool names like the Genius, the Monster, and creatures, oh my.

This to me seems like a direct conflict of interest with your principles and stance. But then again, they are a paying advertiser. Utilizing this sort of logic I guess a dog turd wouldn't taste half bad to the editor of the *Chronicle* as long as it was wrapped up nicely in a couple of $100 bills. Bon appétit Louis.

Frank Ross Anderson Jr.

[Louis Black replies: The Chronicle *has a long-standing policy that there is a solid wall separating editorial from advertising. Buying or not buying ads does not influence editorial decisions at all. We are not fooling ourselves and certainly not trying to fool our readers; what we do to stay in business is sell advertising. Regardless of the* Chronicle*'s stated position in editorial, and within reason and the law, we'll sell an ad to whomever or whatever. It is very rare and only after the most careful consideration that we turn any ad down. This is almost never an easy decision to make. But whereas we wouldn't even consider making our staff follow editorial's lead, we certainly don't expect our readers are in anything resembling lockstep, so we certainly wouldn't put such a stricture on advertisers. When it comes to vixens and turds, it's always a pleasure to hear from someone reasonable.]*

Oops! The photo that ran last week with "Christian Peacemakers: 'In the Way' of Violence" was credited to Christian Peacemaker Teams. The photo was actually taken by Texans for Peace founder Charlie Jackson. The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

Finish Building the Bikeway

Dear *Chronicle*,

A while back, Mayor Wynn asked the citizens of Austin for suggestions on how to honor Lance Armstrong for his incredible seven wins in the Tour de France. I would like to make the obvious suggestion: Finish building the Lance Armstrong Bikeway!

Construction of the bikeway began years ago when "they" put in curb cuts and a sidewalk connecting Fourth Street under I-35 for cyclists; however, "they" left a dangerous situation. Every time I cross there, I worry as I dart across the busy access road that I'll crash in front of a speeding motorist after getting my bike tire caught in the railroad tracks. Or maybe I won't see a car coming because of the parked cars on the access road. Or maybe I'll fall in one of the many potholes on Fourth Street and break my face.

To properly honor Lance, and to serve the hundreds of folks who use this bike corridor each day, the Fourth Street crossing needs flashing lights to warn motorists of bike/ped traffic, the potholes need to be fixed, parking needs to be eliminated on the access road, and something (what, I don't know) needs to be done about those railroad track traps.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Schaffer

'Page 2' Full of Major Errors

Dear Editor,

Like Louis Black, I also count myself as a Neil Young fan of more than 30 years ["Page Two," Dec. 16]. Unlike Mr. Black, I figured out a long time ago that Stephen Stills is the composer of "For What It's Worth," not Neil Young. Oh, by the way, Neil Young's first solo album is not called "The Loner." It is called *Neil Young*. The second track is a song named "The Loner"; however, it is not the title track.

Other than being full of major errors, great column.

Clint Morehead

[Louis Black responds: Sorry, this was an error of astonishing obliviousness. It never crossed my mind that everyone wouldn't know that "For What It's Worth" was written by Stephen Stills, in the same way I would never think to cite "Imagine" as a John Lennon song or "Like a Rolling Stone" as Dylan's. The way my original was edited made this more difficult to understand, but even my original was obscure.]

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.

Saving Our Heritage?

Dear Editor,

This is in regards to the guy who felt it necessary to save our heritage by saving English ["Postmarks Online," Dec. 7]. First of all, our heritage is a combination of immigrants coming to America, forming a "melting pot" and our American English was born. There is nothing unique about it except for the fact we stole it from the English and changed it up as we saw fit. Secondly, did you know that Hispanics will be the majority in the country by 2050? Start taking your Spanish lessons now. I promise a little Spanish won't hurt our heritage.

Your disgruntled Hispanic,
Erica Kuschel

Moser a Treasure

Dear Editor,

Just finished reading Margaret Moser's excellent review of the Rhino boxed set *Girl Group Sounds* ["I'd Much Rather Be With the Girls," Music, Dec. 9]. What a treasure this lady is. Please don't ever let her slip away from the *Chronicle*.

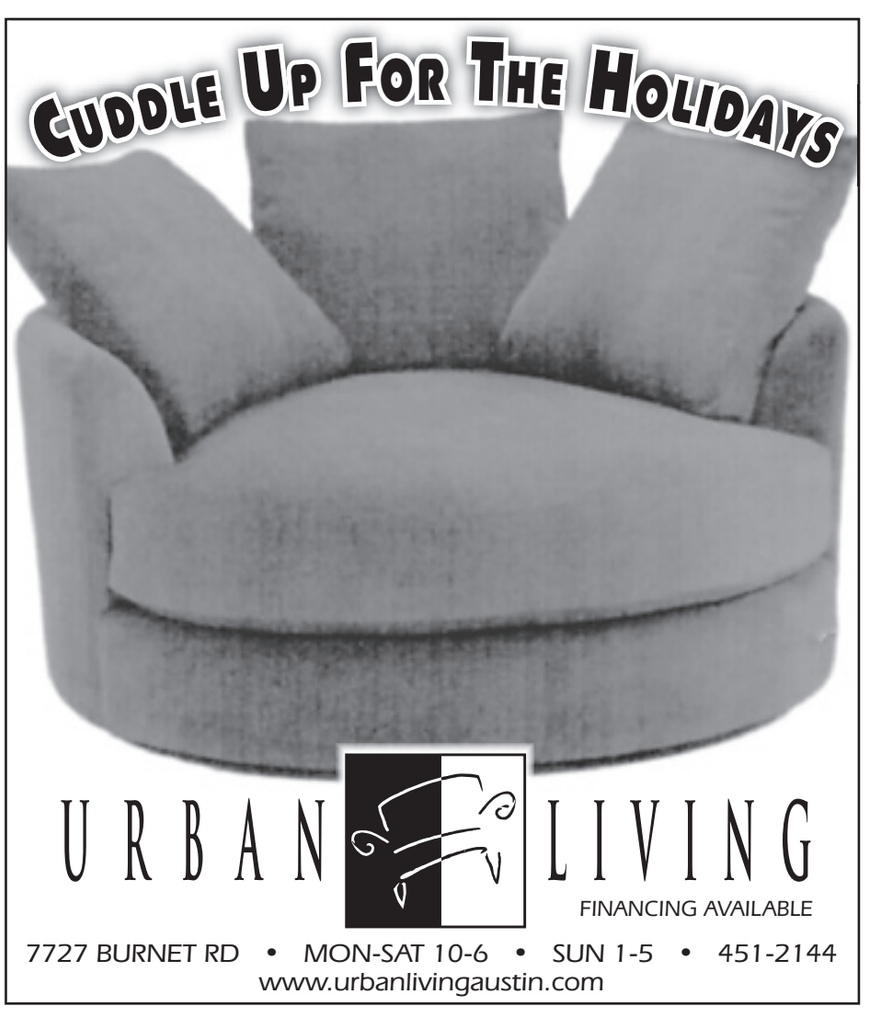
Sincerely,
Kirby F. Warnock
Dallas

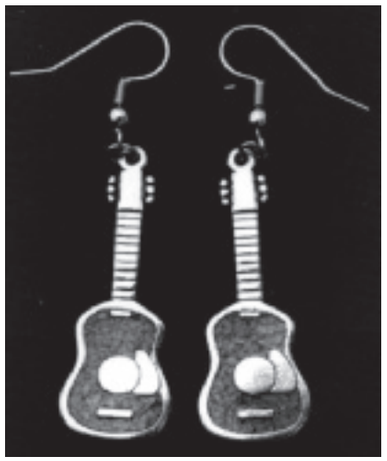
continued on p.10

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Integration Rather Than Condemnation

Dear Editor,

Re: Austin City Council Minutemen resolution: If the council feels compelled to weigh in on this issue that does not directly involve the city, why not revise the wording of the resolution below to express the council's opposition to the harassment of illegal immigrants by any individual or group? The current wording requires that any Minutemen activity (even peaceful protests that do not involve any contact with immigrants) be reported to the city manager. That sounds a lot like the monitoring of communists under McCarthy.

I support an earned citizenship program to streamline immigration and confer citizenship on immigrants who hold a steady job and do not otherwise violate the law, particularly those who take steps like attempting to learn English and civics. At the same time, we should deport illegal immigrants who commit crimes. However, the majority of immigrants are here to work, so we need to focus on integrating immigrants so they become Americans, not just workers.

In Germany, you are not considered German if you are not German by ancestry – the genius of America is being American is a state of mind, not an ethnicity. Plus, integration certainly does not mean losing your native culture, but rather contributing its richness to the American tapestry. Continuing our historic integrationist approach that is quite unique among even Western nations will enable us to avoid the problems Europe is now experiencing.

I also believe the law permits people living on the border and elsewhere to use reasonable force to protect their property from intruders regardless of their citizenship status. I think we can all agree that illegal immigrants should not be subjected to the use of force or the threat of the use of force that is not authorized by law or goes beyond that authorized by law. Why not focus the resolution on that rather than on a specific group that engages in a wide range of activities, many of which are probably protected by the First Amendment? Better yet, why not go beyond this narrow issue and examine what the city can do to promote integration.

Marc Levin, Esq.

Not Too Graphic

Dear Editor,

I attended a matinee screening of *Brokeback Mountain* on its first day of major release. I noted that Marjorie Baumgarten awarded it four stars, and I'm going to agree with that rating [Film Listings, Dec. 16]. Instead of the cinematic/genre comparisons she makes, I would simply invoke Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* in terms of great characters and story.

Since Travis County has the distinction of having had the broad-mindedness to vote *against* the anti-gay marriage amendment being added to the state constitution, I would inform potential viewers that this movie should be an enjoyable affirmation of that viewpoint.

As there have been *Chronicle* readers who have occasionally been offended by movies recommended herein, I would also present this precaution. As noted in your review, there is a scene in which their tent rocks; the sex is not *too* graphic and does not involve nudity. There is perhaps one scene in which the lovers kiss. The rest of their affection takes the shape of embraces and fistfights. The minor nudity contained in the movie is not full-frontal, and never in the context of a "love scene."

Your reviewer writes the film moved her heart, and I'll admit I teared up and sniffled some during the conclusion, like a little girl.

It is certainly worth the price of admission and the time.

Here I will nominate my choice for the Academy Awards best movie of 2005, however: *March of the Penguins*.

Sincerely,
Kenney C. Kennedy

13th Floor Elevator Fanatic!

Dear Editor,

Here in Eugene, Ore., Texas bands of the Sixties are held in the highest esteem, and no band out of the vast truthful reservoir of Texas Sixties bands is lauded more than the 13th Floor Elevators. I've made sure the Elevators are played at the very least twice per two-hour program on KWVA 88.1FM Eugene, Ore., where I work. I can make sure of this because I play whatever I want and always play plenty of recordings by the Chessmen, the Briks, the Penthouse 5, and the Exotics, all from Dallas; Zachary Thaks Liberty Bell from Corpus; the Outcasts and Stoics from San Antonio; and Neal Ford and the Ramadas from Houston.

Even with that heavy competition the Elevators not only get more airplay, they sound even greater and more powerful to me every time always. The history, the mystique, the feeling of Stacy Sutherland's super-charged steam-drill opening attack on the fast version of "Tried to Hide" has a complete thrillness to it all its own that I'm sure Elevator fans have no problem connecting with. Or the very first time I heard "Slip Inside This House" 20 years ago. At the very end of the song after Roky stops, Stacy starts this really smooth Jimmy Reed riff only sped up and so just leaped out at me and still does that I realized that's the only ending that could ever be heavy enough for the most amazing hypnotic intensity flow eight-minute song in music history, let alone Elevator folklore. It was then I realized only Stacy could do this almost impossible job, that is lead guitar for the 13th Floor Elevators. God bless you, Stacy.

Peter Weinberger
Eugene, Ore

Bobby Seale Riots

Dear Editor,

Louis sure brought back some memories to me, although mine were the Bobby Seale riots in New Haven ["Page Two," Dec. 16]. I was maybe 14 or 15 and my dad and his doctor friend brought me along to what was supposed to be a peaceful event, although they were prepared to help on the medical side. It was cool, with live bands in all the quads, a few right reverends speaking, everyone happy. Nothing happened until some rowdy guys started throwing fluorescent light tubes like javelins at the riot cops. Then we all got gassed.

I learned a lot that night. Thanks for the memories, man. I liked what you wrote there.

Sam Wells
South Padre Island

Don't Bell That Cat

Dear Editor,

Regarding the article "The Bloodthirsty Killers of Circle C" [News, Dec. 9], I think that Rachel Proctor May is a very talented writer, and I appreciate her well-balanced article about the free-roaming cat problem in Austin and my quest to educate folks on it. My only comment to the *Chronicle* is their choice of the letter to the editor that someone chose to publish in the printed edition.

One writer suggests that it easier to "bell" a cat, which is the biggest misconception ["Postmarks," Dec. 16].

continued on p.12



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Putting bells on cats doesn't work. Cats stalk slowly and often wait in ambush to catch their prey. There is no time for the bird to escape when it hears the bell, if it hears the bell. Birds and other wildlife do not associate bells with being stalked.

The other was the Ph.D. who wrote a powerful letter, which was educational ["Postmarks Online," Dec. 12] ... instead of publishing that, oh well I've got a lot of work ahead of me I can tell. Now I hope the *Chronicle* publishes this letter so people don't start thinking belling a cat works as a way to warn wildlife of danger!

Susan Schaffel

Christian Persecution

Dear *Chronicle*,

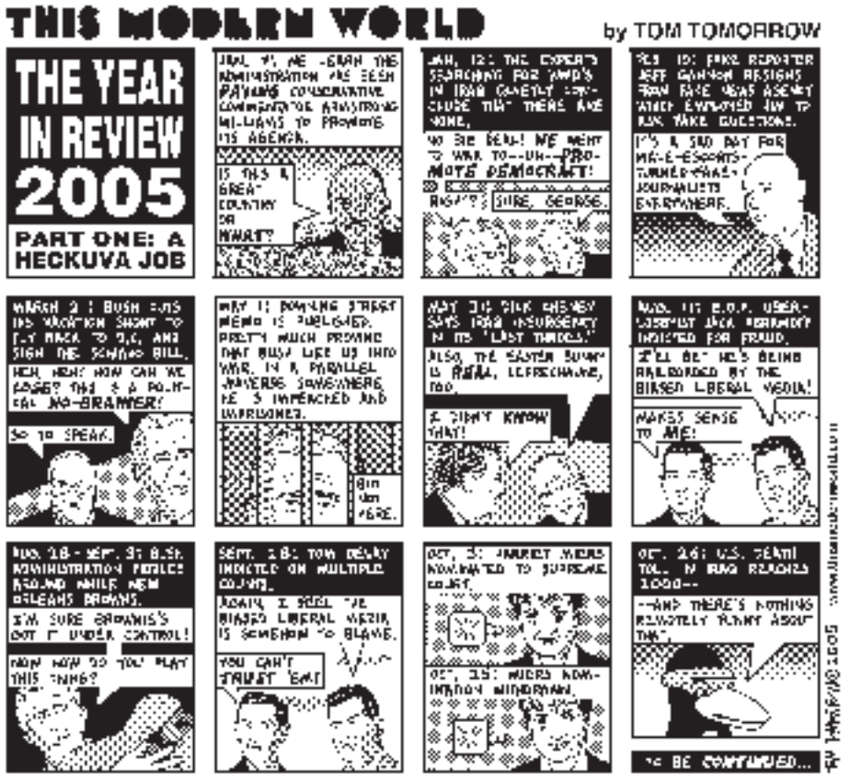
If there is to be no religion or spiritual practices in public schools, why are some teachers being permitted to teach children, including kindergartners, yoga and meditation techniques such as the lotus/chi position, and even chanting "om"? Surely if Christian symbols and prayer have no place in the schools, then neither do these Eastern and new age practices. Parents need to know just what is going on their children's classrooms here in Austin.

Russell Kirkman

Spin, Spin, Spin!

Dear Editor,

Today, as the U.S. Senate, that bastion of the gullible and the culpable, votes to extend the USA PATRIOT Act, I'm thinking about spin. The right wing has gotten so adept at Orwellian naming schemes, I think maybe it's time some of the rest of us got into the act.



After all, lots of people seem to believe that the PATRIOT Act is about being anti-terrorist, which is defined as patriotic. In actuality, of course, it's about denial of constitutional rights, which is very unpatriotic.

Then there's the Clear Skies Initiative, which everyone should understand is designed to gut the Clean Air Act.

So, I've come up with an idea for a comprehensive national sex education course, to be taught in every high school in the country. I'm calling it "Pro-Creationism."

Hey, if the "fundies" are dumb enough to swallow the PATRIOT Act.

Ben Hogue

Great Film Festival!

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say that I read the article on the film festival over at Reagan High School and I viewed all of the films ["Reagan Film Fest," News, Nov. 25]. The kids worked really hard on them. I really liked "Trapped in the Closet." It was really cute and very funny. But my favorite of course is my daughter's, Miss Tazea I. Dukes. Thank you for everything that you did for those kids, especially my baby.

Thank you.

Tiana Dukes
A proud parent

Make the Holidays Happy

Dear Editor,

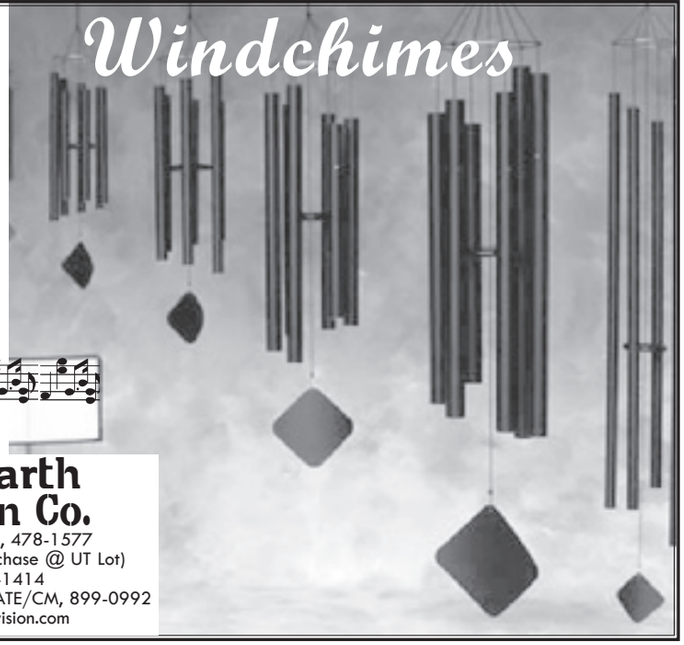
Last year for New Year's Eve, I was sitting in my home by myself, dispassionately reading a book I'd already read, and drinking sparkling apple cider. After midnight passed, I looked around and said, "No matter what it is next year, I want to be doing something different." This is a message for people who, like me last year, thought that the holidays are for couples and families: make up your mind to do something different. Volunteer. Join a networking group. Throw your own holiday shindig. Whatever you do, don't spend the time thinking about what you don't have at the moment. Get out of your head, and into your life, and have as busy a holiday season as you want. Trust me, it's worth it. Happy Holidays!

Stephanie Webb

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news



THOSE AREN'T REINDEER: Blue Santa - the APD's version of the Jolly Old Elf - went around town in something considerably bigger than a sleigh delivering toys to needy children on Saturday. The tradition has helped brighten the holidays for underprivileged kids since 1972. To donate or volunteer, call 220-BLUE, or go to www.bluesanta.org.

JOHN ANDERSON

23 THE HIGHTOWER REPORT **24** AMD UPDATE **26** AUSTIN'S PRAIRIE LAND



Harold Pinter

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"We have brought torture, cluster bombs, depleted uranium, innumerable acts of random murder, misery, degradation, and death to the Iraqi people and call it 'bringing freedom and democracy to the Middle East.'"

– British playwright **Harold Pinter**, accepting the 2005 Nobel Prize for Literature

"And tonight, I ask all of you listening to carefully consider the stakes of this war, to realize how far we have come and the good we are doing, and to have patience in this difficult, noble, and necessary cause."

– President **George W. Bush**, defending the war on Iraq in a television address, Dec. 18

HEADLINES

- City Council is on hiatus until Jan. 12. In last week's meeting, council enacted a moderated version of the **public order ordinances**, installing a stronger ban on panhandling and loitering, but refraining from further limits on door-to-door petitioning and streetside soliciting. See "Beside the Point," p.16.
- Negotiations between **Capital Metro** contractor StarTran and Local 1091 of the transit workers union remained tense and unresolved. On Monday, management said it had delivered its "Last, Best and Final Offer" and declared an impasse – if the company imposes a settlement, the union says it will call a strike. At (holiday) press time Tuesday, both parties were still hanging fire. See p.19.
- Judge Pat Priest declined to schedule an early January trial for U.S. Rep. **Tom DeLay** in the TRMPAC case, saying he would wait until an appeals court rules on his dismissal of the conspiracy charge, one of three charges against the former majority leader. DeLay's attorneys are hoping to sever DeLay's case from his two co-defendants for a quick decision, but the appeal may take weeks or months.
- President Bush went on the offensive this week – not against Iraqi insurgents, but against congressional opponents of both parties who object to his authorization of **National Security Agency wiretaps** without the legally required judicial warrants. Bush also demanded that the Senate reauthorize the **PATRIOT Act** unamended; if the law is not passed by Dec. 31, it will expire.

NAKED CITY

- A second Republican joined the **House District 48 race** on Monday, just one day before a drawing to set the ballot order for the Jan. 17 special election. Computer consultant Robert Reynolds is the fifth candidate vying to fill the vacancy created by Rep. Todd Baxter's resignation. In Tuesday's drawing, fellow GOP candidate Ben Bentzin won the top placement on the ballot, followed by Libertarian Ben Easton, Democrat Donna Howard, Reynolds, and Democrat Kathy Rider. Reynolds' last-minute entry into the race left some Dems wondering if the party enlisted him in response to this week's news tying scandal-ridden D.C. lobbyist Jack Abramoff to Bentzin's 1992 race against state Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, as well as Baxter's campaign against former Rep. Ann Kitchen. *– Amy Smith*
- In other District 48 news, prospective Dem candidate **Andy Brown** lost a last-minute attempt to secure a place on the special election ballot. Brown, who will still run for District 48 in the March Democratic primary, had sought to overturn a the secretary of state's ruling that he had not met the residency requirements for the special. Brown, a lifelong Austin resident but a relative newcomer to the district, had hoped for an emergency ruling in his favor last Friday, but U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks upheld the state's decision. Democrats charge that Gov. Rick Perry deliberately set a quick timetable on the special election to benefit the wealthy Bentzin, the party's choice to succeed Baxter. Perry said the special election must occur next month so the district will have representation in an upcoming special legislative session on school finance (though he let two special sessions on school finance slide this year before setting an election in Houston to replace Rep. Joe Moreno, a Democrat who died in an automobile accident).

– A.S.

continued on p.17

POINT AUSTIN

Saying 'No' to AMD

The company moves forward, as the culprits are wiping away their fingerprints

BY MICHAEL KING

I hesitate to write anything further about Advanced Micro Devices and its announced move to Southwest Austin, since those deep thinkers down at the *Statesman* declared the matter closed a week ago. Sneering at anyone who might raise a question about the AMD project – exactly one day after the official site plan was filed and simultaneously blazoned approvingly on the daily's front page – the editors denounced the "fuss" over AMD's decision as "vivid testimony to the inability of some political opponents to take 'yes' for an answer."

Well, excuse us for fussing. We remain under the delusion that the citizens of Austin have not only the right, but the obligation, to ensure good stewardship for the dwindling amount of undeveloped land in our area, most especially those relatively untouched portions that remain in the watersheds for the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs. The AMD site, known as Lantana, is in the contributing zone for the aquifer, and barely upstream from the direct recharge zone. The future of the neighboring tracts, and therefore the aquifer's future, could well be determined by the potential development rush likely to be triggered by the relocation of a major employer bringing 2,000 to 3,000 employees to the heart of that area.

But as far as the *Statesman* is concerned, any further debate has been rendered unnecessary by AMD's site plan, which, by incorporating elaborate "greenbuilding" methods, may well succeed in its specific purposes of protecting this particular acreage from degradation and the streams and aquifer from the pollutants normally associated directly with such a major facility. Therefore any continued opposition, announce the editors, "exposes again the no-growth, no-compromise posture of a core group of naysayers who use the environment to fuel their power trips." My, my – those are strong words for the public opposition of literally thousands of Austinites, naysaying power-trippers all, who have repeatedly expressed their common sentiments over the past two decades against intensive development in the southwest watershed, and who have most recently signed on in great numbers to SOS petitions to persuade AMD to settle elsewhere.

Noblesse Oblige

Not content to dismiss the opposition as extremist, the *Statesman* has to misstate the political process that has brought AMD to this point. "From the outset," they write, "AMD's project has given top priority – not to mention extra expense – to meeting environmental con-

continued on p.16

cerns." Actually, from the outset AMD and CEO Hector Ruiz were set to move forward with their own plans with little input from the city or anybody else. The street buzz was that Ruiz, having been an official at Motorola when that company was dissuaded from an aquifer relocation by public opposition, swore that he would never again let "the Lilliputians" tell him how to run his business.

This time around, it was only when AMD was stung by widespread public criticism that company officials realized they would have to tread very carefully to save themselves from an outright public relations disaster. By their own admission (perhaps the *Statesman* editors should read their reporters' coverage), when they called in independent environmental consultants, they were told the original construction plans would have to be completely scrapped, reconfigured, and re-engineered, if the company was to approach the sort of environmental protection that they said they desired.

To AMD's credit, they listened to the outside consultants, and in collaboration have designed a site plan that appears to be as sustainable and preservation-oriented as possible under the circumstances. They hope to leave a small footprint, bring much of the land back to a reasonably natural state, and (most importantly) reduce stormwater runoff and therefore watershed pollution to as low a level as seems possible for this kind of construction. That effort is to be commended – but to believe that it would have happened without the firm public presence of those environmental "naysayers," not to mention a generation of local public activism on environmental issues (consistently opposed or disdained by the daily), is to be living in a delusory world of corporate benevolence.

A hundred fifty years ago, there were no doubt statesman-like overseers on East Texas plantations who broadcast the same sort of opinions of their masters to the unhired help.

Just Say No

All of which discussion remains only preamble to the central issue concerning the AMD plans. Even if their own facility succeeds in being as pristine as advertised (a big if), what happens to the long-standing community determination to keep major employers off the watershed, because major employers inevitably bring along with them intensive residential and commercial development, exploding traffic, and consequent demands for public infrastructure that is not only polluting but exponentially expensive. That adds insult to injury, for it effectively forces the public that opposed the development in the first place to subsidize its expansion, and thereby to take the blame for the results we tried to prevent – while the corporate managers sponsor black-tie banquets to give themselves and their bosses headline-grabbing "greenbuilding" awards.

I asked Allyson Peerman, AMD's director of global community affairs (no doubt a considerable burden), in light of the company's visible determination to protect this particular site, for her response to the prediction that, as former Council Member Brigid Shea puts it, the AMD facility will inevitably become "an island of compliance [with environmental standards] in an ocean of noncompliance." Peerman replied, "Our basic premise is that this area is developing now, and that development will continue. … We approached this project on the assumption that this building will continue, and we will use our human and financial resources in a responsible way, and reach out to others as an educational resource."

No doubt the California and New York investors in new Southwest apartment houses, convenience stores, strip malls, big boxes, and gas stations will take those words to heart as they make plans to follow AMD (and Stratus, né Freeport-McMoRan) into the watershed. To me, it sounds very much like Dr. John's lament of apologetic betrayal, "If I don't do it, somebody else will." And I suppose the folks who worked so diligently on "green-building" for AMD can also use it to sing themselves to sleep at night, down the years, as the once-clear waters flow dark and darker underground. ■

BESIDE THE POINT

DO YOU CANOE? COUNCIL DO!

Last week, shaking off the shackles that bind, City Council flew in the face of staff recommendations, charting its own independent path, for what the members saw as the Greater Good of the City.

Did they deal the deathblow to more permissive zoning at the controversial **Champions Tracts** in Northwest Austin? No, that passed on second reading. Surely they must have reconsidered the city's **public order ordinances**, which, aside from prohibiting panhandling, criminalize inevitable aspects of homelessness, like sleeping outside? Nope, most of that passed too. So what valiant stand, you may ask, for representative government, did Council embody that day?

Let's talk **canoe rentals**!

Item 40 – changing management of the city's Zilker Park canoe rental service from longtime concessionaire **Zilker Park Boat Rentals** to the PARD-approved **Zilker Park Canoe and Kayak** – was listed on the consent agenda, and hadn't even been pulled by a member for discussion. It was only after several citizens spoke in support of the original operators, ZPBR's Howard and Dorothy Barnett, that members abruptly shifted their paddles with the prevailing wind. ZPC&K's Patrick Thomas rose to defend his suddenly embattled frontrunner. But in the end, his and his wife Rachel's protestations fell on deaf ears.

What had appeared a foregone conclusion abruptly sank like a cornbread canoe, as Raul Alvarez moved the concession contract be re-awarded to Barnett, whose proposal had placed third in the city's management matrix. Lee Leffingwell concurred, echoing Alvarez's claim that scoring didn't properly account for experience, as it awarded an equal score to both bids – although the Thomases have operated their Rowing Dock boat rental service, also on Town Lake, for more than six years. Leffingwell continued, "Sometimes there are intangibles that can't be logically considered in a matrix, and I think that's what we have in this case."

Not rowing quietly into that good night, the Thomases have since submitted a letter to council detailing their objections to Thursday's action. They charge that the award process was undermined by a release of officially embargoed information by the city (posted on its Web site), and that keeping the contract with Zilker Park Boats is "a disservice to the people of Austin." They say the decision both wastes the dollars spent on PARD's ignored study, and denies the city additional income from the ZPC&K contract (which provided a higher percentage of net revenue to the city). The allegation of improperly revealed information has some apparent merit. For instance, one of the Thomases' proposed improvements was to install a floating dock to help boaters get into their canoes; having seen that on the city Web site, the Barnetts and their supporters repeatedly criticized the proposal as unfeasible and dangerous. Ending their letter in response to Leffingwell's assertion, the Thomases state, "There are compelling, tangible reasons to award Zilker Park Canoe and Kayak the concession."

Although Beside the Point doesn't have a boat in this hunt, the decision does prompt another question: In keeping with this action, what other sentimental favorites would council like to linger?

Once again, like an unwanted house guest, council's business lingered past 1am. In addition to the traditional zoning marathon, a lengthy mid-day stint – over two hours – in executive session contributed to the late finish. Whatever arm-twisting was needed over the **public order ordinances** took place there, as council emerged to adopt measures prohibiting 1) aggressive solicitation citywide; 2) sitting, lying, and sleeping Downtown; and 3) door-to-door solicitation after 9pm. Absent from the list was the proposed ban on roadside solicitation, due to the consequence for day laborers looking for work. Only Mayor Pro Tem **Danny Thomas** – pointing to the city's continuing failure to provide sufficient beds for the homeless – voted against the measures.

On her last day, there were 53 items on the zoning agenda for retiring Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department Director **Alice Glasco** – a new record. The star attraction was the rezoning of the Champions tracts (Loop 360 and 2222), which passed on second reading, but third reading didn't get any closer. A freshly passed resolution from the city's Environmental Board urged council to impose a trip limitation below the 11,000 the owners want.

The proposed change passed 4-3, with Alvarez and **Jennifer Kim** repeating their no votes, and **Brewster McCracken** (absent last meeting), joining the dissenters. Since a 6-1 majority is required for at least one of the tracts (at least one valid neighborhood petition opposes the zoning change, and another is likely), it appears the Champions are likely to reanimate their suspended suit against the city. Mayor Will Wynn spoke of resuming mediation with the sisters early next year – which might keep the tracts from returning at council's next meeting, Jan. 12. – *Wells Dunbar*

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- He's been campaigning for the past year, but Gov. **Rick Perry** on Monday made good on his vow to seek re-election by filing his candidacy paperwork at the state Republican Party office. At the same time, his No. 1 political thorn – state Comptroller **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** – issued a statement knocking the governor's official declaration. "As Gov. Perry asks voters for four more years, voters tell me they can't think of one thing he has done for them over the last five years. … He's done the best he could, but his best is not good enough for Texas." Strayhorn is also running for governor, along with independent singer/songwriter Kinky Friedman, but it's uncertain if she'll run as a Republican or an independent. Democratic hopefuls include Felix Alvarado, Chris Bell, and Bob Gammage. The filing deadline is Jan. 2. – *A.S.*

- Mayor Will Wynn presented the "distinguished service award" to APD Assistant Chief **Rick Coy** at the Dec. 10 council meeting. Coy, a 30-year department veteran who served as the department's chief of staff, officially retired his stripes on Oct. 31. He was appointed assistant chief in 2000. APD officials say the AC spot Coy held will be eliminated and that a new commander position has been created to take on chief-of-staff duties. – *Jordan Smith*

- The city of Austin broke ground last Friday in southeast Austin's **Montopolis** neighborhood on a new 81-home subdivision with the stated objective of increasing home ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families living in a neighborhood facing significant gentrification pressures. The 13-acre tract, located near the corner of Montopolis and Riverside, was originally destined to become the nation's first zero-net-energy subdivision, populated with affordable, solar-powered, energy-self-sufficient houses. Planners were unable, however, to achieve the development's affordability goals while keeping zero-energy status ("City's Zero Energy Homes Prove Too Pricey for Montopolis," April 29, 2005). Julie Beggs, spokeswoman for co-developer Austin Housing Finance Corporation, says the homes will be affordable to buyers who earn 80% to 65% below Austin's median family income (which is $56,900 for a family of four), embrace efficiency-minded green building design principles, and have Capital Metro stops within a quarter-mile. Asked why the homes' appearance and land use resembled the tract homes of Buda or Pflugerville instead of newer, more sought-after "compact city" or "new urbanist" designs (in practice at the Mueller redevelopment, for example), she said the new subdivision had to mesh consistently with an existing subdivision. – *Daniel Mottola*

- AISD is improving, but not as fast as it needs to, especially when it comes to **closing the achievement gap** between financially comfortable white students and black, Hispanic, or poor ones. That's been the district's message all year, and now it has independent confirmation: A study by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce released Monday found steady improvement in student test scores over the past four years, but much work still to do. "Are we where we need to be? No. But our students are improving, and are doing well compared to students around the nation," said Susan Dawson, who led the task force that developed the report. (She was referring in part to a recent study by the National Assessment of Education Progress that found AISD students outperforming peers in 10 other urban areas.) To address the imbalance, the chamber recommended more frequent assessment and communitywide participation in the effort to redesign AISD's 11 high schools. These suggestions were welcomed by Superintendent Pat Forgione – particularly in light of the $1.5 million grant the district just got from the Gates Foundation to fund community participation in its redesign effort. However, he also asked for help from the chamber in the form of financial resources, mentoring, and internships. – *Rachel Proctor May*

- The University of Texas won a five-year, $3 million grant from the Department of Education to launch a **Center on Instruction in Special Education** – one of six research "nodes" throughout the nation whose goal will be to develop curriculum and methods to help teachers address the growing number of special ed students (in AISD, roughly one in 10 students qualify for special ed). In addition to students with well-known disorders such as blindness, autism, or dyslexia, this group includes students who qualify for services under the so-called "discrepancy model": students whose performance in a given subject (such as reading or math) is lower than their "intelligence" suggests it should be. – *R.P.M.*

- Hoping to woo Austin radio listeners desperate for "positive music and family-safe entertainment," **Clear Channel Radio** has dumped "World Class Rock" from KPEZ-FM (102.3) and replaced it with "The River," a "contemporary Christian" format. The station will play Christmas music until Dec. 26, when the River will debut, featuring "songs that inspire" from artists like Steven Curtis Chapman, Newsboys, Jars of Clay, and Mercy Me, according to a press release. While contemporary Christian formats are popping up in cities across the Bible belt, this is the first time a Clear Channel station will launch the format, according to Dusty Black, regional vice-president for Clear Channel Southwest. "We really feel like there is a huge hole here for this format," Black said. "World Class Rock, launched a year ago to replace Z102, was a consistent ratings loser, unable to woo listeners with its blend of classic rock. The on-air staff was laid off, including Jonna Hayes, Chris Mosser, and Alex Hall, as was program director Ellen Flaherty. KPEZ expects to announce new on-air personnel for the River in January, Black says. – *Kevin Brass*

- District Judge Gisela Triana heard arguments Monday to dismiss a lawsuit filed by **People for Efficient Transportation** against the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the San Antonio Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Governor Rick Perry. PET, an arm of the Texas Toll Party, has challenged the validity of the state's metropolitan planning organizations, especially when it comes to approving projects put forth by the regional mobility authorities that are expected to use federal dollars. Former Supreme Court Justice Steve Smith, who is arguing the case for PET, says the fact that state lawmakers serve on the boards of CAMPO and the San Antonio MPO is a violation of separation of powers, especially when it comes to disbursing federal dollars. Triana took the motions under advisement and will likely rule on the motion to dismiss after the holidays. – *Kimberly Reeves*

- The Austin Police Department is currently accepting applications for the 2006 **Citizens Police Academy**. The 12-week CPA class offers a window into the world of law enforcement in Austin, with detailed information on everything from pursuit driving to homicide investigation to rules on the use of force. A daytime class, Tuesdays from 1:30-4:30pm, will start Jan. 31; an evening class, Tuesdays from 5:30-9:30pm, will begin May 30. Since 1987, the CPA has graduated nearly 1,600 Austinites. Applications are available online at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/police**; for more info, call 974-6202. – *J.S.*

- EMS Medical Director Ed Racht said a conference of medical professionals who were to converge on Austin Dec. 8-9 to review the body of data related to **electro-shock weapons**' medical effects was canceled because of bad weather. The conference – organized by Racht at the direction of City Manager Toby Futrell in the wake of the September death of Michael Clark, who was struck with a Taser three times during a confrontation with Austin police – will be rescheduled in January, he said. In the meantime, Racht said that a separate review of the Clark case, independent of the police department, by a group of local medical professionals – including Racht and Deputy Medical Examiner Elizabeth Peacock – is ongoing, pending the outcome of a Travis Co. grand jury probe into Clark's death. – *J.S.*

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

- In other Taser-related news, **Taser International** announced on Dec. 13 that investigators with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission have closed a formal inquiry into company claims about the medical safety of the weapon without recommending any sanctions against the company. The SEC began a two-pronged inquiry in January (upgraded to a formal investigation in September), prompted by concerns over the company's claims about the safety of the Taser – which has been cited as a contributing factor in a growing list of deaths – and over questions related to a $1.5 million sale of Tasers at the end of 2004 to a firearm distributor, which caused concern that the company was inflating sales to meet annual projections. The SEC gave Taser a clean bill of health on both counts, although an inquiry into whether internal company documents had been leaked in an attempt to manipulate Taser's stock price is ongoing. "We have continuously stated that we stand behind our accounting and our statements on medical safety," and will "continue to fully cooperate" with the SEC, Taser President Tom Smith told reporters. – *J.S.*

- Not bothering to wait for the Legislature to reconvene, Gov. Rick Perry has used his fourth executive order in as many months to pluck and pass additional pieces of **education reform** measures that failed during the most recent regular and special sessions. This time Perry's topic was college readiness, a favorite of both state Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley and federal Education Secretary Margaret Spellings. Using a scant $4 million – and a couple of his own twists – Perry proposed a number of changes: an additional high school indicator on college remediation, a pilot project to pay college entrance examination fees for low-income students, a student transcript databank that would ease the transfer of student records between schools and on to college, voluntary end-of-course assessments for math and science courses, and an expansion of summer math and science programs at the state's universities. Perry told a Waco audience that the order would create a more skilled workforce, additional economic development, and open the door to college for thousands of high school students. – *K.R.*

- Texas will soon be home to 35 cutting-edge **science, technology, engineering, and math academies**, thanks to a $71 million grant program by the state of Texas, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Instruments, and the Texas High School Project. The competitive grants will help districts launch academies for at-risk students to help encourage interest in the sciences, and will also create six research "hubs" to gather and disseminate best practices in science instruction. Science is a weak spot in Texas instruction, in part because it wasn't one of the required TAKS subjects until last year, at which point ill-prepared students floundered statewide and administrators freaked out. As the grantmakers like to point out, the issue is also an economic-development one, as U.S. students as a whole aren't preparing themselves for the sort of high-tech careers that form the backbone of the modern economy. – *R.P.M.*

- On Dec. 16, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators successfully blocked the reauthorization of portions of the **USA PATRIOT Act** that are set to expire on Dec. 31. Senators voted 52-47 to block any discussion on the matter, eight votes shy of the 60 needed to avoid the threat of a filibuster led by Sens. Russ Feingold, D-Wisconsin, and Larry Craig, R-Idaho. Opponents say they want the act rewritten in a way that would protect individual civil liberties. "We want to mend the PATRIOT Act, not end it," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont. Among the controversial provisions set to expire are those that allow potentially unfettered federal access to individuals' medical, library, business, and e-mail records. – *J.S.*

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CRP LEAK:

City not "investigating" – just "finding facts"

The city of Austin's inquiry into who leaked a **citizen police review panel**'s recommendation to a reporter is absolutely not an investigation, says Kristen Vassallo, chief of staff to city manager **Toby Futrell**. "It's fact-finding," she said, carefully avoiding any use of the I-word. Former Harris Co. assistant DA **Charles Noll** will conduct interviews and gather information, but that's just good ol' fact-finding, which in no way should be construed as an "investigation," Vassallo insists, perhaps fearing that "investigation" invokes images of sweaty city staffers strapped into chairs with electrodes taped to their genitals.

Noll will be paid $250 an hour to not investigate how ***Austin American-Statesman*** reporter **Tony Plohetski** learned that the citizen review panel had voted in closed session to recommend the firing of APD Officer **Julie Schroeder**, who fatally shot 18-year-old **Daniel Rocha** during a traffic stop. Even before Plohetski revealed the board's vote in a Nov. 16 story, the **Austin Police Association** – which learned about the panel's recommendation when Plohetski called for comment – filed a grievance with the city, demanding an inquiry into the breach of confidentiality. Under the terms of its contract with the city, in a Nov. 7 memo to Futrell the APA called for the appointment of a "fact finder" to "review relevant materials of fact and take evidence to reach written findings of fact."

Plohetski has already been asked to cough up his source. "We were asked to assist in the investigation and we've declined," said *Statesman* managing editor **Fred Zipp**, refusing further comment.

Even though the new zeal for cracking down on leaks is one of the biggest national stories of the year, with deep ramifications for both the press and government, the *Statesman* opted to downplay the story, giving news that the city had hired a "fact finder" three paragraphs in the "Central Texas Digest" on page B3. That same day, editors chose to devote 20 inches to an Associated Press story about a Houston TV station fighting a subpoena, and page one featured a lengthy wire story about Bob Dylan hosting a show on a pay satellite radio service.

Zipp declined to discuss the paper's coverage of its own big scoop, but editors around the country are understandably nervous about a growing trend toward targeting sources. The **Valerie Plame** case engulfing Washington exposed the gossipy underworld of leaks and counterleaks, but it has also encouraged government agencies to crack down on leaks and anyone who talks to reporters.

Few midlevel media organizations have the resources these days to fight First Amendment cases, says **Bryce Nelson**, professor of journalism at USC's **Annenberg School of Journalism**. Any effort to investigative anonymous sources will send ripple effects through coverage, making potential whistle-blowers more cautious. As a result, "we will know far less about what goes on," Nelson said. "There is an enormous chilling effect to investigating sources."

City officials emphasize that the noninvestigation was mandated by the city's contract with the police union. The city manager is simply following the letter of the agreement with the union, which calls for hiring a "fact finder," they say. According to assistant city attorney **Anita Stephenson**, there are important distinctions between an investigator and a fact finder. For example, an investigation could require some sort of conclusion or report, she says. "All the contract requires and [Noll] is charged with doing is dealing with facts," Stephenson said.

The city's fact-finding exercise will likely focus on the members of the review panel, although it is possible others may have heard about the recommendation. The APA's grievance notes that a panelist caught leaking could be subject to criminal prosecution and civil liability, as well as removal from office.

Although Vassallo adamantly refuses to call the inquiry an investigation, she says there is a serious issue at stake, beyond freedom of the press. The seven-member citizen review board, created in 2001 by the city's contract with the union, offers the public unusual access to police files, she notes. Any breach of the confidentiality agreement could endanger its future. "This isn't about giving information to the press, it's about the integrity of the process," Vassallo said. "If we didn't have this contract, we would never have citizens looking at police files."



JOHN ANDERSON

Austin Police Association President Mike Sheffield (at lectern) filed a grievance against the city for the leak of the Citizen Review Panel decision in the Schroeder/Rocha case.

Noll is expected to start his fact finding this week. He will have no subpoena power and no ability to coerce subjects to talk, other than asking polite questions. His contract is capped at $12,000, although Vassallo says she doubts it will cost that much. She expects him to wrap up his noninvestigation by January.

But a perfunctory fact-finding exercise may not appease union officials. (APA President **Mike Sheffield** could not be reached at deadline.) "The association expects the City Manager to devote the same attention and resources to this investigation of public misconduct that the City devoted to the investigation into the death of Commander Jacobson in an off-duty motorcycle accident," the association wrote in the Nov. 7 memo to the city manager, referring to the wreck one year ago that killed APD Cmdr. Shauna Jacobson and retired APD detective Kurt Jacobson, apparently the result of drunken driving and which raised questions of whether other APD officers should have stepped in to prevent it. (An investigation eventually found no evidence of wrongdoing on the other officers' part.)

The APA memo describes the leak as a "blatant attempt" to put "political pressure" on Chief **Stan Knee** to follow the panel's recommendation. Case in point, according to the union, is the way the *Statesman* handled the leak. In a Nov. 6 editorial – 10 days before Plohetski's story ran, but two days after he called the union for comment – the *Statesman* editors wrote "we'll see" if the police chief follows the panel's recommendation, without mentioning that a *Statesman* reporter already knew the panel's verdict.

According to the APA's memo, "it is beyond credulity" to think the *Statesman* would have made such a statement if it didn't already know the panel's vote. "Forearmed with the panel's recommendation, the *Statesman* was free to exert its own form of political coercion" to get Schroeder fired, the memo says. – *Kevin Brass*

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eastside community connection
KXAN AUSTIN

BUS NEGOTIATIONS HEADED FOR COLLISION

With both sides describing their last round of negotiations as unproductive, the possibility that the 800-member **Amalgamated Transit Union 1091** will be on **strike** against **Capital Metro** as you read this is very real. ATU 1091 met Friday with **StarTran**, Cap Metro's subcontractor, in their last attempt to reach an agreement; the union has operated without a contract for several months. A press release prominently posted on Cap Metro's Web site (**www.capmetro.org**) describes the situation as at an "impasse," a legal requirement for the StarTran to impose its "last, best and final offer" on the union, which it threatened to do at the close of business Monday, Dec. 12.

After altering a highly controversial two-tier wage scale (under which new hires would start at substantially less than current starting wages, and would be capped from reaching the maximum pay currently allowed), StarTran proposed a nine-year wage scale, requiring that time for new employees to earn the top rate. StarTran's pending proposal shortens the wage-progression to five years, with new bus operators starting at 60% of top wages; it also installs a five-year, 67.5% progression scale for service employees, and shortens the contract length from three to two years. The company blames the union for the stalemate, saying union negotiators "backtracked" from previous agreements concerning health care.

ATU 1091, meanwhile, sees StarTran's proposed increase in dependent health care costs from 10% to 15% (i.e., a 50% hike) as untenable, and instead proposed a 20% increase, to 12%, especially in light of the company's reduction of a 3% annual raise to 2%. The union still considers StarTran's proposal unworkable. They do not agree with starting employees at 60%; the union was willing to drop from the current 75% to 65%. (There are additional differences over the wage scale for service employees.)

The union also rejects management's proposal to require members to reauthorize their union dues as "equivalent to Union recertification, and just another example of StarTran's union-busting attitude." During the eight months of negotiations, ATU 1091 has also repeatedly characterized StarTran and its negotiating decisions as illegally controlled by Capital Metro through the actions of **Jeff Londa**, attorney for both organizations. (Last week, the *Chronicle* incompletely quoted Cap Metro's vice-president of Communications **Rick L'Amie** in saying he was unsure if Londa's $4,500 bill for Nov. 28 negotiations was accurate; in a subsequent conversation, he confirmed the sum, but said it reflected the longest day Londa spent in negotiations).

The parties appear to be closer to a settlement, but the declaration of an impasse is troubling, especially considering the union's declared threat of a strike should the company unilaterally impose an unacceptable offer.

– *Wells Dunbar*





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Downtown Density Dreams

The 30th floor of the **Frost Bank Tower** is vacant; a chilly, unfinished expanse of concrete, ductwork, and glass. Tons of glass: The floor-to-ceiling windows wrap entirely around the building, providing a glorious view of the city below. It's a patchwork of high-rises, squat historic properties, and parking lots. Lots and lots of parking lots.

It was at this locale on Thursday that politicos including Mayor **Will Wynn**, Council Member **Brewster McCracken**, and House Transportation Committee Chair **Mike Krusee** announced a City Council resolution to hire consultants to develop a **Downtown Austin Plan** aimed at turning those parking lots, and other underutilized space, into a more people-friendly, mass transit-navigable, and revenue-generating vertical topography. "When this is done, we'll have one of the best downtowns in the country," McCracken said.

"Round Rock is a great place, but it can never be what downtown Austin can be. There's only one downtown, and we need to get it right."

– Mike Krusee

The resolution takes as its inspiration Wynn's oft-stated goal of having 25,000 people living downtown within the decade. The idea is that a critical mass of downtown residents will provide a steady market for retail, restaurants, and (especially) mass transit that all of Austin can enjoy. The "density begets density" argument is familiar to anyone who paid attention to the city's other recent densification efforts, such as **commercial design standards** or the **transit-oriented development** ordinance, and the plan includes many familiar features – rail and dedicated bus lines, updating infrastructure, and dealing with those pesky height restrictions, to name a few. It also adds a couple of new ideas to the bag of tricks, however.

For one thing, the plan will figure out ways to sell off government land to be developed as housing, and how to structure the deal in a way that beats one of the obstacles to affordability: high downtown land prices. According to McCracken, the city could roll some of the sale profits back into the deal to essentially bring down the price, similar to what the city did when it subsidized the **Austin Children's Museum** move downtown with profits from the sale of **Block 21**. In announcing the plan, McCracken suggested that the strategy could usher in an era of $150,000 or even $100,000 condos.

Even with the subsidy, that price might not buy much condo. According to real estate broker **Kevin Burns** of **Urban Space**, construction costs alone can run about $180 a square foot for multistory, multifamily downtown constructions, which are more complicated and costly to build than exurban tract homes. Downtown, in other words, will never be as affordable as the slapped-up, single-family houses on the outskirts of town. If the subsidy plan works, however, it will open up downtown to a much broader range of the market, especially once you factor in the lifestyle differences that urban density enables – less square footage to decorate, climate-control, or, for the truly cutting-edge, living car-free, for example.

The plan's supporters see benefits for not only the new condo market, but the city as a whole. Because low-density suburbs eat up more roads, utility lines, water pipes, and other services between each tax-generating property, they tend to cost more in services than they generate in revenue. The **Milago condo project**, for example, is a $75 million tax base on an acre of land – a single-family neighborhood could easily take 75 acres to generate the same taxes. It is benefits like these that have turned transit and density skeptics into supporters. One was Round Rock Republican Krusee, who, after trips to more densely planned cities around the country, has now hopped gleefully aboard the transit train.

"Round Rock is a great place, but it can never be what downtown Austin can be," said Krusee, who now serves on the board of the **Council on New Urbanism**. "There's only one downtown, and we need to get it right."

Some, however, remain skeptical. "I'm very skeptical of anything that has to do with rail or downtown because I'm not sure rail has a place in downtown Austin," said County Commissioner **Gerald Daugherty**, explaining that few cities have the density to make rail truly cost-effective. He said he is waiting to pass judgment, however, on a newer kind of rail, such as a cheap, easily installed streetcar technology the consultants working on the plan will consider.

Another prominent group of skeptics is the **Austin Neighborhoods Council**, many of whose members have an ambivalent relationship with height, which they don't like to see towering over single-family neighborhoods. ANC head **Laura Morrison** acknowledged the ongoing differences of vision, but said she's enthusiastic about the planning process. "We have a lot of what might appear to be conflicting priorities," Morrison said, but "I'm sure we can work it out."

Other neighborhood activists are less ambivalent, however. **Kirsten Bartel**, who helped develop a plan for her Northfield neighborhood that actively encourages density, says she's eager for the city to do the same for downtown. "We're all for it," she said. "We're all for [Austin] being denser overall, not just downtown." – *Rachel Proctor May*



JOHN ANDERSON

Austin Mayor Will Wynn and other local leaders believe Downtown can eventually have as many as 25,000 residents and encourages that many parking lots be replaced with multi-level parking and condos, with downtown rail lines to help mobility.

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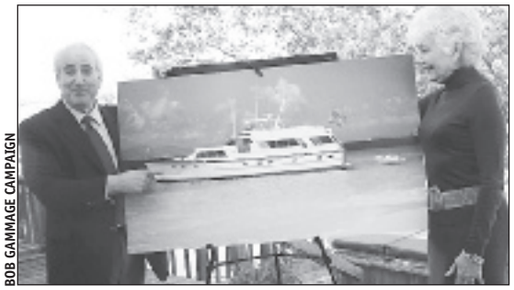
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STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE GAMMAGE ENTERS GOVERNOR'S RACE

The governor's race gained a new contender last week with former Texas Supreme Court Justice **Bob Gammage** filing to run in the March 7 Democratic primary, in what is now a three-way contest. Former U.S. Rep. **Chris Bell** of Houston filed his candidacy last week, and Fort Worth school administrator **Felix Alvarado** is expected to make his bid official by the Jan. 2 filing deadline.



BOB GAMMAGE CAMPAIGN

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Gammage (left, with supporter) spoke before the Highland Lakes Democratic Women in Kingsland on Dec. 16. "If I'm elected, I'll make policy in the State Capitol, not in the Bahamas," Gammage said, referring to Rick Perry's private yachting excursion with wealthy campaign donors last year to discuss school financing.

In declaring his candidacy, the plain-spoken Gammage, of Llano, took direct aim at Republican Gov. **Rick Perry** by calling his integrity into question. "Today there is a corrupt political machine which stretches from Washington, D.C., all the way to Austin," he said, according to his prepared remarks from last Thursday's announcement. "**Tom DeLay** and his cronies are at one end, and Rick Perry and his pals are at the other. The money flows both ways. It has corrupted our politics, corrupted our government, and, more importantly, corrupted public policy and betrayed the public trust."

Gammage said there are several examples that bear him out on this point – "but there is one that particularly sticks in my craw." He cited a cruise the governor took to the Bahamas in 2004 to discuss school finance issues with wealthy campaign donors. "He sailed the Caribbean on a ritzy yacht with a bunch of rich supporters and came back with a school finance plan that would be good for their special interests – and to hell with everybody else," he said. (Gammage's Web site, **www.gammageforgovernor.com**, features a picture of a yacht that the candidate christened "*SS Perry*.") Gammage drew on the yacht story to make his first campaign promise: "As governor of Texas I will make policy in the state Capitol, not in the Bahamas."

In November 2006, the winner of the Democratic primary will face either Perry or Comptroller **Carole Keeton Strayhorn**, who is challenging him in the GOP primary, although she's also reportedly contemplating running as an independent. Musician and novelist **Kinky Friedman** is also running as an indie.

Gammage goes way back in Texas politics. Originally from Houston, he won election to the state Supreme Court in 1990 and retired from the court in 1995 to return to his private law practice. He has also served on the Texas Court of Appeals, the Texas Senate, and the state House, where he was a member of the so-called "Dirty 30," which worked to restore ethics in Texas government.

– Amy Smith

MAY DECLARES FOR PLACE 2

Surrounded by chips, salsa, and supporters, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President **Eliza May** made her desire to serve the city of Austin known at a Dec. 12 reception at Nuevo León restaurant. Though she can't make a formal declaration until February, she filed her designation of a treasurer, a first step before the official announcement of her run for the **Place 2** City Council seat that **Raul Alvarez** vacates at the end of his term.

"I've had an interest in serving the community for years and I think the best opportunity is now," May said in a chat after the Nuevo Leon gathering. "I'm a community product from the community, for the community."

May's current campaign platform reflects her five-plus years serving the Hispanic Chamber, as well as a variety of civic and nonprofit organizations like the Rape Crisis Center, the Texas State Employees Union, Catholic Charities, the Texas State Democratic Party, and others.

"Small businesses are the backbone of any local economy," she says. "And right now, those businesses don't have a voice." May points to a 1987 ordinance passed by the Austin City Council (amended 1995), establishing procurement goals for the city, targeting minority and women-owned businesses. In 2005, those goals have not been realized, while the number of minority and women-owned businesses has risen "at a higher rate than the national average," according to a "Community Scorecard on the City of Austin's MBE/WBE Participation," from requested data analyzed by the Hispanic Chamber.

But there is another "voiceless" constituency May also hopes to represent: those of newly arrived immigrants and the homeless, a population that often finds itself at odds with Austin's downtown businesses. Through negotiation, compassion, and an obvious take-charge attitude, she believes solutions for the common good are possible. "The same tenacity and focus I've brought to the Hispanic Chamber, I want to bring to the council," May says.

If May's name seems familiar to you, she is the former director of the Texas Funeral Service Commission who filed a 1999 lawsuit – against then-Gov. **George W. Bush**, among others – alleging she was fired for launching an investigation into funeral home operator Service Corporation International, whose CEO was a major Bush backer. The suit was eventually settled out of court.

Austin Association of Professional Firefighters President **Mike Martinez** has also filed for the Place 2 seat (and at press time, was having his own Nuevo León fundraiser; see "Naked City," Dec. 2), and former state Sen. **Hector Uribe** has said he plans to file.

– Belinda Acosta

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WEED WATCH

New Data Says Americans Smoke More Pot Than Euro Counterparts

For the fourth year in a row, federal lawmakers have cut funding for the **White House Office of National Drug Control Policy**'s much-ridiculed **Anti-Drug Media Campaign** – the program that, since 1998, has been bringing to the airwaves winning advertisements, such as the infamous Super Bowl ad that suggested recreational pot smoking funds terrorism. Lawmakers have been steadily slicing the ONDCP's noxious ad budget since 2002, when the campaign received a $180-million appropriation. Since then, funding has been cut by a total of 44%, with lawmakers earmarking $100 million for 2006.

In other news, new data from the Lisbon-based **European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction** (**www.emcdda.eu.int**) reveals that Americans smoke more pot than their European counterparts. When comparing 2005 data on drug use among European Union nations to 2003 data from the federal **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**, the EMCDDA reports that about 51% of Americans between the ages of 15 and 34 report having used marijuana, compared to about 30% of Europeans. And 22% of Americans said they've used marijuana within the past year, compared to just 13% of Europeans. To **Allen St. Pierre**, executive director of the **National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws**, the new stats are just another nail in the prohibitionist coffin: "The European experience provides a strong empirical case that removal of criminal prohibitions on cannabis possession does not significantly increase the prevalence of marijuana use, and likewise, that U.S.-imposed criminal sanctions do little to dissuade pot use among young adults," he said. "U.S. leaders would be well-advised to follow Europe's example and repeal its war on cannabis consumers in favor of policies of tolerance and regulation."

– Jordan Smith

MORE-BIZARRE-THAN-USUAL FLDS UPDATE

A woman identified in Utah state court filings as "**M.J.**" is suing fugitive "prophet" **Warren Jeffs**, the leader of the breakaway sect of polygamist Mormons known as the **Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, or FLDS. According to ***The Salt Lake (City) Tribune***, M.J. alleges that she was forced into a "spiritual marriage" with a much older man (identified only as "S.J.") and was then "commanded" to have sex with him and to "produce" children. The forced marriage and sex have been "physically painful and emotionally devastating" to M.J., according to the lawsuit, in which she is reportedly seeking unspecified monetary damages. This latest suit is the fourth civil action filed in Utah against Jeffs and the FLDS. Jeffs is still on the lam, dodging arrest on three criminal counts related to his arranging a marriage between a 16-year-old and an older, married man. Arizona officials have placed a $10,000 reward on the prophet's head; but he has thus far sidestepped capture.

Meanwhile, rumors continue to fly around the West Texas town of **Eldorado**, where the FLDS has been building its first walled compound, known as the **Yearning for Zion ranch**, where members can, theoretically, avoid the increased scrutiny of law enforcers who have become a regular presence in the twin towns of Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah, where the FLDS has been headquartered for nearly a century. (For more on Eldorado, see "Meet the New Neighbors," July 29.) Chief among the rumors is the suggestion that, pursuant to Jeffs' wishes, the FLDS may be installing a **crematorium** on YFZ property to dispose of the bodies of members who have been killed as part of the church's "**blood atonement**" doctrine – which, among other things, says that members who commit certain sins – like, say, adultery – must be killed and cremated in order to ensure they'll be accepted into heaven.

Former FLDS member **Robert Richter**, who left the church in April, last month told the ***Phoenix New Times*** that while working for the Colorado City electric utility company (and on the taxpayer time clock) he was actually instructed to work on a series of "secret" projects for the FLDS. Specifically, Richter said he was told to build a high temperature thermostat – one that would register up to 2,700 degrees, says **Randy Mankin**, editor and publisher of ***The Eldorado Success***, hot enough to destroy DNA material – and to refurbish two 500-kilowatt diesel-powered electric generators, which were then made to look broken and were sold at a city utility auction to FLDS members in Eldorado. (Reportedly, Richter was able to identify the two generators, covered by tarps, from aerial photographs taken of the YFZ ranch.)

Mankin said that FLDS representatives told Schleicher Co. Sheriff **David Doran** that they're using the thermostat in a powder coat painting facility on the ranch and, alternatively, that the thermostat was being used in their attempt to bake limestone to make concrete. While Mankin says he doesn't have any hard evidence that the sect is building a crematorium, he doesn't buy the FLDS explanations either: powder coating doesn't require such high heat, and impurities in local limestone render it nearly useless as concrete. "This is just one of the angles of this story that is so bizarre that people roll their eyes and say it's all hype," says Mankin. "But I don't know. Is it true or not?"

– Jordan Smith

IGNORE THE FLAWS – THE DEATH PENALTY MUST CONTINUE ON

On Dec. 15, the New Jersey state senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of suspending the state's capital punishment system for 18 months and to create a commission to review the mechanics of the state's **capital punishment** system – including whether it actually deters crime, whether its imposition is racially biased, and whether there are sufficient safeguards to ensure that an innocent person is not executed. The measure, which still needs support from the state assembly in order to become law (which is expected to happen in January), is an interesting move for lawmakers, especially considering that the state has not executed a single inmate in the modern era of the death penalty. Nonetheless, Republican Sen. **Robert Martin**, a co-sponsor of the measure, noted that 50 of the 60 death sentences the state has handed out since 1982 have been overturned, evidence that "something is fundamentally flawed with that statute," he told *Newsday*.

Meanwhile, although Mexico hasn't carried out an execution since 1961, on Dec. 9 the country formally abolished capital punishment, a practice that President **Vicente Fox** said "violates" basic human rights.

While contested convictions may be enough evidence to suggest a problem in New Jersey, and concerns about human rights enough to cause Mexico to ban the practice, such concerns certainly haven't been enough to cripple Texas' death machine. Texas executed 19 inmates in 2005 – down from 23 in 2004, 24 in 2003, and 33 in 2002 – even as new questions about the integrity of the state's system continue to make headlines. Bexar Co. officials have reopened the case of **Ruben Cantu** (executed in 1993) after an investigation by the *Houston Chronicle* suggested that Cantu was actually innocent of the 1984 robbery murder for which he was killed. Although the daily reported that the only eyewitness in the case says he was coerced into fingering Cantu for the crime, that an alleged accomplice says he never implicated Cantu – contrary to the impression prosecutors gave jurors – and that a third witness says Cantu was actually with him in Waco at the time of the murder he allegedly committed, the troubling allegations don't appear to bother Gov. **Rick Perry** – at least that's the impression left by Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt, who told the daily that the circumstances of the case were hardly "unique."

And on Dec. 13, the federal courts cleared the way for the execution of Texas inmate **Marvin Lee Wilson** – even though there's strong evidence that Wilson is mentally retarded – because his lawyer, **Jim Delee**, missed a filing deadline. Although the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002 ruled that executing the mentally retarded violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment, Wilson – who reportedly doesn't even understand basic concepts like how to make change for a dollar – will still face execution, unless the state steps in to stop it. Deadlines are deadlines, a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week, "[h]owever harsh the result may be."

At press time, Texas had already scheduled 11 executions for the first four months of 2006.

– Jordan Smith







THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

GEORGE W.'S CHICKEN MANURE

Why does reality continue to be such a stranger to George W.? After five years as president, you'd think he would've at least brushed up against some of life's real experiences – even if by accident.

But, no, he seems securely sealed in his political bubble, kept perfectly pure of any intrusion by the hardships that regular folks face. Take the economic climate. Bush is reported to be befuddled by the fact that he's not getting credit – kudos, even! – for what his economists and political puffers tell him is a booming economy. America's economic growth is up, says George excitedly, corporate profits are through the roof, and look, I created 215,000 jobs last month alone.

George, meet Mr. Reality. Yes, there's a boom ... but for whom? You held a Rose Garden press conference to pat yourself on the back about 215,000 jobs. But, one, that barely keeps up with the number of young Americans who entered the job market for the first time in November. And, two, it's not the job, George ... but the wage. Replacing a $35,000 job at General Motors with a $15,000 Wal-Mart job is not counted as progress in middle America.

Here's some more reality for you. While the overall U.S. economy grew last year, middle-class Americans saw their incomes fall for the fifth year in a row. Yes, George, those are the five years of your presidency.

And, while the salaries of high-level executives have risen splendidly on your watch, the average earnings of hourly workers (who make up the vast majority of the American people) are now lower than when you took the helm. Also, did I mention that the number of Americans who find themselves with no health coverage has risen steadily while you've been president?

This is the reality, George, that keeps people from erupting into applause over your handling of our nation's economic fortunes. After all, people know the difference between chicken salad ... and chicken manure.

IT'S ABOUT MINISTERING, NOT PREACHING

All of the pundits and consultants are unanimous these days about what Democratic Party candidates must do to gain political favor: emulate Republicans by wearing religion (specifically Christianity) on their sleeves, make alliances with evangelical churches, and openly engage in "faith politics!" The pundits and consultants are, of course, wrong.

Yes, professing one's heartfelt spiritual beliefs can be a positive thing to share with voters, and Democrats will be on particularly strong turf by expressing their political vision and goals in terms of Jesus' own values of economic and social justice. But it's totally wrong to think that faith talk and photo-ops with evangelicals will be enough to convert people to the Democratic cause.

Such shallow, quick-fix thinking misunderstands what goes on inside those megachurches that are home to millions of evangelical Christians – including millions of lower-income working-class folks who logically should be Democrats. While pundits and consultants focus on the preaching inside such churches, the congregations themselves are filled with people who go because of the ministering that the churches provide.

Most Americans these days are struggling from paycheck to paycheck, and they sense that no one in power – political or corporate – gives a damn about them. In many of the megachurches, however, they find a community that not only says, "We care," but also offers material needs that make a difference, including child care, legal help, job searches, housing assistance, dental work, and language classes.

Labor unions used to fill this social void, as did many of the Democratic Party's big-city political machines of old – delivering real service and earning true loyalty in return. The future of today's Democratic Party rests not in preaching, but in ministering – actually delivering the goods to help the hard-hit, workday majority of folks who need them.

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**.


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AMD Sets Its Site on Lantana

Company trumpets facility greenbuilding; opponents ask what's downstream? BY AMY SMITH

With all the fanfare usually accorded a major groundbreaking celebration, Advanced Micro Devices unveiled its specific plans for a new Lantana campus last week. Although still months away from actual construction on its planned site in Southwest Austin, the company is trying to rally citywide enthusiasm for its controversial plans to build a $230 million office complex in the contributing zone of the sensitive Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. (See "Back to the Trenches," Dec. 16.)

In making its formal announcement, AMD has pulled out all the stops to promote its site development plan as a world-glass greenbuilding project that it says will:

- Reduce commuter traffic citywide by relocating closer to the residences of most of the company's 2,000 white-collar employees;
- Collect 100% of rainwater runoff from rooftops and top floors of parking garages, and use that water both to irrigate native landscape and for the campus evaporative cooling system;
- Restore and enhance native vegetation to absorb rainwater and thus avoid the need for retention ponds;
- Cluster office buildings and parking garages on the less-sensitive 33 acres of the 58-acre site at Southwest Parkway and William Cannon.

For its efforts, the company expects to secure the highest honor – gold-level certification – from the U.S. Green Building Council, making it one of the largest commercial developments in the country to achieve such recognition.

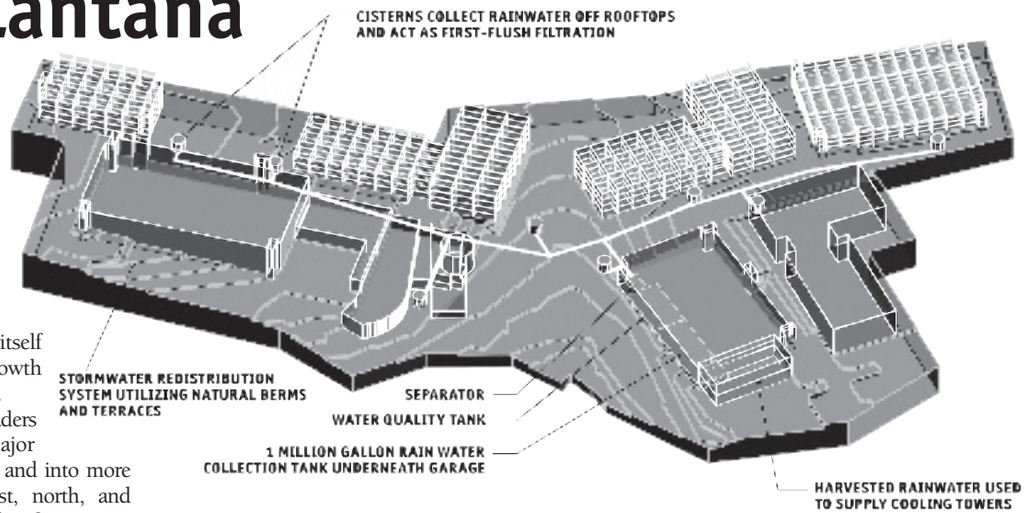
Setting a New Standard ... for What?

Even among the project's opponents, no one takes issue with the site plan's ultra-green personality. The project – christened "AMD Lone Star" – is destined to put both AMD and Austin on the map as a model for green building. But opponents of AMD's move to the watershed – which includes a coalition of environmental and neighborhood leaders as well as former Mayor Kirk Watson – insist that the site selection itself defeats the purpose of Smart Growth and environmental sustainability.

For the past 20 years, city leaders have successfully steered major employers away from the aquifer and into more desirable development areas east, north, and Downtown. AMD would be the first major employer in more than two decades to build a major facility in the area. The Oak Hill community of Southwest Austin largely supports the company's plan, while environmentalists and Smart Growth advocates remain staunchly opposed to AMD defying longstanding community planning values. It's all well and good for AMD to employ greenbuilding standards on its own site, opponents say. But in the long run, how will that benefit an environmentally sensitive area where more development is bound to follow?

"None of the greenbuilding tricks will do a thing to address the off-site pollution from secondary growth catalyzed by AMD's development, from AMD's own employees driving back and forth across the aquifer, or from the hundreds of millions of dollars in highway construction projects that will be necessary to support a satellite [downtown region] on Southwest Parkway," said Bill Bunch, executive director of the Save Our Springs Alliance, one of the most vocal opponents of the project.

But another environmentalist, Steve Windhager, director of landscape restoration with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and a consultant on the AMD project, countered that the company will set a new standard for development in the area. "I tend to think we can provide a real model for other development … my hope is to make this the new standard."



AMD's plans for the Lantana site include an elaborate rainwater collection system, as illustrated here. According to the company, its system will collect 100% of rainwater runoff from rooftops and top floors of parking garages and will use that water both to irrigate the restored native landscape and for the campus evaporative cooling system.

Off the Grid

Windhager, an amiable, plainspoken scientist, says that AMD struck a positive note with him early in the design process. Last May, Austin greenbuilding expert and AMD consultant Gail Vittori invited Windhager to participate in a design charrette [a roundtable discussion] process to determine the best possible green design for this particular location. "Doing a design charrette meant starting over," Windhager said. The company's willingness to scrap its initial conceptual design convinced him that AMD officials were serious about going above and beyond what was required of them. Windhager spent hours and days "crawling over the site" and pinpointing the more sensitive habitat areas that would be off limits to development. "Most companies," he said, "bring the [environmental] consultants in *after* the fact, when it's too late to change anything."

Windhager is particularly excited about the rainwater harvesting system – a state-of-the-art operation that will include eight separate 45,000 gallon tanks strategically stationed around the campus, plus a million-gallon cistern under one of the parking structures. Water from this tank will supplement the potable water used in the evaporative cooling system.

Long before the bulldozing is scheduled to start this spring, Windhager will begin harvesting some 20,000 existing plants that will be housed and nurtured at the Wildflower Center before being replanted at the campus. "This is the first corporate campus of its type that has completely gone off the grid from an environmental standpoint," he said.

Meanwhile, opponents have vowed to step up their efforts to prevent AMD from breaking ground at the site. Last week's news reports about the company's plans drove home the fact that a major employer is locating in an area that goes against three major community planning road maps, Bunch said. "If AMD can locate in the Barton Springs watershed, why not other large employers?" he continued. "Twenty five years of community planning will be thrown out the window. No good can come of any project of this scale that begins with so much arrogance, deception, and disrespect for the community."

For more info on the AMD plans, see **www.amdlonestar.com**. For more on the opposition to the AMD plans, see **www.moveamd.com**. ■

"None of the greenbuilding tricks will do a thing to address the off-site pollution from secondary growth."
– Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

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Dreaming of Buffalo

Prairie preservationists want to turn Austin's eyes – and energies – eastward

BY RACHEL PROCTOR MAY

If you think a prairie is flat, you've never seen a prairie.

If you think a prairie is monotonous, you've never seen a prairie.

In fact, no matter what you think a prairie looks like, you've probably never actually seen one. That flat, boring stuff you see driving through Kansas? That ain't prairie. Those monotonous fields of scraggly knee-high grass in the pastures outside town? That ain't prairie. That's the sad, sickly result of spending a couple of centuries plowing and grazing and messing things up.

A real tallgrass prairie is so alive you can hear it: birds chattering, cottontails bounding out of the scrub, hawks soaring high overhead. It's richly textured, even in winter: it's got tall, reddish clumps of little bluestem; bare, prickly toothache trees, their branches jointed like finger bones; and pointy-leaved, evergreen agarita trees, like holly with an attitude. For the real show, however, you have to go in spring, when the wildflowers bloom. You might want to hurry, though. While tallgrass once covered 12 million acres from Texas to Manitoba, 99% of it is now gone. The Nature Conservancy considers the tallgrass prairie the most endangered ecosystem in North America; groups including Defenders of Wildlife and the World Wildlife Fund have also raised the alarm about dwindling stock.

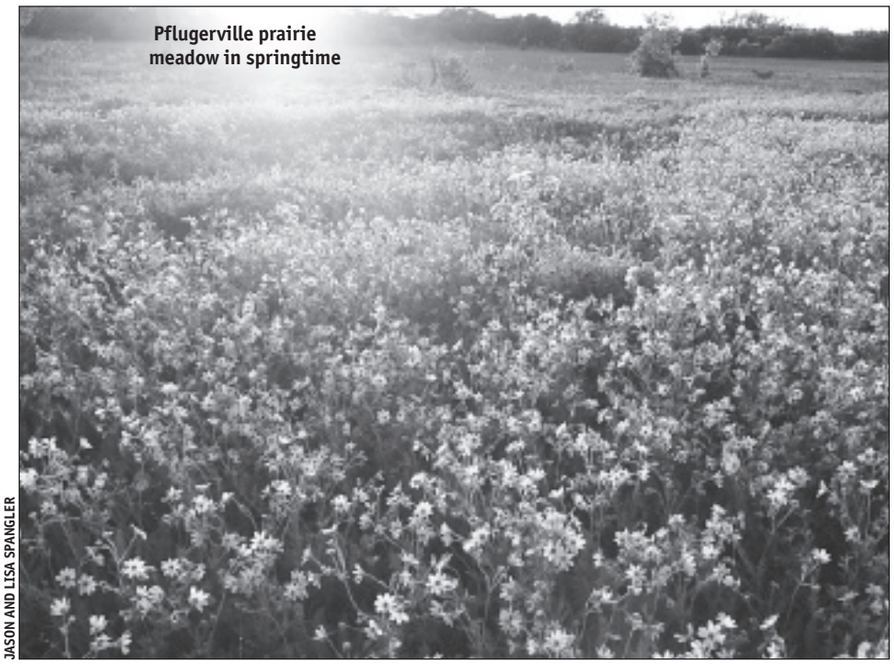
As for the Central Texas tallgrass prairie, which is known as Blackland for its thick, dark soil, the picture is even more bleak: as little as .01% remains. After extensive searching, the Native Prairies Association of Texas, a land trust and advocacy group, has identified in private hands seven prairie remnants still standing in the immediate Austin area (plus some scraps along railways) totalling maybe 1,700 acres – in all, the size of the Barton Creek Greenbelt. That's all. Most of Austin has never seen them, and it's possible that most of us never will.

Unless you're standing there in spring, when the flowers are blooming and the hawks are screaming and the meadowlarks are chasing each other, a prairie isn't loud or flashy or dramatic. In fact, prairies have few champions, and a serious PR problem. If those seven remnants are to be saved, both for their own sake and as a gene bank and seed source for future restoration projects, Austinites accustomed to hugging trees and defending water will have to find a place in their pantheon – and pocketbooks – for grass.

"Two-thirds of Austin was prairie and now it's almost gone," said Jason Spangler of the Native Prairies Association of Texas. "We want to get the word out so people can learn about it, learn to love it, and want to protect it."

Off the Radar

Coby Dinges is standing in the Pflugerville Meadow on a Sunday morning in December. The meadow is 92 mostly intact acres surrounded by pasture and housing developments just east of I-35 at Wells Branch. Dinges isn't someone you'd take at first glance as a native plant enthusiast and butterfly nut – in his loose button-down shirt and dark, combed-back hair, he looks more like an investment banker on vacation, and in fact, his background is in finance. But his passion is prairies: He owns Native Texas Butterfly Gardens in Bee Cave, a nursery that sells only native plants, and is part of a small community of volunteers who collect, store, grow, and scatter prairie seeds. It's a calling, he says, that was inspired by summers spent tromping around Texas with his father, a biologist. "He thought it was important to respect the natural world, if nothing else," said Dinges. That's why he wishes prairies were better-known. "It's hard to respect things you know nothing about."



Pflugerville prairie meadow in springtime

JASON AND LISA SPANGLER

"Two-thirds of Austin was prairie and now it's almost gone. We want to get the word out so people can learn about it, learn to love it, and want to protect it."
– Jason Spangler, Native Prairies Association of Texas



Coby Dinges of Native Texas Butterfly Gardens: "You'll stand here in spring and your mouth just hangs open."

JOHN ANDERSON

Dinges obviously respects the prairie. In fact, as he moves through the swishing, crinkling grasses, it's with an air of perpetual awe enhanced by a habit of ending his sentences with, "… if you can believe it!" He can't seem to walk more than about 10 feet without pointing out some rock, plant, or critter and telling you its name: common, scientific, and/or folksy nickname – no mean feat, considering a healthy prairie is home to 200 to 300 species of plants alone. More often than not, he can also tell you something unbelievable about it. Take that loggerhead shrike over there, the big-beaked gray bird sitting on the telephone wire on the edge of the property. It's known as the "butcher bird" because after catching its prey – a grasshopper, perhaps – it impales the carcass on thorns or a bit of barbed wire to save as a snack for later. If you can believe it.

Dinges knows his enchantment with the prairie is not universal. "A lot of people would look at this and say, 'It's a bunch of dead grass. It's a bunch of weeds.'" Like most prairie enthusiasts, then, he's desperate to get the public onboard the prairies-are-cool wagon. His answer?

"Wildflowers, wildflowers, wildflowers." Pflugerville meadow is a great place for that. He describes carpets of yellow and patches of purple, burgundy winecups stretching from right here to way over there, thick wallows of rare Texas bluebells, and all of it punctuated by pink and white spires of penstemon, swaying in the breeze. "You'll stand here in spring and your mouth just hangs open."

Birds are another people-friendly prairie asset. After all, if prairie ecosystems entirely disappear, many of the showiest wildflowers could still exist in gardens and nurseries. Prairie birds, on the other hand, would be screwed. As bird populations have plummeted in recent decades, many of the steepest declines have been among grassland birds. Partners in Flight, a coalition of government and nonprofit scientists, blame the loss of tallgrass prairie, and recommend that "all areas remaining should be incorporated into some type of preserve system to preserve this vital habitat."

Birds and flowers, an aura of danger – you'd think that prairie-hugging would be all the rage. It's not. In fact, when Jason Spangler of NPAT offered a presentation about the need to purchase and preserve prairies to the city's bond election advisory committee, most of its members were taken completely by surprise. "This was a case where something that wasn't on the radar came onto the radar, and really captured a fair amount of attention," said Robin Rather, chair of the open space subcommittee of the BEAC, who found herself deeply moved by the presentation. "I think people were disturbed that here is a really important part of our ecosystem that we haven't focused on, and it's all but vanished."

The subcommittee initially decided to propose about $10 million for prairies out of a total open space package of $165 million. But the committee's goal is still to whittle its lands package down to a target of $90 million, so the prairie portion will likely drop to $5 million. That may not go far – because so little native prairie still exists, owners of identified remnants possess a very, very valuable thing and can, if they wish, act accordingly.

"We're unlucky, in a way, because we're not just going after open space," said Spangler, who

at the time was still hoping for $10 million. "There is very little prairie left, and what we've found has tended to be in fairly expensive areas." Still, he added, anything is better than nothing. "What little is left is disappearing," he said. "We don't have much time."

There are ways to stretch conservation dollars, such as land swaps; and other municipalities, like Round Rock or Pflugerville might also be persuaded to get on board. And governments aren't the only ones who can permanently protect land: NPAT itself is a land trust that owns or has acquired conservation easements to 1,200 acres of prairie, 100 of which is tallgrass. Still, if $5 million is the final figure from Austin, it seems inevitable that some of these remnants will be destroyed. A long-term prairie preservation plan, then, must also include restoration of degraded former prairies that are now pastures of non-native species. However, as those working on urban preserves well know, restoration and preservation are both harder than they might seem.

Operation Buffalo Pie

The city of Austin is home to roughly 1 gazillion waxleaf ligustrum plants, and only one René Barrera. Pretty tough odds for the man whose job is to preserve the city's preserves. That's not an oxymoron: Nature, in an urban setting, is usually anything but natural, so buying a chunk of land to protect it from being paved is only the first step toward protecting its inhabitants.

The main culprits are invasive species like ligustrum. Ligustrum isn't a prairie plant, but as a big, green, easily identifiable tree in Austin's woody preserves, it provides an easily recognizable – in fact, near-ubiquitous – example of how thickly invasive species can spread, and how hard they are to eradicate. Like the more notorious kudzu, ligustrum is a particularly vicious foe, with a will to live that rivals that of the zombies in *Night of the Living Dead*: cut one stalk down, and a dozen more shoot up from the lopped-off trunk. They can easily

continued on p.28

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achieve eyeball height within a season, and within a few years their thick crown can shade out the forest floor so that almost nothing can grow there but another ligustrum. Plus, they offer tasty berries that entice unwitting birds into their evil plan for world domination, code-named Operation Guano. Standing on a trail in the 39-acre Blunn Creek Preserve in South Austin, Barrera pointed out a particularly nasty patch – nothing but yellow-brown ligustrum trunks and dead leaves on the forest floor, for an area the size of a parking lot.

"You see that?" he said with dismay. "It's a ligustrum monoculture."

Barrera is the sole city employee managing the city's 13 central and eastern preserves. Educational programs – such as elementary schoolers planting seedlings on a field trip, or a science class at LBJ High scattering prairie seeds – add another 5,000 hours of service to the program each year. Barring staff increases, preserving any new prairieland will roll into the already overloaded program.

Driving out Highway 71 toward the Onion Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, the roadways are thick with signs for developments with idyllic names like Los Cielos or the Vistas at Stony Ridge. But as Barrera pulled into the preserve, which abuts Travis County's Southeast Metro Park, the highway ecosystem of concrete and crud was quickly replaced by 180 acres of mesquite, juniper, and prickly pear. The bumping and thumping of Barrera's truck on the rutted gravel road flushed a hawk, which swooped across the windshield and into the air. Except for the power plant in the distance, and the water tower to the east that somehow appeared since the last time Barrera came by, it appeared to be the pristine, unsullied nature everyone likes to imagine still exists.

The reality is anything but. "When you get a 'natural' area, you're getting it in a certain state," said Barrera. "It's either been farmed, grazed, or urbanized. You have to restore it."

Here's what happened to Onion Creek. In the beginning, it was a blackland soil with a creek running through it, rich with riparian and prairie life. Then much of it was plowed. When the farming stopped, some of the grasses and wildflowers survived – you still get maximillian sunflowers, gayfeathers, goldenrod – so it is technically a prairie remnant. Because of its size, it also provides important habitat for wildlife, even persnickety species like rattlesnakes, skunks, and bobcats that don't do well in the suburbs. Now, however, the fires and the bison that kept the prairie in balance are gone, and what remains is a thicker, shrubbier, bushier environment than ever existed previously.

As restoration jobs go, however, Onion Creek is not even a particularly challenging case. Most pastures are totally colonized by non-native species like Johnson grass, which must be killed again and again and again, all the while without disturbing the native plants struggling to take root. According to Steve Windhager, who runs the landscape restoration program at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, restoration is a labor-intensive, money-intensive task. "Mowing, burning, and controlling invasive species control are a big deal," Windhager said. "The more money you have, the shorter time it takes. Less money you have, the longer it takes."

The city of Austin is (obviously) on the "less money" side of the equation, making management-intensive restoration difficult. Barrera already feels the pinch: Controlled burns don't happen much, since they aren't the kind of thing you can do with volunteers from Travis Heights Elementary. Barrera hopes to work with nonprofits and other governmental agencies to put together a controlled burn team to torch some fields. There's also Operation Buffalo Pie: Barerra wants to stock Indiangrass Preserve – 200 acres on the shore of Long Lake that is the city's only other prairie preserve – with a small herd of bison. (Because the city budget has no line item for bison, which run from $300 to $1,200 a head, it's a goal he can only achieve through grants or sponsors.)

No matter how creative Barrera gets, one issue beyond his control is the size of preserves. Small preserves are harder to manage – one big burn is significantly less work than a lot of little burns – and fragmented landscapes are simply less viable than larger ranges, where more animals can live, compete, breed, and eat each other for breakfast. In response, the bond committee and the Parks and Recreation Department have prioritized land acquisition along riparian greenways. Similarly, the city and county have slowly been expanding the protected area around Onion Creek. In addition to the sanctuary and the 300-acre Southeast Metro Park, the county bond package passed in November included $8 million to work on a greenway, and the proposed city bond also targets land in the area. Over the long term, large tracts – even degraded ones – could slowly be transformed into prairie plant communities with the potential to attract wildlife.

Any kind of restoration, however, starts with seeds, which is why prairie advocates consider any shred of native prairie so valuable. "Five acres of exquisite prairie – one acre – is not to be walked away from. There's so little left!" said Lee Stone of the NPAT board. "How dare we say, 'Oh, that part's too small to save,' when their seeds are there, and there could be fauna on it that aren't any place else. It would be arrogant for us to turn our noses up at an acre."



JOHN ANDERSON

René Barrera at Blunn Creek Preserve, with American Beautyberry seeds

"When you get a 'natural' area, you're getting it in a certain state. It's either been farmed, grazed, or urbanized. You have to restore it."

– René Barrera, city preservationist

An Eastside Named Desire

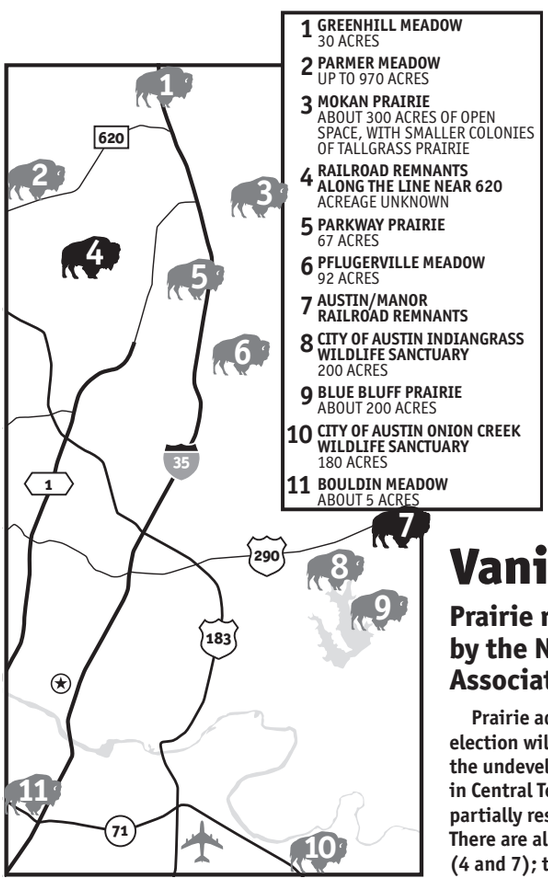
In last week's public hearing on the roughly $614 million bond package that the city plans to put before voters some time next year, Stone was the lone speaker on behalf of the prairies. The other official representatives of the environment – about eight speakers, mostly from the Sierra Club – spoke almost entirely in terms of water quality. The current $90 million land budget calls for $45 million for aquifer lands, $21 million for east Austin open space (including prairies), and $28 million for parks distributed equitably all over town. The push among the best-known environmental groups has been to increase the aquifer portion – and that portion only – to $75 million.

None of the groups deny that prairies are important, but their top priority is clearly the quality of the water that reaches Austin through the southwest – either through creeks or the Edwards Aquifer, which feeds Barton Springs and about 50,000 private drinking wells, and contributes about 1% of the city's drinking water. (The rest comes from the Colorado River, flowing in from the northwest.) This priority is frustrating to prairie advocates, who point out that the vast majority of the $170 million spent on open space in the last 13 years already bought southwest land, and that the city already owns 30,000 acres in the Southwest (and another 9,000 in the Northwest), compared to just 7,000 in all of east Austin. "We're always so aware of the aquifer in Austin. We've said the preferred development zone is east, but we've completely ignored the value of the prairie," said Windhager of the Wildflower Center. "We have to be aware of all our environmental resources, not just the water."

That debate is particularly important given the inexorable march of State Highway 130, the four-lane toll road that will open in less than two years and spark a building boom fully expected to devour eastern Travis County. SH 130 is about a quarter-mile from Indiangrass preserve: a dun-colored slice in the earth already cut and graded, with yellow earthmovers rumbling back and forth, like ants hauling crumbs to the queen. It will touch Pflugerville Meadow, too – something heavy on Dinges' mind as he strolled back through the stiff winter grasses toward his truck. "That part's already gone," he said, pointing to the pasture to the west slated for commercial development. "And then they're also going to extend Wells Branch out to 130 – that monstrosity," he added with disgust.

The $21 million slated for SH 130 greenways is the only part of the current bond package to address the huge price tag that will accompany any attempt to develop 130 along the lines of the Envision Central Texas model – dense nodes of development surrounded by enough open space to prove viable habitat for whatever species still survive. (Some members of City Council, including Mayor Will Wynn, have suggested delaying the bond election to give time to figure out SH 130 infrastructure projects.) Whatever becomes of that effort, bond committee member Rodney Ahart believes the open space proposal is a good first step, but still only a first step of a necessary investment in the East and, ultimately, the city as a whole.

"It is high time for east of I-35 to really be beautified, and to get a lot of the attention that it really hasn't had," Ahart said. "It's so funny to me that people always say east of I-35 is the desired development zone. I always feel that's not true, because it seems to me that more people want to develop west of I-35. So, if it is truly the desired development zone, then we should make it desirable." ■



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6 **PFLUGERVILLE MEADOW** 92 ACRES
7 **AUSTIN/MANOR RAILROAD REMNANTS**
8 **CITY OF AUSTIN INDIANGRASS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY** 200 ACRES
9 **BLUE BLUFF PRAIRIE** ABOUT 200 ACRES
10 **CITY OF AUSTIN ONION CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY** 180 ACRES
11 **BOULDIN MEADOW** ABOUT 5 ACRES

Vanishing Prairies

Prairie remnants identified by the Native Prairies Association of Texas

Prairie advocates hope the upcoming bond election will allow the city to buy a few of the undeveloped tallgrass prairie remnants in Central Texas. The city currently owns two partially restored tallgrass prairies (8 and 10). There are also isolated railroad remnants (4 and 7); the rest is in private hands.


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The Devil's Five Seconds

BY MICHAEL VENTURA



JASON STOUT

What was I doing in Las Vegas in a Fremont Street strip joint on Christmas Eve? I called it "research." I intended a trilogy of novels set in Vegas: *The Death of Frank Sinatra* (written and published), *One Marilyn Too Many* (written and rejected), and *Las Vegas Knows My Name* (as yet unwritten). They would be metaphysical explorations in the guise of detective novels, a fictional autobiography of my spiritual quest which, like all quests, succeeds or fails in a world of suffering and evil. I chose Las Vegas because historically it is the last world-renowned city to be purely a creation of Western civilization. America's first important cities, Boston and Philadelphia, were founded upon dedication to God. That our last city should be openly dedicated to pursuits of the Devil, set in a desert as fierce as the desert that birthed our religions, seemed an excellent though obvious theological in-joke. As a novelist, I sought to explore the darker aspects of that joke.

My protagonist, a detective named Mike Rose, was the son of a Mafia thug and a mother who ran a strip joint on Fremont. I'm Sicilian by descent, and "Mafia" is the only word of my Sicilian ancestors to enter the world's vocabulary. Its meaning in the Americas, China, and Russia is the same: a secret brotherhood of crime. In the U.S., the Mafia was given power by women: They got the vote, and their vote was largely instrumental in initiating Prohibition, which created an era in which the Mafia thrived. Organized crime supplies to mostly law-abiding people what the law forbids: alcohol then, drugs now, gambling, whores, and the giving of loans to people the banks won't back. In its heyday, savvy Mafia murderers ran or created cities. Al Capone was 27 when he bossed Chicago – read his statements and see the thoughts of a viciously intelligent youth. Meyer Lansky, Lucky Luciano, Davey Berman, and Bugsy Siegel were relatively young men when they created Las Vegas, a city hellbent on giving Americans what they pretend not to want but in fact crave desperately. It is no small thing to create a city. It is, in fact, the very basis of civilization. A close reading of history will show that most cities are created by thugs. My character Mike Rose is a child of city-builders – or rather, of their servants.

Like many of us, Mike Rose decides not to be like his parents: He does not lie and will not kill. He does not lie but he also does not tell the truth; then he breaks his code and murders. He doesn't believe God – that is, he believes in but doesn't *agree with* God. God has created an unjust universe, an offense for which Mike Rose will not forgive God. After Rose murders, he knows God also will not forgive him. He secretly likes that, for to Mike Rose this means that God has taken an interest in him. The New Testament says (somewhere in Hebrews) it is "a fearful thing" to awaken God's interest, a fearful thing to realize in the starkest possible terms that one might have a soul after all. Rose realizes he might have a soul in the very act of losing that soul. He takes secret delight in being damned, because to be damned means God cares for you – cares enough to banish you, for, as they teach in Catholic school, "Hell is the absence of God." Mike Rose is pleased to be damned, because to be damned is evidence that God knows him, even if he doesn't know God. He is only certain of God's reality after he murders. (This may be the motive of many murders: to find God through God's damnation. Maybe to be damned by God is better than not knowing God at all.)

But my story wouldn't ring true unless my Las Vegas was meticulously detailed. I devoted several years to knowing Vegas intimately – which, Vegas being Vegas, is also to know the city dangerously. For Vegas is never passive. If you look at it, it will look at you.

I desired to research Vegas on Christmas Eve. Put another way: What are the Devil's preoccupations on the eve of the birth of Christ? I found that the Devil knows that Christ will not substantially change the world; Christ will only make it more complicated. Two thousand years since the Crucifixion have proved the Devil correct. But to go on with the story …

On the one hand, strip clubs are brutally uncomplicated: Beautiful wild women extract money from men who cannot otherwise hope to enjoy concourse with beautiful wild women. On the other hand, strip clubs are wonderfully complicated: A complex female beauty, in the service of thugs, overwhelms the dull sensibilities of dulled men, everybody is degraded, yet when all is said and done the beautiful retains that which makes it beautiful – so beauty is proven to be irreducible. One is forced to think of Ezra Pound and William Butler Yeats. Pound: *Till change hath broken down/All things save Beauty alone.* Yeats: *Only God, my dear, could love you for yourself alone,/And not your golden hair.*

That Christmas Eve the strippers wore Santa hats. No redemption was expected; just presents. I sat at the bar while pole dancers gyrated and I pushed fives and tens into their G-strings and between their breasts. They liked that. They told their friends. All the pretty ladies wanted to dance for Mike Rose. I was working, observing, so I drank only Cokes and club sodas. And I was talking. Asking questions. These ladies are rarely spoken to seriously and with respect, and they responded generously to my questions. One said something so brilliant I had to whip out my notebook and write it down (yes, I get all the phallic metaphors in this). I knew how stupid that was. In Vegas, you're always on camera. In such a place, a notebook is noticed. But what she said was too good to lose. (Her words became a telling line in *The Death of Frank Sinatra*.) Would I have let the line go by if I'd known I was risking my life?

A dancer sat next to me. She said her name was "Whitney," coffee-colored, very bright, wearing almost nothing. I suspect now that she'd been selected because she was so bright – she would have interested me in any circumstances. We talked. We *really* talked. (Whitney also has a line in my novel.) Amidst stupid music and many nakednesses, we talked. I

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remember saying that maybe Christmas is such a manic time because we know the journey of this infant Jesus, so we know he will end on the horrible cross, and we are uncertain that we deserve such a sacrifice. Many of us, even believers, do not feel redeemed, and the world 2,000 years later is still a cross – by any standard that's not much of a track record, not for Jesus, not for us. Finally Whitney asked to be excused. I can still see her walking away, in only a G-string, her beauty glowing in spite of itself and in spite of the setting – for beauty is *itself*, no matter what purpose beauty is put to. Beauty shines with something *other*, something that we ever long for and never comprehend. Even on Fremont Street in the Devil's lair.

And then I could not feel my feet. I could not feel my legs.

The Devil gives you maybe five seconds. Sometimes less. Rarely more.

Bright, beautiful, astute Whitney had slipped a drug into my soda. Somebody wanted to read my notebook. And somebody probably wanted to "interview" me, and none too gently.

But … I grew up on mean streets, I'm street smart. "Street smart" isn't special knowledge of scams. Street smart is knowing that safety is temporary but danger is absolute. Within any temporary safety is the presence of danger. There are two responses to danger: instant, or too late. An instant response might not save you, but you have a chance. People who believe that safety is their natural habit react to danger with disbelief: "This can't be happening, maybe it was something I ate." All that distinguishes the street-wise is knowing that it damn well is happening, right now, to you. If you don't dig that, you lose the five seconds and maybe lots more.

I couldn't feel my feet but I could feel my hands. I gripped the bar and made my legs move using the bar for balance. The exit was maybe 10 yards away. I launched myself toward that door and tumbled out into the street before anyone could grab me. Whoever had ordered me drugged could have gone after me but didn't – probably didn't want to be seen dragging a helpless man back into their lair. I kept on my feet by leaning on the vending machines that lined the sidewalk – machines offering ads for "private dancers." Pushing off one machine and grabbing another, I stumbled up the street.

The Devil gives you five seconds. God gives you none at all. To be close to one is to be close to the other, for even damnation can be a blessing. And you never know whom beauty serves. ■

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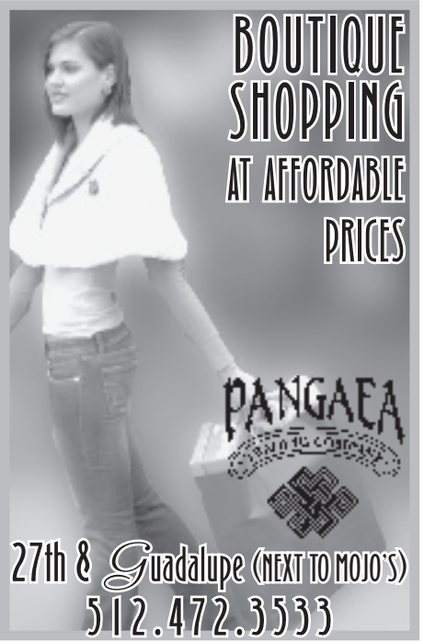
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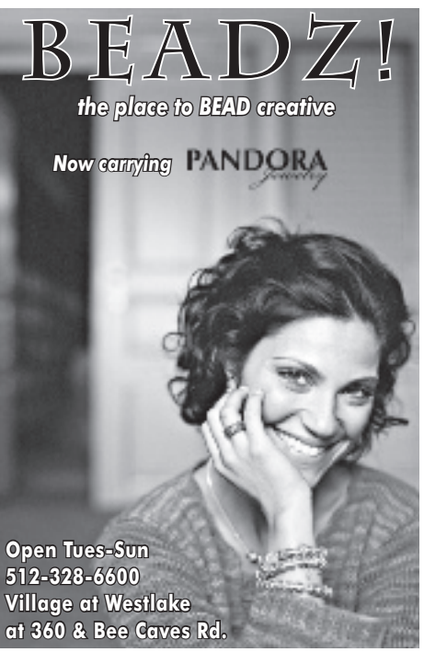


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the arts

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ROBERT FAIRES

ON THE FUNDING FRONT: Grants in Their Stockings

The National Endowment for the Arts has made its annual impersonation of St. Nick and dropped some federal funding into the stockings of five area arts groups. U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Travis, had the word on who's been nice in the eyes of Santa NEA.

- **Rude Mechanicals**: $10,000 to support the development of an original adaptation of Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron* with playwright Kirk Lynn and director Shawn Sides in collaboration with ensemble members;
- **Blue Lapis Light**: $5,000 to support the creation of a site-specific work by choreographer Sally Jacques incorporating aerial acrobatics;
- **Austin Film Society**: $23,000 to support the presentation of a curated film and video series;
- **Oscar Casares**: $20,000 to support the completion of his novel *Amèrico*, based on his family's migration from Northern Mexico to the United States; and
- **Women & Their Work**: $15,000 to support a series of solo exhibitions for young and emerging women artists of Texas.

– *Robert Faires*



ROBERT FAIRES

IN MEMORIAM: Jason Brooks

ProArts Collective has suddenly lost another member of its creative family, just months after the unexpected passing of its founding artistic director. Jason Ansara Brooks, who directed, choreographed, and was performing in the company's production of *Black Nativity*, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, two days before the show's closing weekend of performances. He was 50. Brooks' death was a double blow to ProArts, not only because it took place in the midst of the run of a show that Brooks was so deeply involved in but because the company is still recovering from the April death of Boyd Vance, who led the organization for a dozen years and provided its guiding spirit. In fact, the very night that Brooks passed away, ProArts was hosting a meeting to begin discussions about the next direction for the company in its mission to establish a black theatre company for Central Texas. Brooks was an Austin native who returned to his hometown in recent years after years of training and a professional career that took him across the country and the globe. He studied at the University of Oklahoma at Norman and trained with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. In the late Eighties he moved to Europe, where he was a soloist with the Deutsche Opera Berlin, appearing in its production of *Aida*; danced with the Stuttgart Ballet; appeared in productions of *Porgy and Bess* (Germany), *Show Boat* (Austria), *The Cotton Club* (European/United Kingdom tour), and *Starlight Express* (European/Australian tour); danced for two television programs in the Netherlands; and sang professionally with the touring group First Take, which featured his sister Denice, who was working alongside him in the current production of *Black Nativity*. Back in the States, in Minneapolis he performed in the world-premiere production of Rita Dove's *Darker Face of the Earth* at the Guthrie Theatre and danced the role of Joseph in the Penumbra Theatre Company's production of *Black Nativity*. Locally, he choreographed work for Ballet East and acted for Live Oak Theatre (*You Can't Take It With You*), Theatre Austin (*Spunk*), and the Zachary Scott Theatre Center (*The Gospel at Colonus*). His performance as Lyman in *The Piano Lesson* and co-choreography of *Dreamgirls*, both for Zach, earned him nominations for B. Iden Payne Awards and Austin Critics Table Awards. Brooks is survived by mother Bertha Mae Clark and stepfather Willie Clark; brother William Brooks; sisters Denice Brooks, Mary Clark Turner, and Donna Clark Robinson; half-brother James Gibson; half-sisters Mischa Brooks and Debra Brooks; and many friends and colleagues. Services were held Monday, Dec. 19, at Mount Zion Baptist Church. – *R.F.*

CULTURE FLASH!

BY ROBERT FAIRES

• The **Long Center recently gained an additional $150,000** toward the $77 million total of its capital campaign. At a Corporate Council meeting on Dec. 7, Fulbright & Jaworski law firm announced a $100,000 gift, and health giant Humana kicked in $50,000. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst was also on hand to say that the performing arts hall will "dramatically improve the quality of life in Austin" and to promise center board chair (and namesake) Joe Long that he'd match his gift of last year with a new one. The new gifts officially put the center at the $68 million mark, with $9 million left to raise.

• The **Austin Museum of Art** can hardly wait for its **big Christo retrospective** next month. Two weeks before the traveling exhibit's Jan. 28 opening, AMOA is hosting a special "Austin Responds" program bringing together locals who have personally experienced or even worked on a work by Christo and Jeanne-Claude – including their 1979 visit to Laguna Gloria. The program, I Was There: Sharing Stories of Christo and Jeanne-Claude Projects, will take place Thursday, Jan. 12, 7pm, at AMOA, 823 Congress. The museum urges participants to bring photos and stories to contribute to the Austin Responds Wall. For more information, call 495-9224.

• Want to see your art in City Hall? The **Cultural Arts Division** of the city's Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office is looking for works to display in its second edition of its ongoing **City Hall exhibition series**. The next exhibit will show from Feb. 27, 2006-Feb. 2, 2007. Works may be two- or three-dimensional, installations, or digital art. The deadline for applications is Friday, Jan. 6, 2006. The full prospectus and instructions to apply can be downloaded at **www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/cityhall.htm**.

• Want to see your art at the airport? The city of Austin's **Art in Public Places Program is seeking** Texas artists to create unique **artwork for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**. The project budget is $120,000, and the deadline to respond is also Jan. 6, 2006. The complete Request for Qualifications and photos of preferred locations for artwork at the airport can be found at **www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp**. For more information, contact Meghan Turner at 974-9314.



RACHEL COBB

Barbecue for 1,000 at Open House, courtesy of the Chinati Foundation

To Marfa, on a Tuesday in December

When high art and hipness move in, what happens to a tiny Texas town?

BY DAN KEANE

Marfa is a legend silk-screened on a trucker cap. I walk into a packed Chelsea gallery and before I can untangle my scarf I spot it, stuck on the shaggy head of some kid up against one of the gallery's blindingly white walls. He's pulling on a beer and grinning out from underneath the uncracked nylon brim. The hat's brown and actually says "Ballroom Marfa" in careful light blue letters: It's a souvenir from the contemporary art space at the heart of what can only be described as *the scene* in that suddenly hip Big Bend town. So I figure, okay, this kid's been to Marfa. And it's just a beat later that I realize there's not a soul in the crowded room who needs to ask him what or where Marfa is. They already know.

I should not have been so surprised. The opening featured the dream yarns and hacksawed Americana of Matthew Day Jackson, a talented young artist who'd been in Marfa this fall for a show at the Ballroom. The show opened during Chinati weekend, a townwide art festival centered around the Chinati Foundation's annual open house each October. I was one of many New York kids who flew out for this year's event, and from its blur of parties I recognized a dozen faces in the crush for the Chelsea gallery's dwindling stash of tepid Stella. And if the rest of the crowd hadn't yet been to Marfa, they'd probably seen one or two or seven of the Big-Art-in-a-Little-Town stories that the dailies and glossies and trashy European art mags have been kicking out for years. So I can connect the dots here, but I can't shake the weirdness: I'm 2,000 miles northeast, lost in New York's breathless hustle for the next best thing, and everybody who's anybody can name-check a one-stoplight county seat on the far side of Texas.

□

Full disclosure: I lived in Marfa 3½ years myself. I have been hired to tell you how the place has changed, to tell you about the art and the money, to toss one more Big Art/Little Town clip on the pile. I am typing now in the young writer's stereotypical cold New York apartment and struggling mightily to keep this feature story from melting into a love letter. It's a Tuesday in December. The grass in the flats is bleached white, and the wind piles tumbleweeds in bulbous drifts against barbed-wire fences. There'll be ice on the road once or twice this season, and no one will know how to drive on it. On the porch the dog's water bowl freezes over some nights. Beyond simple facts like these my objectivity is not to be trusted.

It is an easy place to fall in love with. Marfa is hung out on a railroad line about seven hours due west of Austin, smack in the middle of the most mythic corner of our most mythic state. The landscape can best be described by the dreamy dust that comes out of your mouth with the words "Far … West … Texas …" Say 'em slow and you'll see it: treeless plains so wide you can just about see the curve of the planet, their waving yellow grass spiked by yucca and rubbed down in dead spots by fat red Herefords. There are hawks on telephone poles and jagged blue mountains perched like compass points on the horizon. In any month of the year the brilliant high-altitude sunlight can make naked eyes screw up and water.

I'm 2,000 miles northeast, lost in New York's breathless hustle for the next best thing, and everybody who's anybody can name-check a one-stoplight county seat on the far side of Texas.

People who move to Marfa will sometimes sit and swap stories about how and why they came to town, like sweethearts recounting how they met. I've collected many such stories – the desperate cross-country road trip, the transcendental visit on that clear November day, the divorce in a big city far away – but for this assignment let's stick to the first one. Donald Judd was an 18-year-old soldier on his way to Korea when he first saw Far West Texas from the window of a bus in 1946. It was Dec. 17, a Tuesday. He sent his mother a telegram from Van Horn, an hour's drive northwest of Marfa: "1260 POPULATION. NICE TOWN BEAUTIFUL LAND MOUNTAINS." Fast forward to the early 1970s: Judd has become a successful New York artist but is feeling cramped by the city's gallery scene. He wants space and quiet. After scouting trips across much of the Southwestern U.S. and into Mexico, he settles on the desert he'd first seen a quarter century before.

In Marfa Judd found a way to fuse his twin passions for art and architecture into one, elegantly simple vision: Make art like buildings. If architects designed their work to fit one unique site and to stand in that site permanently, he argued, then why couldn't artists? Judd wanted to create a venue where he and a few contemporaries could make massive, permanent site-specific installations. It was a grand ambition, and Texas during the 1970s was flush with oil money looking for grand ambitions. In 1979, the Dia Foundation, backed by the Menil family of Houston's immense oil fortune, purchased an abandoned cavalry fort just south of town, and Judd went to work creating what would become the Chinati Foundation. "Oil was crazy, the art market was going crazy," says Michael Roch, a Marfa artist who would work for Judd a decade later. "It was a moment of the stars aligning."

Meanwhile, the town of Marfa was slowly drying up. Its population had peaked during World War II, when an airbase east of town had filled the restaurants, bars, and hotels with flyboys. After the war came a bitter drought that crippled the local ranching industry during the 1950s. There was a memorable summer in 1955, when Liz Taylor and James Dean came to town to film *Giant*, but as each year came and went, more families left than arrived, and the kids grew up and moved away. The Seventies oil boom drew families up to Midland and Odessa for work. The town's two doctors retired and passed away, the two pharmacists closed up shop. The only dentist committed suicide. For their medical visits local residents crossed the pass to Alpine or drove to El Paso and Midland, and their shopping dollars followed. The Safeway closed, the dry cleaners closed, the drive-in closed.

Glenn Garcia is a Marfa native who hired on at Marfa National Bank as a new college graduate in the late 1970s. At the time, he says, he felt like he got the last job in town. He is now the bank's senior vice-president. "People were not moving in to Marfa. And the young folks, they really had to move out. There wasn't any industry here to sustain them or keep them home," he remembers. "Marfa was really slipping. We were going downhill fast."

Judd died suddenly in 1994. The Chinati Foundation was left with a few hundred dollars in the bank, a collection of semiderelict buildings Judd had purchased around town, and the spread of Judd's huge, permanent art. The work is difficult to describe, and I'm tempted not to. Marfans will jabber on about how we moved to town, sure, but when the big art's

brought up we just smile, shake our heads in disbelief, and say things like "They're just …" or "Yep." It's a bit like sex that way, I suppose. When I worked as a guide there – the work is shown by guided tour only, except during the annual open house – we were instructed not to give visitors a spiel but to simply unlock the doors, show them in, and let the art be. That sounds like an affectation until you see the work yourself. Stretched north to south along a full kilometer of prairie sits a procession of garage-sized concrete rectangles, while inside two of the fort's huge brick artillery sheds sit another 100 rectangular works of gleaming aluminum. The restored sheds' walls are now almost entirely windows, and on a sunny day the metal pieces come alive, singing to every single thing in sight: the cracked cement floor and faded bricks, the concrete works out in the field, the golden grass, the thorny mesquite, the iridescent blue sky. Think of Judd's works at Chinati as monuments, without all the dead soldiers monuments are often made to carry. Think of them as Stonehenges for the machine age: We have lost track of the solstice, but every once in a while we still need to stand in a hallowed spot and watch the sun move around noble, man-made things.

The Chinati Foundation started knocking on doors. "There had been very little effort to reach a public at the time. We were too busy building the work," says Chinati associate director Rob Weiner, who first came to Marfa from New York City to work for Judd in the late 1980s. "It was very much word-of-mouth at the time. When [Judd] died and we were broke, we knew we needed to spread the word if we were going to survive. We had a great story to tell people about art and Marfa."

"The way I see this thing, the foundation that Donald Judd laid is the stockpile of wood," Garcia says. "When it ignited, man, it really ignited. We just didn't see it coming, and coming as fast as it did."

□

Nobody knows exactly how many people have moved to Marfa in recent years. Sometime after the 2000 Census – right as the woodpile was starting to catch – the highway department removed the old "MARFA POP. 2424" sign and replaced it with one that said, "MARFA POP. 2121." Local officials dismissed the figures as too low, and five years on it's even harder to tell. There are certainly more cars on the street, and you can't attend a social function of any size without being introduced to so-and-so who's just bought so-and-so's old house. Real estate prices have tripled, and local crews are booked with renovation work months in advance. But for every new face you'll see during the week, there's three more, maybe, you're likely to see only between Friday and Sunday nights. They see the doctor, refill prescriptions, and dry-clean their clothes in Houston, Austin, Dallas, or New York. They don't vote in Marfa, but they hire contractors there.

This isn't a criticism, merely a statement of fact: I'm now a long-distance Marfan myself, thumbing my mail-delivered copies of the *Big Bend Sentinel* and worrying about getting somebody there to fix my leaky roof. We're an ever-widening Marfa diaspora now, one that flocks home on certain weekends for festive glee-club reunions. Add to that the waves of weekend tourists bunking at the venerable Hotel Paisano and the hip Thunderbird Motel, the little sister to Austin's Hotel San José, and Marfa can feel like a different town on different days of the week. There's Marfa on a Tuesday in December, and Marfa on a bright March Saturday during spring break. And then there's Marfa on the second weekend in October.

People will tell you that you won't get a true feel for Marfa during the madness of Chinati weekend, or Open House, as locals call it, and they're right, of course. But I'd argue that you can't understand the town if you haven't seen that college kid who's spent the last two years wandering around Open House in the same dirt-smeared pink bunny suit, just to be part of the show. Jets line up at the Marfa airstrip, hotel rooms fill for counties around, and a table at Maiya's Restaurant cannot be had for love or money. This year no fewer than 22 galleries bought ads that week in the *Sentinel*, and we all staggered from art to art under the blazing October sky. Everybody wore sunglasses. I saw Andy Warhol's big copies of Jesus, I saw paintings that glowed in the dark, I saw Agnes Martin and Man Ray prints in a garage. I saw

continued on p.36



RACHEL COBB

Gallery-hopping during Open House





tailgate parties for *art*. On Saturday night, locals and visitors alike turned out for Yo La Tengo's roaring set on a makeshift stage in the gutted Holiday Capri motel; the air was giddy with potential, and you could almost feel the band lay another cord on the Marfa woodpile. In the back of the hall kids two-stepped to the feedback in vintage cowboy boots. When, at a party later, a bemused local friend of mine asked, "How many people in this room besides me have a real job?" it seemed too perfect a night to answer. We smiled, shrugged, and headed back to the cooler for another beer.

The weekend's long over, so now we can go ahead and say it: *gentrification*. It's always a slap, that word, but I'm afraid it's unavoidable here. Gentrification is a natural enough process, but we never quite get used to it. We're Americans, and we believe in equality: When rich folks buy poor folks' houses, the inequalities of class float right to the surface, and it makes us all a bit squeamish.

Now, gentrification has its up sides. Marfa is livelier than it's been in 50 years. Everything's getting a new coat of paint, and new money has restored many of the town's modest but handsome adobes originally built in the early part of the last century. There's a shot in the arm to Marfa's civics, too, as new arrivals are taking part in the community – most notably, old and new Marfans alike have rallied around a successful two-year effort to create a public health clinic in town. David Lanman exemplifies the trend: About three years ago he bought four fire-scarred walls on a neglected lot habitable only to cacti, beer cans, and stray cats; after a year's worth of sweat, money, and latter-day Leonard Cohen records played loud enough to be heard over the chop saw, the results are stunning. His house complete, Dave shouldered another project: He's now mayor.

The new energy is not lost on the natives. "My wife and I and my son, we always discuss how Marfa is in a lot better shape now than it was before," says Mando Vasquez, 80, who for four decades ran a garage in the building that now houses the Ballroom. Vasquez has served on the board of the Presidio County Museum alongside several newer Marfans. "These people, mostly art people, they came in and bought all the buildings made of adobe. They fixed 'em up and they tried to make 'em look like they did the day they were built. We give these people a lot of credit for the way Marfa is now. It's converting into a real nice town.

"But quite a few of the old folks here, they don't like changes," Vasquez says. "They can't see how these people can come and put so much money into one building. Because we – including myself – heck, we're poor folks. Really, it takes a lifetime for us to have a nice home with all what we'd like to have. And when anybody, when these young folks come here and they're building something overnight, we say well, *wait* a minute."

And so there's gentrification's other side, the side that makes the word sting so. Money revives Marfa but remakes it as well. Over the last couple of years, anyone who actually works for the wages Marfa can afford to pay has been priced out of the local housing market. This is frustrating to watch, especially when a fair portion of the new folks buying property in town don't appear to need to work themselves.



RACHEL COBB

The truth is that Marfa's been celebrated as the middle of nowhere so many times now that the cartographic epithet is starting to ring hollow. On a recent flight to Texas even the in-flight magazine had a picture of Judd's boxes.

"I'm not trying to lump anybody together, but it seems that anybody who can afford to buy an adobe house is an artist or wants to become an artist," says Keith Hernandez. Keith's 24. He grew up in Marfa, left to attend school at Southwest Texas State, and returned home and found a job as an apprentice to a local electrician. In Marfa's endless renovation, he is never short of work. "They think, hey, I can move to Marfa and buy an adobe house and open up a gallery and that's the end of it. I have friends that are artists, that have gone broke going to art school and given all their heart to their work. But there's people who say, hey, we aren't doing anything this summer, let's move down to Marfa and buy an adobe house for $195,000 and open a gallery."

I can just about hear him shrug over the phone. "But I know how this little town works. I hope that they come, because it makes me money. It's a double-edged sword. I don't think of it as a bad thing, and it's not the greatest thing either. I'm happily stuck in the middle of everything."

I am learning that shrug myself. Last year, in a dinner conversation with friends, I got a little salty over the pending arrival of Marfa Community Radio. The new station, KRTS 93.5FM, is an Austin-backed group that plans to begin broadcasting in February with a mix of local programming and a feed from National Public Radio. I've since spoken to them, and they're an experienced, professional bunch, and I look forward to listening. But at the time it had stuck in my craw. NPR, I said, hell. Didn't we all move out there for the silence, to get away from that big-city chatter? I tried to describe the thrill of heading home to Marfa from El Paso, of crossing the ridge at Sierra Blanca and listening as the dial went blank. What silence?, my friends pointed out. Everybody in town except you and your arty crew already has cable anyways. If you want silence, you can turn your damn radio off.

□

When you're driving across West Texas, my dad used to say, you have to open the car door and watch the gravel on the highway shoulder just to make sure you're still moving. He'd grin and shake his head: It's the *middle* of *nowhere*. The phrase is irresistible to anyone who's driven the plumb-straight, 74-mile stretch from Marfa to Van Horn under a full moon, fighting the urge to shut off the headlights and steer by the stars. But the truth is that Marfa's been celebrated as the middle of nowhere so many times now that the cartographic epithet is starting to ring a little hollow. On a recent flight to Texas even the in-flight magazine had a picture of Judd's boxes, alongside a blurb locating them "in an area so isolated it is called the *despoblado* – the 'unpopulated.'" (No Marfan I ever knew ever uses this word, but it's become a common travel writer's crutch; I suspect the writer lifted it from, say, Marfa's latest appearance in *Travel + Leisure*.) You can find the middle of nowhere in an airline rag, alongside a list of Baltimore's family vacation hot spots and a map of the Delta hub in Atlanta.

It's easy to understand why the ideal of Nowhere is so appealing. Tiny, faraway towns have a persistent pull on the restless imagination of a country whose cities and suburbs feel increasingly like the stylish but empty insides of one giant Target. Clear away the clutter and life becomes easier to see. Marfa has one giant Exxon sign and a new Subway in one of the gas stations, but the Target is still three hours away. "You're out here on the frontier, and it's otherworldly," says Vance Knowles, who moved to Marfa from Austin two years ago to coordinate music and film projects at the Ballroom. "Everything just kind of stands out here, whether it's a hamburger, a cement box, or a guitar player."

The trick, then, is not to mistake Marfa's fetching surfeit of space and light and quiet for emptiness. The middle of nowhere is not an entirely blank canvas. When the artists Ingar Dragset and Michael Elmgreen flew out from Berlin this fall to install their conceptual work *Prada Marfa*, they encountered a desert every bit as "desolate" as they'd hoped for. "We found that it looked almost exactly like the computer renderings we had been doing at the studio back in Berlin, made from Googled images," the duo told the *El Paso Times*. Their installation is a mock-up of one of the designer's stores, complete with this year's entire fall line. The idea was that the display would be sealed like a time capsule and left to the elements. In an interview with the *New York Times* just before *Prada Marfa*'s debut, Yvonne Force-Villareal, one of the project's backers, was excited to see if a "cowboy" would shoot his gun at the fake store, or perhaps if "a mouse or a muskrat makes a home in it." Within 48 hours of the piece's opening, somebody had smashed a window, cleaned out the handbag display, and left their critique on the walls in spray paint. DUMB, they wrote, and for added emphasis, DUM-DUM.

If the perps had just stuck to your standard four-letter words, it would have been easy to dismiss their act as mere vandalism. Instead, it was an odd testament to the level of discourse in the Big Bend. Now, *Prada Marfa* was not actually in Marfa, but one county over and 35 miles west by the side of the highway in Valentine. The sign says POP. 217 – "practically being a ghost town," as the Berlin artists described it to the reporter from El Paso – but there's a school (home of the Pirates), grant money to build a sewer system on the way ($1.8 million) and a post office (ZIP 79854) that makes a special cancellation stamp each Feb. 14. A Prada handbag costs more than most people in Valentine make in a month – or most people in Marfa, for that matter. Yet Dragset and Elmgreen saw the place as nothing but the straight man in a one-line hipster joke: *It's a Prada store in the middle of nowhere!*

Just who broke into the store, nobody knows. Valentine Mayor-for-life Chuy Calderon is pretty sure it was someone from out of town. "Over time, there'll be some graffiti on it," he says. "But our people here wouldn't have done it so soon and wouldn't have caused so much damage. It just doesn't fit the character of this town." Whoever did it, it's worth noting the immediate force of their opinion. At the Chinati Foundation, Judd's concrete boxes have sat behind a low fence just a few yards off U.S. Highway 67 for more than 20 years now. Most area folks you talk to will tell you the works are nothing more than glorified irrigation culverts, and yet they've sat there naked in a field for two decades without a scratch.

Maybe people see Chinati's economic benefits and leave the place alone, or maybe they leave the boxes be out of the West Texan's reverence for barbed wire and private property. Or perhaps the boxes have simply been there long enough that people are used to them. I'm inclined to believe Judd's work remains untouched because of a tacit understanding that, unlike *Prada Marfa*, it relates directly to the land on which it sits. The boxes may leave a lot of people cold, but they do not condescend or patronize, and they do not depend on an idealized, blank-canvas nowhere. In their own peculiar way, the boxes evoke an appreciation for the strange landscape as deep as that felt by any third-generation rancher. "Anybody who moves here should have

to wait three years before they're allowed to do anything," a friend of mine in Marfa likes to say, as we gossip about some newcomer who's had the temerity to show up in town after we did. It may be catty, but *Prada Marfa*'s cheap sense of place reveals the axiom's kernel of truth. Judd had been in town a decade before he set to making his massive works, and it shows.

□

Marfa is the next Santa Fe, the wags used to say. Marfa's the next Aspen, the next Bisbee, the next South Beach, the next South Congress. *Marfa* is just like *Soho* in the *Sixties*, I can remember a woman crowing one night over a plastic cup of cheap Zinfandel, congratulating herself three times in the same sentence. White is the new black, Thursday's the new Friday, Brooklyn's the new Manhattan, and Marfa's the new Brooklyn. "People mythologize Marfa," says Mayor Lanman. "People make it up. It's really just a tiny little town."

During Open House this year someone posted plywood signs in front of the Presidio County Courthouse, Marfa National Bank, the Marfa Book Company, the post office, and a handful of other landmarks around town. On each sign, with no caption offered, was a blown-up photo of the building it stood in front of. Here's the legend you came to see, the signs informed us, like the placards at a national park overlook. And that's Marfa's biggest change yet: Unwittingly or no, the crowds that flock there now are coming to be a part of the myth as much as to see the town itself.

Again, I'm implicating myself here – I could have visited any other weekend this fall, but I felt a curious imperative to be there for the Yo La Tengo show, just to claim one tiny role in the next chapter of the Marfa story. So I could say I was *there*, man. These days, there's enough of us outlanders clamoring for a piece of Marfa that you can actually count up the empty square feet reserved for us. Second homes are claimed but empty space. Each of the new galleries' tastefully appointed rooms is a *great space*, to use a phrase you hear a lot in Marfa these days, but press your nose to the glass most weekdays and they're just empty space. Where Andy Warhol's *Jesus* hangs now, open for viewing Friday and Saturday 1-5pm, you used to be able to buy 10-packs of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups for a dollar, seven days a week.

As they watch their town fill up with weekend spaces, folks who live in Marfa have gently staked out their own territory. They'll enthusiastically, almost defensively point out that there are still days when the town is just dead. "There's still weekends, thank god, that maybe you'll talk to a tumbleweed," Knowles says. The date I kept hearing was a Tuesday in December. Marfans gracefully accept, even revel in the ever-growing number of busy weekends, but they carry those silent winter nights in the back of their mind. On a Tuesday in December, there are no myths and no magazines. On a Tuesday in December it's just a little town out in the bleached-white grass, with the dog's water bowl freezing on the back porch.

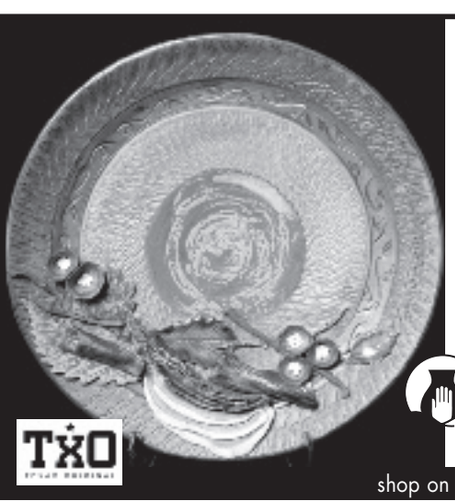
"The greatest thing about Marfa," Keith the electrician says, "is that it was Marfa before everybody moved into it." ■

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STALIN AND HIS HANGMEN: THE TYRANT AND THOSE WHO KILLED FOR HIM

by Donald Rayfield
Random House, 592 pp., $16.95 (paper)



MAO: THE UNKNOWN STORY

by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday
Knopf, 832 pp., $35



Many of us thought we would never see detailed and densely documented biographies of the great 20th-century communist leaders. The Cold War and the Iron Curtain stood in the way of Western academics, and it was always easy to assume that emergent biographies of Mao and Stalin would be incomplete at best and propaganda at worst. This is why *Stalin and His Hangmen* and *Mao* are such important books: fairly objective, certainly encyclopedic, well researched, and – though sometimes flawed by undocumented assertions – just opinionated enough to let the reader know the authors' writing is unabridged.

The two books are extensive in their examinations of the youth and rise of the century's most enduring and deadly rulers. The parallels in the young men's lives are numerous: They were both kicked out of the secondary schools they had been sent to by aspiring peasant parents. In their 20s, they were romantic cads, womanizing, hanging about revolutionary bookstores, writing awful poetry, and doing what was best for Mao and Stalin. Both began as middle-class young turks within the Communist movement, and the extent of their political thought varied only slightly from its most basic tenets. This lifestyle first took them outside their local towns and then to exotic places where they met and formed romantic political cliques. Membership in these cliques eventually brought them to the sources of revolutionary money and power in the dying days of the Russian and Chinese empires of the Tsars and the Manchus. In turn, their revolutions were not funded by Communists, but by opponents of the old regimes.

Stalin and His Hangmen is more of a biographical history, and contributes greatly to the history of post-World War II Russia. Previously inaccessible Russian archives are heavily referenced and footnoted. The author points out how Stalin kept his Communist grip in power by pitting underlings against one another, eliminating each in their turn. Then, the self-named "Man of Steel" culled informants from the regular population and snuffed out any anti-Stalin cabal – indeed, any anti-Stalin thought – that might form. His precision and deliberation in doing so is as alarming as it ever has been.

Meanwhile, *Mao: The Untold Story* is more of a historical biography and draws, understandably but sometimes lamentably, on hearsay and oral history given by Chinese émigrés about Mao's approach. Apparently, aware of how words could be used against politicians, Mao didn't allow many things he did, said, or even proclaimed as law to be written down by anyone, much less observers and archivists. Absent neutral documentation, many sections in the book show the authors' prejudice against the admittedly unlikable subject. Passages mocking Mao, calling him "the head Supremo" or making such unbased assertions as "Mao used agents-provocateurs" or "Mao used ten times his sleeping pill quota during the cultural revolution" call into question the ability of the author to find relevant detail. But, because any level of detail is offered on this previously inscrutable subject, the authors can be forgiven. For her part, Jung Chung is best known for her memoir of survival in Red China, and isn't a professional historian or biographer. That memoir is banned in China, where Mao's body still lies in Red Square, and many of her informants took part in the book at some risk.

Now that not all Communists are not seen in the West as evil incarnate, serious readers can use these two volumes to fill in the gaps in their knowledge about what went on behind the Iron Curtain. But they should question what they read, as these books represent what might one day be seen as a freshman effort. What one ends up reading about are the buckets of blood on the hands of the two dictators, and an equal amount of blood on the hands of their subordinates, who time and again were chosen for their servility rather than their nobility. Sadly, some of them are still around. – *Ed Baker*

MARKED

by Steve Ross
Seabury Books/Church Publishing, 184 pp., $20 (paper)



It's often been noted that the Bible is the world's most-read book. Not so well-chronicled but surely equally valid is the notion that it's the world's most rewritten book, as well. You've got your original Hebrew and Greek tomes, your King James, your Living Bible, New Living Bible, your Pocket Bible, your Bible for Kids ... even comic books have gotten into the act, most recently and notably with Chester Brown's serialized retelling of the *Gospel According to Matthew*. San Antonio native and UT alum Steve Ross, however, claims that *Marked* is the first graphic novel (i.e., really long comic book) based on the Gospels – in this case, as the title implies, the Gospel of Mark.

Messing with the Good Book is a risky task; whether fact or fiction, it is a truly formidable and enduring work of literature. Plus, there's that whole heresy thing to worry about. Ross states that his chief focus in this surreal, futuristic take on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ is to strip away preconceptions, such as that of the long-haired, bearded Jesus of the Renaissance painters. It's a noble and lofty goal, and, to his merit, Ross almost manages to pull it off. His illustrative ability is more than competent, as he renders in complex but easily followed panel grids a dark, bizarre world of sinners, suckers, and seekers in dire need of a Savior.

Where Ross misses his mark (sorry!) is in his overkill. Rather than settle for working in recognizable modern evils like sham televangelists, the world according to *Marked* is peppered with off-the-wall weirdness that seems to have no clear satirical purpose. Not satisfied with nice touches like having his Christ appear as a hairless Hare Krishna wannabe whose fate is decided on a game show called *Ultimate Decision*, Ross baffles the reader with moves like having the angel at Christ's tomb appear as ... a circus clown?!? If you're an open-minded Christian, you'll doubtlessly find *Marked* to be a fun carnival ride, even if you do already know how it ends. If you're a nonbeliever, though, regarding the allure of either Christianity or comic books, there's nothing here that's likely to inspire you to convert. – *Ken Lieck*



THE BELIEVER BOOK OF WRITERS TALKING TO WRITERS

edited by Vendela Vida
McSweeney's/Believer Books, 380 pp., $18 (paper)

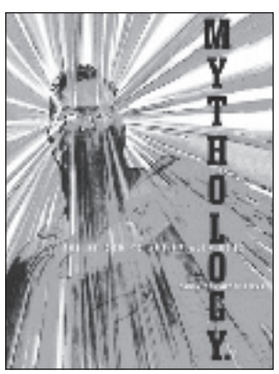
Dedicated readers of *The Believer* know that in order to get a copy of the latest issue, you need to hightail it over to BookPeople before they all vanish, which is almost always quickly. The excellent, ad-free monthly, published by McSweeney's, focuses primarily on books and authors, and *The Believer Book of Writers Talking to Writers* is an anthology of one of the publication's best sections for those who've been too late to snap up every issue: the author-author interview. In all cases, the pieces were proposed by authors who were personally interested in their subjects, which results both in conversations plumbing considerably deeper ground than most interviews and in numerous digressions. The fact that we have mostly fiction writers interviewing fiction writers here gives the conversations a familiarity and depth uncommon to the Q&A format. There is often a voyeuristic feel to the interviews, the sense that one is hiding behind a curtain hearing top-secret intellectual secrets one isn't supposed to.



Of course, while there is plenty of profundity to be found, and many of these interviews have interesting things to say about the writing process, let's be honest: This is a book nerd's *Gawker*. Tobias Wolff guessing Julie Orringer's weight? Zadie Smith falling out of a window while trying to sneak a cigarette? Haruki Murakami's beer preference? Ben Marcus dissing Jonathan Safran Foer *again*? It's all here, and whether literati gossip sparks your interest is a pretty good indicator of whether this book is for you. Even if so, there are a few caveats. People who've read the magazine since day one might be disappointed by the small amount (only one-third) of new content in the book. Those who've not read the magazine should be aware that these interviews are frequently more interesting when you've read the authors' works, and that spoilers – big ones – abound. – *Jess Sauer*

MYTHOLOGY: THE DC COMICS ART OF ALEX ROSS

by Alex Ross
Pantheon, 320 pp., $24.95 (paper)

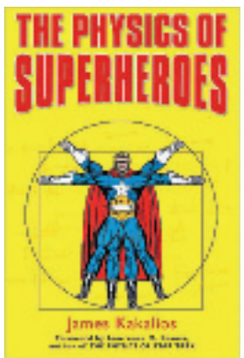


Superheroes tend to look, well, silly in real life. That fact gets thrown in our face every time Hollywood seeks to profit from the popularity of a four-color crimefighter and subjects us to the sad spectacle of some actor trying to look convincingly valiant in Spandex long johns. And yet some part of us still longs to see these caped crusaders in the flesh, to behold these modern gods walking – better yet, flying – among us; we want their magic in our world. The art of Alex Ross plays off this desire, which helps explain his phenomenal success over the past dozen years. His photorealist renditions of superheroes in the series *Kingdom Come* and *Marvels* and on scores of covers for comics and books show us these fantastic folk in three dimensions, with weight in their muscled arms and shadows lining their noble features, which are startling in their detail and distinctiveness. They belong to our race, but they also belong in those boldly colored costumes. Silly? No, in Ross' hands, they simply look right. But to say that Ross is skilled at making superheroes look real doesn't do his work justice, to borrow a word from that league he depicts so often. As *Mythology*, the handsome book celebrating his work with the DC stable of powered adventurers, illustrates, Ross has a keen sense of composition and drama, where to position the viewer to heighten the impact of an image – say, behind the Man of Steel and just above his fluttering cape as he flies past the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio or overhead and in front of the Dark Knight as he reaches through a thick clutch of his archenemies to wrap his gloved fingers around the throat of the Clown Prince of Crime. In this volume, terrifically designed by Chip Kidd, page after sumptuous page treats us to visions of gaudy do-gooders from gritty newsprint fully fleshed, which brings them closer to us and inspires fresh wonder. – *Robert Faires*

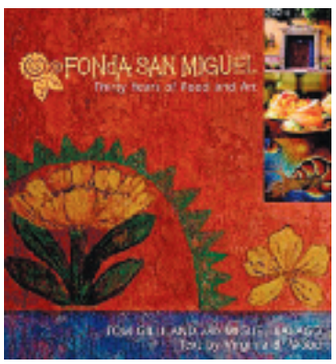
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READYMADE
EDITED BY SHOSHANMA BERGER & GRACE HAWTHORNE
Random House
From the handywomen who created *Readymade* magazine comes a guide to making fun and practical crations out of household materials. This is a perfect gift for young apartment dwellers, do-it-yourself husbands, and all of your crafty aunts.



THE PHYSICS OF SUPERHEROES
BY JAMES KAKALIOS
Penguin
If you thought you couldn't learn anything from all those comic books, you were wrong. Here's the fun science to go with the caped adventures that your favorite Spiderman junkie loves so much.



FONDA SAN MIGUEL
BY TOM GILLIAND
Shearer
Austin's own legendary Fonda San Miguel resteraunt celebrates 20 years of success with the flavors and ambience of authentic Mexico. This book includes gorgeous pictures and over 100 recipes for anyone exlporing the culinary arts.



THE MARCH
BY E.L. DOCTOROW
Random House
Doctorow makes a triumphant return with this thick, fascinating novel set in the midst of Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas. *The March*'s great characters, engrossing story, and accurate historical bent are bound to make it a favorite for the boundless reader in your life.

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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

MOTHER* LOVERS** If you haven't seen **Ballet Austin**'s annual production of the ***Nutcracker, run to the phone and make reservations for tonight (Thursday) or tomorrow night. Among the many surprises director **Stephen Mills** has up his sleeve is the character of **Mother Ginger**. Played by a lengthy list of localebrities and socialebrities, which have included **Michael Dell**, **Jim Spencer**, **Ann Richards**, and **Evan Smith**, among others, this year's Mother Gingers have included **Karen Kuykendall**, **Marcia Ball**, and **Mayor Will Wynn**. You could call Mother Ginger larger-than-life – in fact she's a giant women with a plethora of figure flaws, making all the wrong fashion choices. *My* fashion tips to her include avoiding the overly-fitted sausage-casing effect. Since she sports a somewhat girlish waistline, she should be wearing a top that is draped softly across her mammoth breasts, perhaps baring her shoulders a bit to draw the attention upwards. Shoulder pads can be helpful in raising the entire silhouette, for God's sake, get those cabbage roses off her shoulders. And she can get a desperately needed cosmetics makeover at the **MAC** counter at **Saks**. Then she'll have true holiday glamour.

SOCIAL DIARY The ugly truth dawned on me the other night: When you know everybody, you wind up seeing the same people all the time. But, that doesn't have to be a bad thing – especially when you *like* the people you see all the time (uh-oh, you can just hear the **June Allyson** fizziness in my words, can't you?). Well, it's Christmas, dammit, and I just love everybody. To pieces. Really. At last week's ***Austin Chronicle*** Christmas party, we were serenaded by **Trish Murphy**, whom I love, and of course, our legendary karaoke-a-thon led by the adorably garrulous and exuberant **Kate Messer,** who knows how to pick up the slack. I saw a pack of **Chron Kids** (offspring of staffers, *not* to be confused with **Stephen King**'s chilling ***Children of the Chron***) make their way into the large upstairs dining hall scattering among the room to investigate the spread of desserts. Fearful of some sort of preteen "wilding" incident, I watched carefully, in case I needed to provide the police with descriptions or details. Among the "wilders" was a somewhat older twenty-something **Johnny Depp**-ish young man, and I thought to myself, "Well, he's a little cutie." Later, Cutie approached me and said, "Hi, how are you?" "Good," I said, wondering who this guy was and why he was acting like he knew me. "You don't remember me, do you?" he said. "No," I sheepishly admitted. He said, "I'm Kate's son, **Michael**." My jaw hit the floor. I knew he must be lying – Michael was a sort of roly-poly kid with thick glasses that kept to himself. *This* boy was tall and slim with a scruff of facial hair, very well-mannered, polite, and well-spoken. And cute. Did I say cute? I was mortified. I went upstairs and said to my mother, "Omigod, it's so weird when you find your friends' children attractive." My mother



One of last year's Mother Gingers, Dale Dudley has never looked lovelier.

was horrified and shot me a withering look (as only mothers can do), but she wasn't as horrified as I, when I found out who he was and how *old* he was (or *wasn't*)… The final **Red Ribbon Dinner** of the year for **AIDS Services of Austin** took place at **Zoot** – mmmarvelous restaurant, fabulous food (lobster, duck, and prime rib), lovely company, and fine conversation. These dinners are wonderful events. Check out **www.asaustin.org** for info on the 2006 dinners… The **Anthony Nak** party was dizzyingly beautiful – when the decorations are spectacular jewelry confections, nothing else is needed. The new pieces are breathtaking, of course, and what's *really* special is the men's jewelry collection. A highlight of the night was a spirited debate about whether **Kinky** will be our next governor (I said yes), but one unexpected source, a good friend, disagreed and practically began to spew invective, saying, "**Kinky Friedman** is making a mockery of Texas politics." The mockery's already been made, I thought to myself, and had *nothing* to do with Kinky. I asked my friend whom he would vote for governor, but he refused to elaborate. "Surely not **Carole Keeton McClellan Rylander Strayhorn Burton Burton Warner Fortensky**?" I gasped… **Robert Nash**'s soiree overlooking the sparkling city lights was wonderful – *great* guest list, including **Liz Carpenter**, who gave a speech and then sang(!)…

DO IT Austin music stars **Jerry Jeff Walker**, **Marcia Ball**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, **Shawn Colvin**, **Dale Watson**, **Bruce Robison**, **Kelly Willis**, **Django Walker**, and others will participate in the third annual **Sing-A-Long Caroling With Jerry Jeff Walker & Friends**, where they will visit a number of local hospitals and spread Christmas cheer. The event culminates with a public sing-along from 8-9pm at the **Zilker Park Christmas Tree** on Christmas Eve… Benefiting the **Peaceable Kingdom Retreat for Children** (**www.peaceablekingdomretreat.org**), the **YO Ranch** in Kerrville presents its **Party Like It's Prohibition!!** New Year's festivities. Go to **www.yoranch.com** for more info.

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

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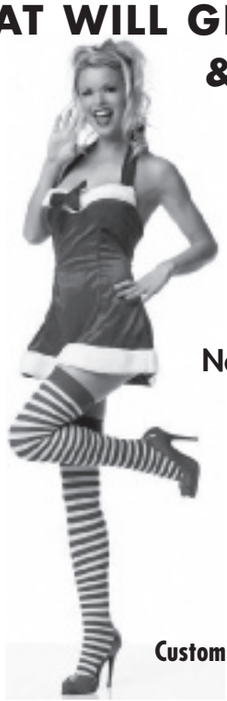
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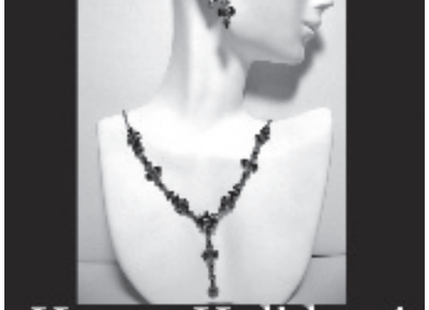
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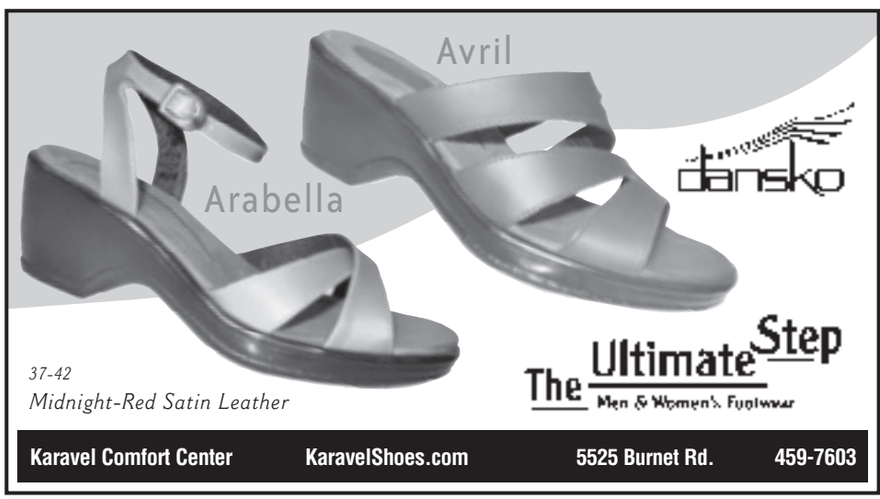
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food

44 LIQUID ASSETS **46** RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Candyland, TX

A Lamme family portrait prompts a sweet walk down memory lane

BY MM PACK



Pam Teich at Lammes Candies

JOHN ANDERSON

Driving down Airport Boulevard near 53rd, you might have noticed an interesting red-and-white sign on the west side of the road. Hanging from a giant candy cane, this reclining fat lamb with the oddly splayed legs and *Mona Lisa* smile is the longtime icon for Lammes Candies, an Austin institution since the 19th century and one of the oldest family-run businesses in Texas.

Now officially know as Lammes Candies Since 1885 Inc., the company began life on Congress Avenue in the days when Austin had one commercial street and about 12,000 residents. William Wirt Lamme founded the Red Front Candy Factory in 1878 but, in an infamous poker game, lost the business in 1885. A few months later, his son, David Lamme, paid the $800 gambling debt and reclaimed the store. He opened Lammes Candies in July of 1885, and it has been the Lamme family business ever since.

In the early days, Lammes was a soda fountain as well as candy store, known primarily for ice cream and "gem," a frozen milk dessert similar to sherbet. David Lamme first produced the Texas Chewie Pecan Praline in 1892, after tinkering with the recipe for seven years. Using pecans gathered from trees along the Colorado River, the pralines were made only by special order until the 1920s. According to Pam Teich, current company president and David Lamme's great-granddaughter, the praline recipe has never changed, and only Texas pecans are used today. (She's still got the letter of receipt for the $800, too.)



GIFT GUIDE

David Lamme was quite the business innovator: He established the first soda fountain in Texas; hung the first neon sign in Austin (yes, it was the same lamb logo, developed to help people pronounce the name properly); acquired the first ammonia refrigerator in the region; and introduced the first hermetically sealed glass doors on Congress Avenue.

After a mere 60 years of running the company, David Lamme sold the business to his three children, who operated it until 1970, when grandson David Lamme Teich and his mother acquired it. Today, David Teich's own three children – Pam Teich, Bryan Teich, and Lana Schmidt – operate the business, the fifth generation of the Lamme family to do so. As well as the Airport Boulevard site, the company has offices and a wholesale distribution center in Round Rock, nine retail locations scattered from Round Rock to San Marcos, and a thriving mail-order component (**www.lammes.com**) that developed from the original praline special-order list.

Beyond the Shop Door

Alas, there is no longer a Lammes candy store on Congress Avenue, but since 1957, the unprepossessing red-and-white structure on Airport has housed the company's complete manufacturing operation, hidden behind a lively storefront stuffed to overflowing with an astonishing array of candies and requisite gift accoutrements.

When crossing the border from retail into manufacturing, your ticket is a pouffy white hairnet; it's the symbol that you've entered a different world. While not exactly Willy Wonka's domain, the muffled machine noises, the bustling employees, and, above all, the seductive aromas of caramelized sugar, chocolate, and toasted nuts inform the senses that you've arrived at the mother lode of traditional Austin confectionery.

According to longtime plant manager John Davis, the facility produces approximately 2,000 lbs. of candy a day: milk and dark chocolates, taffies, toffees, brittles, divinity, pralines, caramels, and more. The 25 plant employees not only make the candies but wrap and box them. While there are some automated processes, the bulk of the work is done carefully by hand. "I don't think most people realize," Davis says, "how intricate making quality candy is."

Keeping well out of the way, I watch as confectioners Matt Thorson and Joe Esparza heft a giant copper kettle off a burner and pour out 50 simmering pounds of white taffy across an enormous stainless steel cooling table.

Thorson and Esparza, who've been with Lammes for eight and five years respectively, are making peppermint kisses, a taffy composed of egg whites, sugar, corn syrup, and highly concentrated peppermint oil (a single ounce flavors 50 lbs. of candy). When cool enough to touch, Esparza gathers it into a beachball-sized mass and loads it into the taffy-pulling machine, an intricate hinged contraption that defies my powers of description, but somehow suspends the 50-lb. ball midair while it stretches and kneads the candy into an impossibly long red and white tube about the circumference of your arm. Another worker feeds this sticky warm candy into a different machine that further rolls the tube into the circumference of your thumb, nips it into inch-long bites, and wraps each one in cellophane. I can't tell you how incredibly luscious this peppermint candy is when it pops out warm, as gooey and soft as a marshmallow but more satisfying.

I also observe the action in the "praline tunnel," where 20,000 Texas Chewie Pecan Pralines are made daily. Something wonderful happens at each stage along this sweet conveyance, from the toasted pecans going in, to mixing in the caramel, to pouring on the milk chocolate (for the chocolate-covered version). Praline-maker extraordinaire Fay Simms has been on the job since 1976. Farther down the line, the candies are cooled, sorted, and scrupulously eyeballed for quality. Then they're individually wrapped, boxed, and weighed by hand. Once packaged, the candy travels to the retail stores or the Round Rock warehouse to be shipped (only between November and May) to Lammes aficionados across the planet.

The Queen of Candyland

Lammes president Pam Teich is no one's idea of Willy Wonka: She's a cheerful, no-nonsense bundle of energy whose trim figure belies the fact that she "eats candy every day. Sometimes I'm so busy, it's all I get till dinnertime."

Teich, who joined the company in 1976 and oversees sales and mail-order, is quick to point out that she and her two siblings collaborate in running the family's business. Bryan is in charge of operations and finance, and Lana does retail and human resources. "Each of us three has totally different skills and personalities," Pam Teich says. "We play off each other and, together, we have it covered; we're good to go. My father [David Lamme Teich] was king of this castle, and he could do it all. None of us have all the strengths he did."

Did Pam plan on joining the business? "When I was growing up, I was going to be a veterinarian or a Carol Burnett dancer. The business was always just here; when we were little, we helped with gift-wrapping boxes, earning something like five cents for a shelf of boxes. When I was older, I'd sometimes help in the retail stores during the season.

"I went to school for two semesters at North Texas State and just hated it. My parents wanted me to experience college, but I only wanted to work and support myself. So I came home and said to my dad, 'Put me to work.' I've been here ever since.

"My brother Bryan had every intention of joining the company. He worked here during summers, and he got a business degree. My sister Lana started out as a social worker, but came onboard later. We all do as much as we possibly can with what we've got to work with, until we absolutely have to hire another person or buy a new piece of equipment."

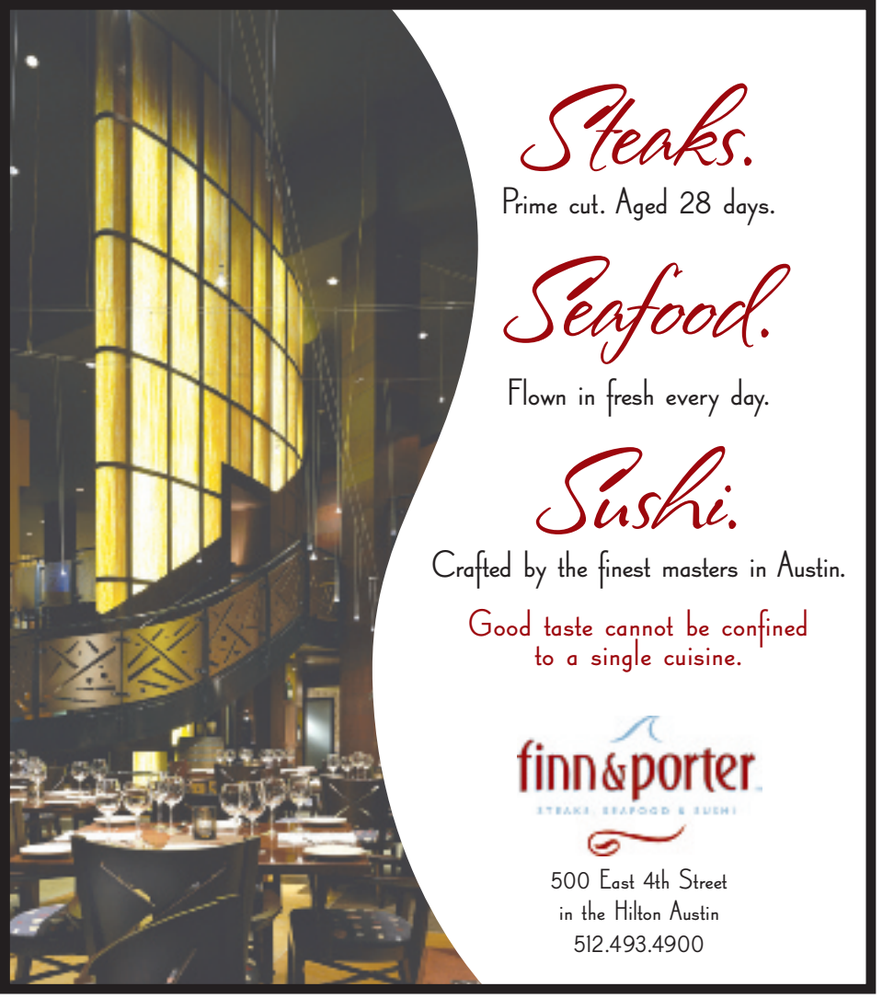
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FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

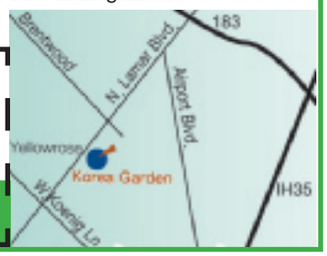
Every generation has its favorite Christmas movie. For me, it really can't be Christmas unless I've seen some or all of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and *White Christmas*, all in glorious black and white. For folks who came of age in the Eighties, one of the seminal Christmas films has to be Bob Clark's *A Christmas Story*, the story of bunny-pajama-wearing Ralphy, his family, and the BB gun he wants for Christmas. **Alamo Drafthouse** chef **John Bullington** has dreamed up a four-course Roast Duck Feast to accompany the film, complete with mashed potatoes that will arrive just as they hit the table for Ralphy on screen. The evening will also include the opportunity to demonstrate BB-shooting skills, with the winner taking home a life-sized "leg lamp" once they've shot out the giant eyeball target. If this is your Christmas movie, the party tonight (Thursday, Dec. 22) is for you. The film will be shown at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown (409 Colorado), and tickets are $40. If you hurry, you can make reservations online at **www.originalalamo.com**. We double dog dare you!... Last-minute shopping? We've got a few tasty suggestions. One of our favorite barbecue documentaries, ***Barbecue: A Texas Love Story***, is out on DVD just in time for gift-giving. This locally made film has been a big hit on the festival circuit and sold out a great barbecue evening to kick off the first annual Central Texas Barbecue Festival back in October. Go to **www.bbqfilm.com** to purchase online or drop by **Waterloo Video** (600 N. Lamar, 474-2500) or **Zinger Hardware** (Anderson Lane & Burnet Road, 533-9001) to pick them up here in town. It's a barbecue stocking stuffer that won't make a mess on your hands... So, you say someone on your list loves all things Italian? Then we suggest you stop by **Teo's** (1206 W. 38th, 451-9555) and check out all the goodies **Matt Lee** has imported from the old country: everything from Maglio figs dipped in chocolate to bags of Caffe Piansi espresso beans to very chic personal latte and espresso makers... There's still a little time to order great tamales from **Santa Rita Tex Mex** (1206 W. 38th, 419-RITA), where chef **Julio Dominguez** serves up his personal recipe for chicken tomatillo or pork adobo tamales by the dozen with delicious sauce on the side. By the way, after Christmas, be sure to drop into Santa Rita and toast the Longhorns' potential National Championship with a Rose Bowl cocktail. It sounds like a winner!

Santa Rita's Texas Rose
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THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
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The Teichs' instinct to operate creatively with the resources available seems to be a natural family trait. Pam explains that from the beginning, the family did whatever they could think of to keep the business going. They maintained a fruit stand on the sidewalk in front of the Congress Avenue store. Pam says longtime Austin residents remember David Lamme standing outside, polishing his apples.

In addition to the soda shop (with curb service), the ice creams, and the pralines, Teich says they were "big into divinity and hand-rolled stick candy." Lily "Mamaw" Lamme (Pam's great-grandmother) made specialty cakes for weddings and birthdays that she sold through the shop. She had a trick for slicing the cakes before frosting them with a signature frothy icing. "When sugar rationing hit during the War, they did anything they could make a buck on; they even made tamales," Pam recalls. "It was called staying alive."

During the Fifties and Sixties, the company began automating some of the processes. Pam says that there was some growth, but her grandmother and siblings were satisfied with the status quo. "They were content with a couple of stores, a limited number of products, and a small wholesale operation. When my father took over in 1972, he determined there was a lot of potential that wasn't being tapped into. He made up his mind to take it to the next level, and he did.

"Since my father's time, our business philosophy has been monitored, conservative growth. We've had opportunities for some really huge accounts, but we would have had to make operational changes that we weren't willing to make. So, we turned them down. We make certain things certain ways, and we're not going to compromise that."

Pam explains how Lammes started doing chocolate-covered strawberries sometime between 1976 and 1980. They introduced the concept to Austin, and she remembers, "We really had to encourage people to even taste them." Now, they make 50,000-60,000 lbs. a year, January through May. They also make chocolate-covered grapes, which Pam prefers to the strawberries. "We developed them in 1996, the year there was a cyclospora scare with strawberries," she explains. "We brainstormed about what we could do instead. When things get thrown at you, you just have to figure out how to make it all work. Grapes haven't caught on like the strawberries, but they are wonderful."

Working the Land

More than half of its 80 employees have worked at Lammes for longer than 10 years; Mildred Walston, 81, has been employed there for an amazing 65 years. Walston, who has managed the retail and mail-order operations, started as a clerk and carhop at the Congress Avenue soda shop.

Pam notes that the candy business is hard work, very seasonal, and has grueling hours, particularly during the holidays. So, what's the secret to such employee longevity? "It's a friendly work atmosphere, and we're all comfortable here. We know our employees. That's important. And, once people know what they're doing, we let them do their jobs. I don't ask anyone to do anything that I won't do myself, including taking out the trash.

"Our company Christmas party is always at 7:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve; it's the only time that everyone can make it at the same time. It's kind of a funny tradition we have. Like chefs and florists, candy makers don't get much in the way of holidays."

What's Next?

Pam Teich has a number of thoughts about the future of Lammes. She notes, ironically, that one of the challenges now is to get better-known locally; there are a lot of Austin residents who didn't grow up here, and didn't grow up eating Lammes candies.

"After all my years here," she says, "I've got great people in place. I give 98 percent credit to my team. I facilitate the ball rolling, but I'm not the ball. I don't know when I'll be ready to leave, but for the past four years, I've stopped working on weekends. I'm getting a life. It's great; I've gotten over feeling guilty when I'm not here."


JOHN ANDERSON
Taffy pulling

Teich notes that there are seven children, ages 5 to 20, in the next generation of the family. She says she's encouraging her kids to think about other things than coming to work for the company. "I think it's important to at least work elsewhere first. I realize what kind of expectations I'd have for them, and I want them to experience some of the rest of the world. It's complicated enough with the three of us currently in charge; everything that affects the business affects the family, too.

"Coming into the business as my father's daughter, I had to work twice as hard to prove myself. The expectations were higher for me, both from my father and from the employees. To prove yourself to employees, you have to give 150 percent. But if I had to do it again, I wouldn't do anything different. I loved working with my dad [David Lamme Teich died in 2004]. I still feel like he's looking over my shoulder." ■



JOHN ANDERSON

LIQUID ASSETS

THE NEXT NAPA?

Nestled in the foothills behind the Hearst family castle lays California's most exciting up-and-coming viticultural area: Paso Robles. It starts in the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountains and moves east across Highway 101 taking up a space of 24 square miles with almost 26,000 acres devoted to wine grapes. What makes the area a winemaker's dream is the dry climate, the dramatically changing landscape – from steep mountainsides to flat plains – and the incredible diurnal temperature shifts from the 100-degree afternoons to the 50-degree nights.

The good news for us is that Paso Robles is still relatively undiscovered, which means the wines aren't fetching the premium prices of Napa and Sonoma wines, and the quality level is almost uniformly high.

The godfather of Paso Robles is Gary Eberle, a pioneering soul that started making Paso wine in the 1970s and is responsible for smuggling the first Rhone plantings into the area. He's a big, generous man with a happy outlook on life, which is reflected in his wines. Where other wineries have important – frequently Latin – sayings on their front doors, Eberle's says, "The difference between wine and children is you can sit down and reason with a bottle of Cabernet." His wines are definitely reasonable, though I'd choose his lively and powerful **Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah** ($19) above all, especially with Gary's signature grilled pork ribs.

Tablas Creek Vineyard is the perfect demonstration of why the whole world is watching Paso Robles. It's a joint venture between famed importer Robert Haas and the world-renowned Jean-Pierre and François Perrin, owners of Château de Beaucastel in the Rhone Valley of France. Hass and the Perrins searched for the best vineyard land in the U.S. to produce Rhone-style wines. They chose Paso Robles. A taste of their top-of-the-line red, **Esprit de Beaucastel** ($30), proves the point. It's complex in the French manner yet immediately pleasurable with peppery, smoky flavors perfectly suited to braised short ribs or duck sausage. Their **Côtes de Tablas** ($18) is another red blend with everything turned down just a bare notch. It would go with pasta and mushrooms or a pizza rustica.

EOS Estate Winery makes a great Zinfandel, spicy, full-bodied and a bargain at $15. Their marketing maven, Chris Vix, did time as a lead-guitar-toting singer in Austin's early Nineties scene, something he still misses. He consoles himself by drinking the **EOS French Connection** ($18), a Bordeaux blend that shames a lot of Napa wines at three times the price.

Don Brady is another Texan in exile. After spending time as the winemaker at Ste. Genevieve and Pheasant Ridge, he moved to California working at a few huge operations. Then he got a call from Robert Hall, who was opening a state-of-the-art facility to make top-quality wines. The Robert Hall Winery produces a baker's dozen wines in all price ranges, but the best are all $18! Hall's favorite is the Merlot, a big jammy-style wine with lots of character. My favorites are the Syrah and the Rhone de Robles, both filled with ripe dark fruit flavors and spicy aromas.

Last on my list of not-to-miss Paso Robles wineries is Peachy Canyon Winery. Unlike the others I've mentioned, you can find this one everywhere. Peachy Canyon spent a few years under the iron grip of a French winemaker who "classed up" their rustic wines, much to their detriment. The family is now making the wine again, and the results are the best wines to come from their estate in its 17-year history. The wine you'll see most often is their **Incredible Red** ($12), a dazzling wine for the money. But save your shekels and go for their **Westside Zinfandel** ($18), a glorious wine reminiscent of what used to be great about Sonoma Zinfandels. Once hooked, make the final move to their best wine, the **Old School House Zinfandel** ($25), a rich, peppery mouthful of Paso Robles-style happiness. – *Wes Marshall*

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RESTAURANT ROULETTE

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DOWNTOWN

PUB GRUB: **ALE HOUSE AT OLDE PECAN ST. CAFE** For more than 30 years, this Sixth Street fixture has weathered ownership changes and an evolving "entertainment district" with good food, good drink, and good times. *310 E. Sixth, 474-6722 $$*

FINE DINING: **ANCHO'S RESTAURANT** This pleasant dining room in the atrium of the Omni Hotel offers a Southwestern menu and a dynamite Sunday brunch with waffle and omelet stations. *701 Brazos, 320-5858 $$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **BITTER END BISTRO & BREWERY** Chef Reggie Ferguson's eclectic, upscale pub grub is arguably the best in the city and the perfect complement to brewmeister Brian Peters' ales. *311 Colorado, 478-2337 $$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **CAFE JULIENNE** This dining room at the newly refurbished Stephen F. has all the ambience of a nice hotel coffee shop. Breakfast only. *701 Congress, 457-8800 $$$$*

AMERICAN CAFE, PUB GRUB: **MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Seriously, really, really good fish and chips, and we love the bargain-priced shepherd's pie. Folks rave about the Bluegrass Gospel Brunch at noon on Sundays. *715 W. Sixth, 478-7747 $$*

ITALIAN: **SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE** This kid-tested, mother-approved Italian restaurant is a surefire hit with the munchkins. The generous portions are anything but child's play. *117 W. Fourth, 476-4059 $$*

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 $$$$*

TEX-MEX: **TACO SHACK FROST PLAZA** Good, substantial, and cheap Tex-Mex at several locations. *402 Brazos, 473-0101 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **THE TAVERN** Austin's most tradition-packed venue for sports viewing, and a popular watering (and eating) hole for many decades. The building has been upgraded, as have the menu and food. *922 W. 12th, 320-8377 $$*

THAI: **THAI TARA** This fashionable West Sixth Street outpost continues to be the destination for downtown Thai food and atmosphere. *601 W. Sixth, 236-0856 $$*

BURGER JOINT: **WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** Hand-cut fries, chocolate-cinnamon shakes, and live music on the weekend draw a comfortable, mixed crowd. *600 N. Lamar, 472-5400 $$*

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 Ste. E, 482-8868 $$$$*

EAST

TEX-MEX: **ABARROTES MEXICANOS** This family has been making breakfast tacos and lunch plates for this neighborhood for more than nine years. Coming soon is their new Mexican import shop in the back. *901 Tillery, 926-1709 $*

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 $$*

BARBECUE: **JOHN MUELLER'S B-B-Q** Succulent brisket, sausage, and ribs that would make Louie Mueller proud. You can also get pork loin and chops, beef prime rib and short ribs, and chicken. *1917 Manor Rd., 236-0283 $*

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 MADRE'S** Excellent Mexican food in a homey, diner atmosphere. Quaint and comfortable; known for their breakfast tacos. *2201 Manor, 480-8441 $*

CAJUN/CREOLE: **NUBIAN QUEEN LOLA'S CAJUN KITCHEN** A proprietess as friendly as her food is good is serving up fantastic fried fish, crawfish étoufée, red beans and rice, and more. *1815 Rosewood, 542-9269 $*

STEAKHOUSE: **OLD SAN FRANCISCO STEAK HOUSE** Family fun is the main event at this kitschy steak house that evokes the Gay Nineties. Good steaks and a recently updated menu are a delightful surprise. *8709 N. I-35, 835-9200 $$$*

CAJUN/CREOLE: **PAPPADEAUX** Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled with a variety of side dishes. *6319 N. I-35, 452-9363 $$$*

BARBECUE: **SAM'S BARBECUE** Late-night hours make this spot popular with jazz musicians, but the great barbecue keeps folks of every occupation coming back any time of the day or night. *2000 E. 12th, 478-0378 $*

JAPANESE: **SUSHI JAPON** The sushi is fresh and professionally prepared, and the draft Ichiban is perfect with it. Don't leave without tasting the black cod and the yellowtail. *6801 N. I-35, 323-6663 $$$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **TONY'S SOUTHERN COMFORT RESTAURANT** Rib-sticking soul-style: Find home-cooked Southern meats and chicken (with waffles), fantastic sides, and speedy lunch specials. *1201 E. Sixth, 320-8801 $$*

LAKE

CARIBBEAN: **AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR** Wash down island-inspired favorites like jerk skewers, *tostones*, Cuban sandwiches, and conch fritters with a cold Red Stripe, mon. *16410 Stewart, 266-0331 $$*

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: **EMERALD RESTAURANT** This cozy, candlelit cottage with Irish lace curtains and imported Irish bone china has been known for its "continental cuisine" for more than 20 years. *13614 Hwy. 71 W., 263-2147 $$$$*

THAI: **THAI SPICE CAFE** This menu offers fresh, fast, reliable versions of traditional Thai fare. *1310 RR 620 S., 263-2221 $$*

recently reviewed

FINE DINING: **STARLITE** Devotees may miss the cozy blue house, but the charm is still there. Elegant and creative New American cuisine made with fresh, seasonal ingredients still complements affordable wine options. *407 Colorado, 374-9012 $$$*

ITALIAN: **FINO RESTAURANT** From the owners of the popular Asti Trattoria in Hyde Park come influences from Nice to Morocco, Italy to Athens to Valencia, all ably executed by chef Tristan White and his team. *2905 San Gabriel #200, 474-2905 $$$*

AFRICAN: **T'S CAFE** Go with a small army and safari your way through the menu of tasty and exotic stews, starches, and appetizers. *15608 Springhill #102, 251-4432, 913-1095 $$*

NORTH

ROMANIAN: **DRAKULA** Discover a few of Romania's favorites like *mititei*, skewered, sliced beef and pork. We also like the stuffed cabbage, stuffed peppers, and Friday fish dishes. Don't miss the homemade pickled vegetable platter. *8120 Research, 374-9291 $$*

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 $$*

ITALIAN: **ITALIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT** From the bowl of croutons on every table to the delicate herbal house dressing, they specialize in hearty southern Italian, "Brooklyn-style" fare. *14611 FM 1325, 388-1062 $$*

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **JASON'S DELI** The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids choices. *10225 Research #1010, 345-9586 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **JIM'S RESTAURANT** Breakfast fare includes most of the standards, along with decent tacos. For lunch or dinner, try the chili burger with fries or the chicken-fried steak plate. *9091 Research, 837-1119 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KERBEY LANE NORTH** Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. *12602 Research, 258-7757 $$*

KOREAN: **KOREANA GRILL & SUSHI BAR** Very reasonable lunch specials highlight this pretty restaurant. The Koreana lunch features a California roll and *inari sushi* (fried tofu stuffed with tuna, corn, carrots, and beef). *12196 MoPac N., 835-8888 $$$$*

ITALIAN: **ROMANO'S MACARONI GRILL** Always consistent and usually crowded, this eclectic Italian restaurant chain offers plenty of pastas and a lively atmosphere. This restaurant is also particularly kid-friendly. *9828 Great Hills Trail, 795-0460 $$*

BARBECUE: **RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BAR-B-Q** Good-quality smoked meats are available by the pound, along with all the light bread, pickles, onions, and peppers you need. *11570 Research, 418-9898 $*

continued on p.48

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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.46

PIZZA: **SACCONE'S PIZZA & SUBS** Saccone's motto is "Pizza With a Jersey Attitude." Pasta, calzones, stromboli, and subs round out the menu. ***13812 Research, 257-1200 $$***

VIETNAMESE: **SAGIANG** They specialize in over-the-top, tasty grilled beef, chicken, pork, and shrimp skewers, but they also have great spring rolls and excellent bun and pho. ***12636 Research, 250-8400 $$***

NORTH CENTRAL

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN: **AFIA CAFE** Not for the gastronomically timid, this restaurant makes few concessions to American tastes. *Ogbono*, *moi-moi*, and *egusi* are among the authentic West African culinary jewels. ***6929 Airport, 450-1101 $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **AVENUE B GROCERY** These days Austin's oldest surviving grocery offers a bountiful menu of hot and cold sandwiches, an array of fresh salads, and hearty soups in the fall and winter. ***4403 Avenue B, 453-3921 $***

BURGER JOINT: **BURGER TEX** Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. ***5420 Airport Blvd., 453-8772 $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NEWORLDELI** This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than $5. ***4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170 $***

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 $$***

BARBECUE: **POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE** The newest location of this Fifth Street favorite has the same great grub. Don't miss the desserts. ***1000 E. 41st, 302-1200 $***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY** Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, it is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. ***411 E. 43rd, 453-3399 $***

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 $***

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1** Fried-catfish dinners at Threadgill's have been a popular menu item as long as the restaurants have been open in Austin. ***6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440 $$***

ITALIAN: **TONY'S ITALIAN VINEYARD** Count on plenty of garlic, tomato, and cream here. From pasta to eggplant parmesan, just about anything smothered in marinara sauce at Tony's is good. ***2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600 $$***

SOUTH

TEX-MEX: **BABY ACAPULCO'S** Try this place for great enchiladas and multiple flavored margaritas that should come with warning stickers: "Muy bueno!" ***1628 Barton Springs Rd., 474-8774 $$***

STEAKHOUSE: **CAPITAL CITY STEAKHOUSE** An underappreciated gem serving well-prepared, reasonably priced steaks and generous, tasty sides in a casual atmosphere. ***300 S. Congress, 480-8797 $$***

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 $$***

TEX-MEX: **EL MERCADO** A very happy hour and home of 99-cent appetizers, nestled in a neon rainforest. ***1302 S. First, 447-7445 $$***

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Their menu of breakfast specialties is available all day. Try the Omelette del Sol or the Omelette de la Luna. Live music on weekend evenings. ***1224 S. Congress, 444-7770 $$***

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Upstairs find baked goods, sandwiches and friendly service. In the shop below find great vintage and not-so-vintage finds. It's worth a stop. ***1601 Barton Springs Rd., 322-9750 $***

AMERICAN CAFE: **GALAXY CAFE** French-press coffee and jazz on Saturday nights up the cool factor, while bargain prices and delicious food keep you coming back. ***9911 Brodie Ln. #750, 233-6000 $$***

BARBECUE: **GREEN MESQUITE BBQ & MORE** One of Austin's favorite barbecue dives – it may look seedy, but the food is exceptional. Bluegrass on the patio, too. ***1400 Barton Springs Rd., 479-0485 $$***

TEX-MEX: **GÜERO'S TACO BAR** They still have a great variety of fresh tacos, and the people-watching is the best in town. Catch definitive Texas music on Sundays. ***1412 S. Congress, 447-7688 $$***

BURGER JOINT: **SANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & ROOT BEER** The cool relief of a chocolate-vanilla swirl cone, not to mention the sinful smell of decades of sublimely greasy burgers transport us back in time. ***603 Barton Springs Rd., 478-6322 $***

JAPANESE: **SEOUL RESTAURANT** Beautifully presented, moderately priced sushi crafted from the freshest cuts of fish in spare, clean environs. The creamy yellowtail deserves the most attention. ***6400-C S. First, 326-5807 $$$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **SHADY GROVE** A beautiful outdoor seating area and hot dogs all year round. We're partial to the green chile cheeseburgers with mountains of onion rings. ***1624 Barton Springs Rd., 474-9991 $$***

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: **CAIN & ABEL'S** This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but could soon be the neighborhood hot spot for casual dinners and late-night dining. ***2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201 $***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NAU'S PHARMACY** A traditional, old-fashioned, mom-and-pop drug store, with soda fountain/diner, office supplies, and a decent selection of cards and gifts. Not many of these places left. ***2406 San Gabriel, 476-1544 $***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **PLAYERS** These fry-boys will outfit you with the tastiest of grub on the go. Burgers do go with that shake. ***300 W. MLK, 478-9299 $$***

AMERICAN CAFE: **RED RIVER CAFE** Tucked away on Medical Arts (not on Red River, as the name suggests), this popular spot offers tasty omelets, burgers, and weekend brunch specials. ***2912 Medical Arts, 472-0385 $$***

BURGER JOINT: **ROCKETS** Burgers, chicken sandwiches, and "planet-sized spuds." They claim it's their burgers you see in fast-food commercials. ***118 W Fifth, 482-0621 $***

BARBECUE: **RUBY'S BBQ** The only barbecue joint in town serving hormone-free beef, Ruby's is a favorite among blues artists and rib lovers alike. ***512 W. 29th, 477-1651 $***

CHINESE: **SUN HING CHINESE RESTAURANT** Kung Pao, General Tso, and other Chinese standbys served up fresh and inexpensively. ***2801 Guadalupe, 478-6504 $$***

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 $***

MIDDLE EASTERN: **TOM'S TABOOLEY** The kitchen offers tabbouleh, dolmas, baklava, gourmet coffee, and lots of surprising tidbits for lunch and dinner. Pick up some brined grape leaves to cook with at home. ***2928 Guadalupe, 479-7337 $***

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: **VEGGIE HEAVEN** The menu is heavy on Asian dishes but also offers meat- and dairy-free pastas, sandwiches, and desserts. ***1914-A Guadalupe, 457-1013 $***

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 $$***

BARBECUE: **COUNTY LINE ON THE LAKE** They will bring you a platter of sweetly sauced beef ribs, tender brisket, and peppery sausage along with potato salad, coleslaw, and beans until you tell them to please stop. ***5204 FM 2222, 346-3664 $$***

CAJUN/CREOLE: **FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE** A challenging menu with often rewarding results. Start with the fried pickles and a cocktail or two from the superior spirits list. Live music and catering. ***10903 Pecan Park, 506-8700 $$***

TEX-MEX: **HULA HUT** Sure, it's got water and the hills too, but the best view at this Polynesian-styled paradise is on everyone else. Try the Tubular Tacos. ***3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 476-4852 $$$***

JAPANESE: **ICHIBAN** Find Korean fare as well as all of the traditional Japanese items and, of course, sushi, with a focus on taste as well as artistry of presentation. ***7310 Burnet Rd., 452-2883 $$***

INDIAN: **INDIAN PALACE** The buffet for AusTex vegetarians who need a Punjab fix. With a menu also blessed with seafood, meats, and poultry for the carnivore crowd, food is right on. ***3616 Far West, 241-1732 $$***

FINE DINING: **JEFFREY'S** After an assortment of tony foodstuffs, wind down with the wildly popular Chocolate Intemperance, a devilish brownie dessert covered in chocolate ganache and decorated with gold-dusted berries. ***1204 West Lynn, 477-5584 $$$$***

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **THE KITCHEN DOOR** Don't miss the meatloaf sandwich and creamy chicken salad at this take-out spot. Baked goods here like cinnamon rolls, cream cheese brownies, and Texas spice cake epitomize old-fashioned cooking. ***3742 Far West, 794-1100 $***

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 $$***

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, TAKEOUT: **LITTLE DELI** Nestled in one end of the Crestview Shopping Center. Orders are placed at the counter, and the service is relaxed and friendly. ***7101-A Woodrow, 467-7402 $***

AMERICAN CAFE: **MAGNOLIA CAFE** With monster omelets and entrées from Tex-Mex to pastas, the menu is wide enough to satisfy all hankerings within a given group of people. ***2304 Lake Austin Blvd., 478-8645 $***

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IN PRINT

THE SAMURAI FILM: EXPANDED AND REVISED EDITION

by Alain Silver

Overlook, 320 pp., $50

Months back, during a conversation Harry Knowles and I were having, he recommended the three-film series *Sword of Justice*, about Hanzo, a renegade constable. I had never heard of it. Without going into specifics, Knowles managed to convey how exceptional these films are and how they had to be seen. As soon as he noted that the director was a producer on the *Sword of Vengeance* series, I couldn't resist.

Seeing *Lighting Swords of Death* more than 25 years ago had really hooked me on samurai films. Certainly I had seen many of the Kurosawa masterpieces: *Seven Samurai*, *Throne of Blood*, *Yojimbo*, and *Sanjuro*. I had picked up on a few other samurai films, catching them when I could. The *Sword of Vengeance* series, also known as *Lone Wolf and Cub* or the *Baby Cart* series, is about a former Royal Executioner who was set up, disgraced, and driven from the court. Now, he wanders the countryside pushing his young son ahead of him in a wooden baby-cart equipped with more (and more effective) weaponry than all too many of our military vehicles in Iraq. During the course of most of the 80-minute films, he wipes out enough other samurai, men, women, and ghosts to make for a film so bloodthirsty that *The Wild Bunch* would look tame in comparison.



I was knocked out. I still derive the most intensely perverse pleasure from watching any of these films. Finding information about these films or about any samurai films was a frustrating enterprise at the time, for the simple fact that it was near-impossible. This was long before videos or DVDs, so, even seeing them involved determination.

Soon, though, I picked up the first edition of Alain Silver's *The Samurai Film* (1977) somewhere. Although not comprehensive, it proved to be a bible as I watched samurai films whenever they were shown. It compensated for its necessarily limited coverage with Silver's distinctive intelligence and terrific taste.

Keep in mind that any one volume on the samurai must include a significant sense of history, profiles of both actual notable figures and famous fictional (folktale) characters, as well as an explanation of customs and codes of honor before it can even begin to discuss what ends up on film. Silver, it should be said, did a superb job.

A new edition is out, and I'm just beginning to enjoy it. There's so much information, so many films to now track down. The 1977 edition doesn't seem to cover the *Sword of Justice* series, but this new edition does. The source of Hanzo's "Razor" nickname and core of his power, for instance, is discreetly dealt with (if somewhat more specifically than in Harry's highly enthused endorsement). Silver notes "the pointedly off-beat elements – not the least of which are Hanzo's priapism and investigative self-torture."

This refers to the Razor's evidently extensive and rock-hard dick. His morning ritual consists of brutally pounding it and jamming it into salt (I think). I have to note here that if one chooses to view this and invites a woman over who can even spell the word "feminism," one might be forced to make another date with another woman soon after pressing play. In all likelihood, she will leave quickly, if she doesn't burn you and your house down. This is a legitimate and even moderate response, as the renegade constable often tortures women in vicious and explicit ways. Then, he introduces them to the magic of his manhood, causing in one case even the Mother Superior of a corrupt nunnery – after being crushed bloody with weights – to discover herself succumbing, telling the Razor anything he wants to know as long as he doesn't stop! All this done with almost no style or humor.

Twenty years ago, I would have been lost after seeing a film like this, desperate for information and finding none. There are many samurai books out now, but Silver's is still one of the very best. If you had just read his short bit on the Hanzo films, you probably wouldn't even bother to see them. Which is a plus.

Meanwhile, I did want to take this opportunity to announce the first annual Harry Knowles Hard Dick Tractor Pull at South by Southwest 06. Knowles won't actually be pulling; he'll just be judging. Grand Marshall of the Hard Dick Tractor Pull, if you will. – *Louis Black*

EVENT HORIZON: THE ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN

Twenty-four hours of Peter Billingsley *almost* shooting his eye out may have been a yuletide blast when you were still old enough to appreciate (and, admit it, *covet*) that Red Ryder BB Gun, but let's be honest: Isn't it time for the real thing? Unfortunately, short of Italian goremeister Lucio Fulci returning from the beyond for one last hurrah, Ted Turner's unlikely to fill your holiday viewing bill with anything other than ***A Christmas Story*** and assorted wonderful lives. And *King Kong*? The line's longer than your greedy little nephew's letter to Santa, and you know how much postage *that* took to get off the ground.

Lucky for you then that the fine folks at the Alamo Drafthouse have stepped in to take the heat and offer you, among other post-holiday diversions, some ***Head***. Whoa there, grandma. We're talking about director Bob Rafelson's 1968 psychedelic meta-flick starring the Monkees, which is being presented in all its Marshall McLuhan-inspired madness by Rhino Releasing and *High Times* magazine just in time to help that lingering tryptophan in your bloodstream melt away into good old-fashioned trippiness.

Playing as part of the Alamo's annual **High for the Holidays** event, programmer Kier-La Janisse says, "It's in the private collection of Rhino and is the print they used to make all their DVDs from. Plus, no one ever plays it, and, if you haven't seen it, you really should check it out.

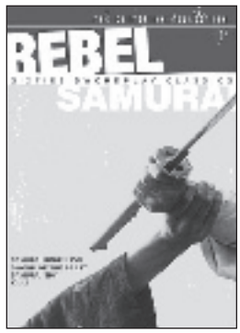
"People should also check out our annual **Air Guitar 2006 Championship** competition," she adds. "If last year's competition proved anything, it's that there's no bigger spectacle all year than the air guitar competition. Last year's winner, a guy named Glitter, ended up going to the nationals in Los Angeles, and although he didn't win, [Drafthouse owner Tim League] is convinced that someone from Austin can take it this year. Of everyone he saw there, he thinks we were the best. We also have a lot more preliminary rounds, so we can weed out a lot more people along the way. If people have not checked out air guitar before, they have to see it at least once."

What else? **Super Happy Fun Monkey Bash**, the Alamo's decidedly bizarre compilation of real-life Japanese television madness will be screening just as your New Year's Eve hangover is evaporating. Tim and Karrie League have spent time in Tokyo since last year's sold-out Monkey Bashing – with a TiVo running constantly in their hotel, no less – so expect enough new ***Oh, Mikey!*** episodes to sate even the most refined of Dadaist palettes.

There's more, of course, but that, insatiable Austin film friends, is how the Alamo rocks your Yule log. And trust us, no one's going to even think of stopping you from shooting your eye out, should you be so inclined. They'll just film it and put it up on the screen for all to enjoy. – *Marc Savlov*

For admission information and more, see **www.originalalamo.com**.

DVD WATCH



REBEL SAMURAI: SIXTIES SWORDPLAY CLASSICS

Criterion, $99.95

In 1965, there was a seismic cultural shift in Japanese cinema. With the release of Masaki Kobayashi's *Samurai Rebellion*, the world of Japanese filmmaking took a bold leap into the modern. Ever since the worldwide release of Akira Kurosawa's multiple-award-winning *Rashomon* in 1950, the *chanbara* (swordplay) film had been Japan's No. 1 artistic export, it's money in the bank, culturally speaking. Then came the mid-Sixties, with its questioning of accepted social conventions and its veneration of iconoclasm and individuality. And with that worldwide social tumult came a movement in Japanese film away from the principles of the old society and toward a new social and artistic form of expression. The films found in this box set are beautiful examples of this new direction in Japanese filmmaking, one that used the aesthetic and technical language of the swordplay films to expose and attack the culture that had lionized them. Hideo Gosha's *Sword of the Beast* (1965) took a cue from *Rebellion* and expanded on its ideas, following the path of disillusioned Samurai warrior Gennosuke Yuki (played subtly here by Mikijiro Hira) as he is hunted by his clan as punishment for his supposed disloyalty. In *Beast*, the value of the individual is placed at a premium; in it we see the first flowerings of the Samurai antihero, a man willing to shake off his loyalty to the social code but not to his own sense of honor. The aesthetic developments at the heart of Masahiro Shinoda's *Samurai Spy* put it in a place of prominence in this collection. The beautifully constructed shots, radical camera movements, and avant-garde silences at the film's center heighten its sense of loss and its hero's sadness in the face of unnecessary and apparently unending war. More than any of his contemporaries in Japan, Shinoda seemed to recognize the value in rebelling against the accepted technical confines of the genre and not just the thematic ones. The set's last movie, chronologically, is Kihachi Okamoto's brilliant, ironic *Kill!*, made in 1968. One can see the leaps chanbara films had made over the three years since *Rebellion* in Tatsuya Nakadai's hangdog hero, Genta, a disillusioned samurai dry in humor and heavy in the eyelids. Nakadai is brilliant, single-handedly redefining the notion of the Samurai hero with his one-liners and dispassionate self-absorption. He's a hero for the modern age: noble, but only to a point, and all but indifferent to the choices the world is offering. Face to face with a would-be assassin, he mumbles drily, "Kill or be killed. Either would just leave an unpleasant aftertaste." There's little authority can do to a man who yawns in the face of lingering doom. Surprising for a Criterion release, this set comes with minimal extras. Holiday shoppers will have to be content with interviews with the directors and extended essays from film critics. There are no documentaries, storyboards, or short films attached. Disappointing, but after eight hours of Samurai movies, a little break from the DVD player may not be the worst thing. – *Josh Rosenblatt*

ALSO OUT NOW

March of the Penguins **(Warner Home Video, $28.98):** Man, are they cute. And so like us, if you think about it.

UPCOMING

The Bad Sleep Well **(Criterion, $29.95):** Kurosawa's brilliance wasn't limited to swordplay pictures; he could also do film noir with the best of them. Toshiro Mifune stars as the executive out for revenge.

Holiday You-Wish List

Once around the Xbox 360







GIFT GUIDE

Custom, symmetrical, three-core CPU, each running at 3.2 gigahertz. Five hundred-megahertz ATI graphics processor. Yes, the holidays have definitely arrived. You can demote that iPod to the seventh day of Chanukah, because Xbox 360 is here. Oh, sorry, you don't have one yet?

That's OK ... me neither. Despite my now (seemingly lackluster) video game contacts, I could not finagle an Xbox. Thankfully, some misguided soul saw it fit to bestow upon me his Xbox for a long weekend. And since buying an Xbox before the holiday deadlines borders on impossibility, the following will only pertain to those of you with a 360 already in hand. The Ghost of Christmas Past, if you will. Whether it makes you feel better or worse about your purchase is entirely up to you.

So, did you get the Xbox premium ($399.99) or the Xbox Core System ($299.99)? The premium system's most distinguishing inclusion is the 20-gigabyte hard drive ($99.99 if bought separately) – necessary if you want to play any of the original Xbox games – and the headset for trash talking during online gaming. Without any sort of memory storage, the Core System is almost useless, so be ready to drop $40 for a 64-megabyte memory card. Core or premium, you'll need another controller ($39.99, $49.99 wireless), unless you're planning to use your Xbox to avoid all human contact, which is certainly a viable option.

Aside from the expected leaps in graphics, speed, and format compatibility (just plug your iPod into one of the USB ports), the real design advancements come with the Xbox's controller. Two of the buttons on top of the controller that usually act as the trigger button now actually pull smoothly like a trigger (in case the violence wasn't real enough for you). This gradated pull also adds smoothness to acceleration and breaking in racing games. The headset ($19.99, free with premium system) plugs directly into the controller, allowing wireless owners to conceivably take a bathroom nonbreak (not recommended). The new Guide button allows you to interrupt game-play and tweak your profile and also conveniently turn the system on and off. Now that's design my laziness appreciates.

Of course, the elephant under the tree this year is PlayStation 3 – the Ghost of Christmas Future, if you will. That seed of doubt, slated to bloom in spring 2006, could be a parent's nightmare as their spawn demands a second state-of-the-art gaming system and their Xbox fever breaks. Only the very serious gamer (read one floating-point operation per second short of a teraflop) needs both systems. Rule of thumb: Happy with your PS2? Stick with it, and wait for the third installment. Enjoyed your original Xbox? Keep those games and splurge for the hard drive and the nostalgia gaming that comes with it. Always been a little torn? Perhaps a little quality time alone to work out these issues is in order.

Whether you're ready to commit, the Xbox is universally touted as the hot item for the holidays. For that reason, I pity the parent who gives their temporarily and unusually nice child, in lieu of this chrome-plated dream machine, a photo of an Xbox 360 from a catalog and a promise – a Ghost of a Christmas Present, if you will.

– James Renovitch

THREE FOR THE 360

PROJECT GOTHAM RACING 3

Microsoft Game Studios/Bizarre Creations $49.99

A balance between realistic racing (e.g., *Gran Turismo*) and cartoonlike party games (e.g., *Mario Kart*) makes *PGR3* as playable as it is challenging. Race to beat the clock or other drivers (two players on one system or up to eight online), or rack up "kudos" points by hitting those curves just right. The rich environments of New York City, Las Vegas, Tokyo, and London showcase the Xbox 360's graphics-processing power. There are countless cars to drive and the soundtrack is expansive, but *PGR3* could use one or two more courses. Consider the bar set very high for next-generation racing games. *– J.R.*

KAMEO: ELEMENTS OF POWER

Microsoft Game Studios/Rare $49.99

Aimed more toward the younger gamer, shape-shifting Kameo roams a mythical world, battling trolls as she tries to save her family. Half the challenge of this by-the-book adventure game is in choosing what form best suits any given situation. I recommend transforming into Chilla if you have the need to impale trolls on your back and then use their bodies to bludgeon other trolls. Certainly not as fast paced as *PDZ*, Kameo uses a different visual palette to create astoundingly dense visuals. Exploration and problem-solving combined with nimble fingers will make quick work of this game. *– J.R.*

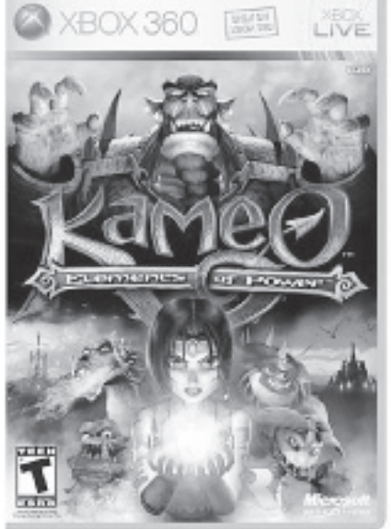
PERFECT DARK ZERO

Microsoft Game Studios/Rare $49.99

Another showcase for 360's graphics is *PDZ*, the prequel to the popular *Perfect Dark*. Sexy and sassy Agent Joanna Dark battles corporate conspiracies with her wits and guns (and grenades and rocket launchers, etc.). The plotline and soundtrack leave something to be desired, but the game will stave off the hunger for *Halo 3* for a while. Cooperative mode lets two people get in on the mission, but the real fun resides in the one-to-four player combat modes encouraging friends and family to team up against robots and online players or ruthlessly kill one another. *– J.R.*

continued on p.54







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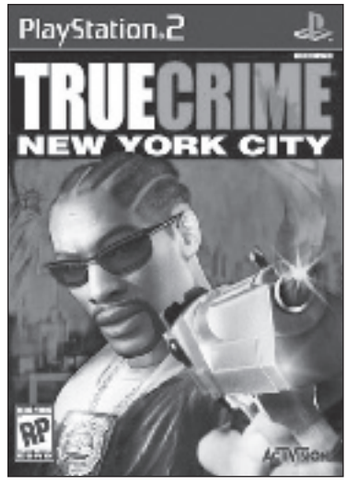
Activision, $49.99



In the world of *The Movies*, considering how much work you do as the wannabe mogul that you are, you actually control very little. You fill your lot with important buildings, lay concrete slabs to connect them, and plant palm trees to make your studio look fancy. You try to build a studio impressive enough to attract employees, from scriptwriters to janitors. But as soon as you hire everybody, they start running amok all about your lot, building things and lining up at your snack stand and using your strategically placed restroom all by themselves. So, while you can put a script into motion or give the go-ahead for shooting, the actual moviemaking in the beginning goes on independently, as you spend most of your time monitoring your actors' vitals – their eating and drinking, their boredom and stress levels – or trying to buddy them up at the bar you just built to improve their onscreen chemistry. Or you're scanning your massive lot for that tiny janitor you hired so you can drag him (they go, "Hey!" or "Wha?" when you pick them up) to where your starlet just littered. From your shrubs to your stars, every little thing affects your studio's success, to the point that when you can finally afford your postproduction facility and find yourself layering dialogue and music at the editing bay (eventually, you can even upload your self-scripted and -edited movies and compare them to others' online), it's like you've been pulled into a completely different game. I actually found myself impatient to return to micromanaging, eager to leave the moviemaking to my underpaid experts. I guess nobody ever said that being a mogul is fun. But oddly absorbing, definitely. – *Nora Ankrum*

TRUE CRIME: NEW YORK CITY

Activision, $49.99



Taking most of its design cues from *Grand Theft Auto*, *True Crime: New York City* gives us the urban grit without the thrill of exceeded expectations. As Marcus Reed, you'll find yourself tear-assing through NYC searching for clues to your partner's murder. Providing an isolated surprise, the plotline plays a bit clichéd, cusses like an urban sailor, and wastes the talents of a distinctly voiced Christopher Walken. Luckily, the game offers numerous and often comedic side missions (including a lengthy street-racing mission) that break up the sometimes monotonous game-play sufficiently. However, if anything, this game's claim to fame is its rendering of Manhattan. Playing is like taking a virtual tour of the island (whoever remembered the hexagonal bricks on 116th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam, my hat's off), but seeing that same prostitute on every block might be a little disheartening. The soundtrack is predictably scattershot – ranging from Danzig to Jay-Z – but blessedly customizable to your tastes. Most annoyingly, the satisfactory graphics manage to freeze (I played the PS2 version), interrupting play with split-second pauses. This shouldn't be a deal breaker, but when the difference between good cop and bad cop is the difference between shooting a man in the chest or winging him at 50 yards, you want the aiming controls to be smooth. – *J.R.*

GUN

Activision, $49.99



The cinematic game genre, with its film-like segments between player-controlled action sequences, gains ground on movies with *Gun*. Despite average graphics and game-play, the game succeeds in filling a now-obvious gap in the genre department: Westerns. And though thin by film standards, *Gun*'s plot remains engrossing – if not a bit fleeting – while simultaneously setting up a kickass gunfight every five minutes. The voice casting is genre-appropriate with our hero, Colton White, played by *Punisher* Thomas Jane, and other characters voiced by *Hellboy* Ron Perlman (the veteran of 10-odd video games) and Kris Kristofferson of, uh, *Big Top Pee-wee* fame. Like most cinematic games, you can play three ways: follow the linear plot, earn money by taking on various side missions (bounty and game hunting, playing poker, ranching, etc.), or roam aimlessly and kill indiscriminately. The auto-aim function seems at first to be a built-in cheat, but as the villains approach in waves, you'll learn to embrace the WMD-caliber body counts. Providing the seemingly requisite iota of conscience is the "town's patience" meter that increases when you kill innocent bystanders and, when full, turns the townspeople against you. Make sure the kids are in bed before playing this maim-fest, lest they get the idea that blurry vision due to numerous bullet wounds can be remedied by a swig of whisky. Who knew? – *J.R.*

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Control: Part I

BY BELINDA ACOSTA



It's the end of another year. I can tell because all those "a look back" specials are looming on the horizon. Some occurred early, like **Barbara Walters**' annual *Most Fascinating People* special. Now, I know Walters engenders respect from women of a certain generation for paving the way for contemporary TV newswomen, but please. **Camilla Parker Bowles** as the most fascinating person of 2005? I can think of several people enormously more fascinating than Prince Charles' main squeeze.

First and foremost would be **Cindy Sheehan**, the mother who lost her son in Iraq and dared to ask: What did he die for? Her simple desire for answers ignited an anti-war movement that was slightly, if not begrudgingly, covered in the mainstream press.

Speaking of the press, 2005 brought the death knell for the broadcast networks' evening news. **Dan Rather** was strongly encouraged to resign for reporting supposedly faulty information on President Bush's National Guard service record, temporarily replaced with an even older codger. **Peter Jennings** died of lung cancer. **Brian Williams** replaced **Tom Brokaw**. With the slight exception of Jennings' death, this all happened with little fanfare when compared to the hoopla that occurred when Rather took the reins of the *CBS Evening News* from **Walter Cronkite** (not to mention the hoo-ha that ensued when **Connie Chung** was pushed out of her co-anchor spot because, well ... Rather apparently didn't want to work with a girl; what goes around comes around).

In late night, **Ted Koppel** also left quietly, turning over his highly regarded (but ratings impaired) *Nightline* to three younger talking heads. Only those old enough to recognize the passing of an era made a peep, and a meager one at that. What used to be the only source of national and international news was doomed when cable news sources, running 24/7, allowed viewers to catch the news when they wanted. That doesn't mean the quality is better. It's all about audience access.

Which brings me to the other fascinating event of 2005: a giant push toward audience control of what they see, when they want to see it. Now, don't think for a minute that the broadcast and cable networks are not fighting tooth and nail to retain control. But unlike the music industry, TV has decided to embrace new technologies that cater to consumer desire rather than squash them, while at the same time scheming for ways to make money. Just look at these recent partnerships, as reported by Jennifer Armstrong in the *Entertainment Weekly* Dec. 16 issue: ABC is working with "Apple's iTunes and the new video iPod to provide downloads of shows like *Desperate Housewives* and *Lost* for $1.99 an episode." CBS and Comcast Cable have partnered "to offer select shows on demand (*CSI, NCIS, Survivor*) for 99 cents starting in January." NBC and DirecTV are getting together to sell *Law & Order* episodes and other series. In January, AOL launches a "broadband network to stream old shows like *Alice*, *Falcon Crest*, and *Welcome Back Kotter*." In 2006, TiVo releases software allowing PC users to download "recorded shows onto an iPod or Sony PlayStation Portable."

There are other burgeoning programs out there, including MyTV ToGo, which caters to PC users, and Elgato, which works with Mac users to download content onto their computer screens and eventually, video iPod devices. All very exciting, but if anyone were to ask me, I'd say this: Vanguard trumps vintage.

In the industry trades, TV execs try hard to convince that if a series doesn't have a living room audience first, it won't be successful. I say wake up. When *Jack & Bobby* was offered via AOL prior to its WB premiere, the response was massive. That the show did not do well on the air is not a reflection of its quality (it was critically praised by people like me), but more a reflection of the limited berth space on regular TV. I suspect there is a large and growing audience who would gladly get their TV programming from something other than a TV, if they knew how, where, and for a reasonable cost. Would I pay $1.99 for unseen episodes of *Arrested Development*? Yes! However, I don't want to watch it on my teeny-tiny phone screen. And who wants leftovers? *Welcome Back Kotter*? On DVD yes; on TV to go, no.

Next week: Cable a la carte; scrambling for the brown viewer; decency, children, and legislating content; and anything else I find myself hyperventilating about.

As always, stay tuned.

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

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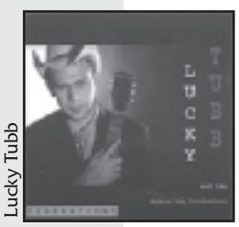
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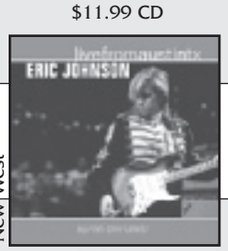
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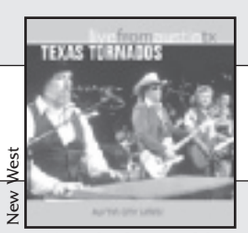
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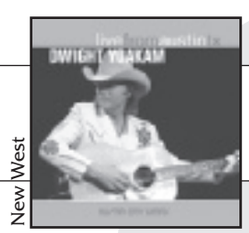
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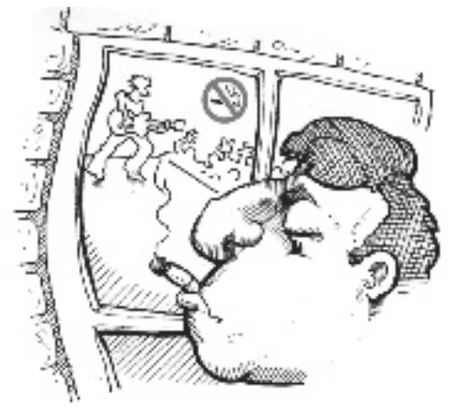
58 CHILI COLD BLOOD **60** MUSIC DVDS **64** DRECK THE HALLS

TCB music news

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

IT'S CHRISTMAS, DAMMIT

In the seasonal spirit of list-making, name-checking, and wiretapping, TCB plays **Santa** this week by presenting 12 Things the Austin Music Scene Needs for Christmas. Oops, they're calling it "holiday" now. My bad.



GET OVER THE SMOKING BAN

Because the ban, voted in by soccer moms and Dell dads who haven't set foot near a bar since college, isn't going anywhere. Thank the kind folks at **Onward Austin** for that. So far, most clubs have weathered the change much better than anyone thought, many by taking the most logical action imaginable: ignoring it. (Oh, you didn't read that here.) Besides, smoking is such a 20th-century habit anyway.

FEWER CLUBS

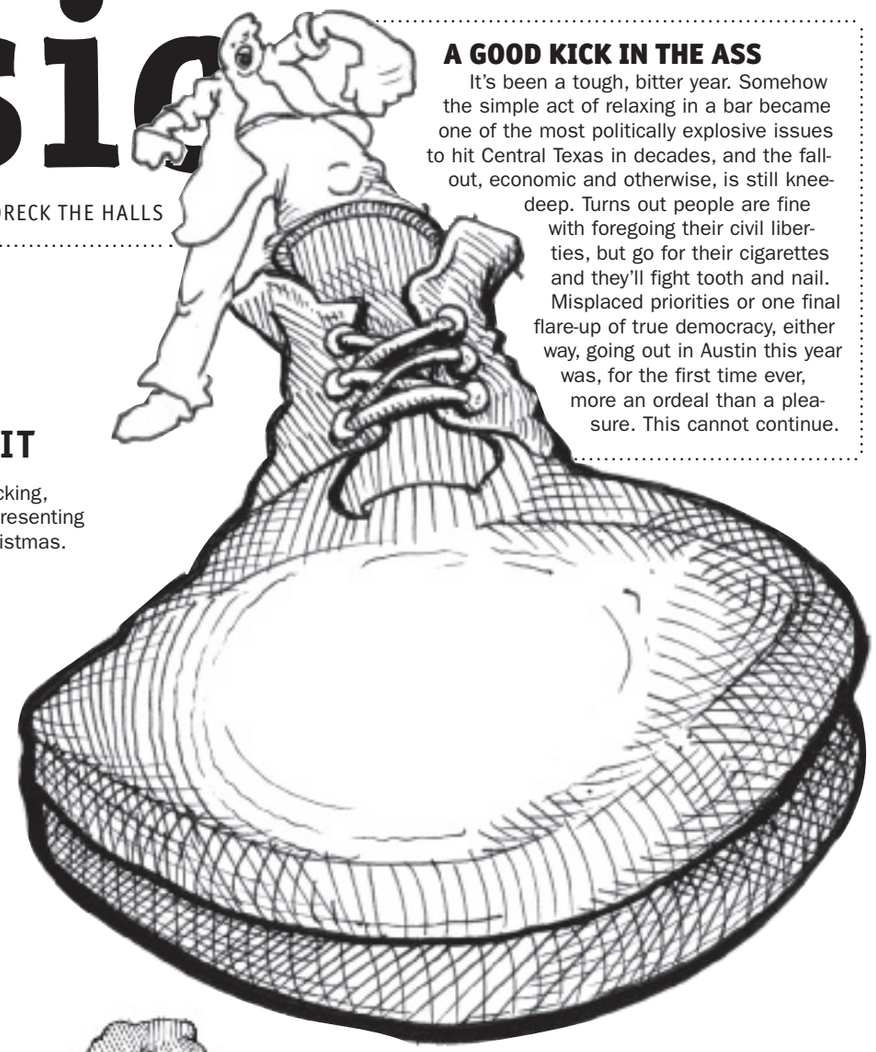
Sorry to sound harsh, but the sentiment has been whispered for years now on **Red River**. Austin enjoys a plethora of both bands and venues, meaning it's all too easy for mediocre talents to get steady work – and keep it for years, as long as they satisfy the 30 people who routinely turn up at their shows. Reducing the number of available places to play would have the side benefit of making the new **ME** network's club-listings crawl, otherwise a welcome holdover from **AMN**, a little less interminable.

A GOOD NONDOWNTOWN VENUE

The **Backyard** doesn't count because it's too far. And we'll always have the **Broken Spoke**. Otherwise, Austin's music spots have become evermore concentrated downtown, and the rampant hipsterism is getting tiresome. The suburbs are no help since it's impossible to see music there without also ordering a meal. The local quirkiness that once thrived due to places like **Soap Creek**, **Henry's**, and even the **Austin Outhouse** is hanging by a thread.

A GOOD KICK IN THE ASS

It's been a tough, bitter year. Somehow the simple act of relaxing in a bar became one of the most politically explosive issues to hit Central Texas in decades, and the fallout, economic and otherwise, is still knee-deep. Turns out people are fine with foregoing their civil liberties, but go for their cigarettes and they'll fight tooth and nail. Misplaced priorities or one final flare-up of true democracy, either way, going out in Austin this year was, for the first time ever, more an ordeal than a pleasure. This cannot continue.





NO MORE HUGE WORLD-FAMOUS MUSIC FESTIVALS

In case you hadn't heard, **South by Southwest** turns 20 in 2006. **The Austin City Limits Music Festival** will be five. That's more than enough large-scale destination music events for a midsized American city. With SXSW 06 already lining up **Neil Young**, the **Pretenders**, **Tom Verlaine**, **Kris Kristofferson**, **Robert Pollard**, **Belle & Sebastian**, **Echo & the Bunnymen**, **Magic Numbers**, **Beth Orton**, **Cat Power**, **Hellacopters**, **Towers of London**, **Secret Machines**, and oh so much more, we've been saying it for years: Hosting events of this caliber only makes people think they want to live here. And none of them know how to drive.

A TOP-FLIGHT RECORD LABEL

Nothing against **New West**, but Austin needs a nationally prominent label concentrating on local acts if our teeming talent pool is ever going to get the recognition it deserves. (Something else we've been saying for years.) It doesn't have to be a major – **Arista Austin** proved that – but keeping bands here at home instead of having them bolt for **Secretly Canadian**, **Jagjaguwar**, and **Merge** (to name but a few) as soon as they get really good could only help.

MORE BANDS LIKE BANANA BLENDER SURPRISE

The beloved Houston/Austin party band, who never met a **moon pie** they didn't like, is back in action this week for the first time since 2003 and not a moment too soon. Notwithstanding superlative subsequent pursuits such as the **El Orbits** and **Conrads**, their genial combination of high-spirited rock and Lone Star soul, absent since 1999, is much-missed. Fortunately, it's now all wrapped up in a tidy 41-song box set for posterity, available at their **Continental Club** show Thursday.

COOL IT WITH THE AFTERPARTIES

Take it from one who knows: after celebrating that CD-release/back-from-tour/first-gig-since-last-week until 5am, it's almost impossible to get any work done. Once in a while is great, every ... single ... show ... is pushing it. Thinking about all the songs that go unwritten, parts that go unpracticed, and ideas that lay fallow because you can't get out of bed is more depressing than looking at the empty **CSC** building where **Liberty Lunch** used to be.

MORE WRITING LIKE WHOOPSY! AND MISPRINT

Austin is a much funnier place now that these upstart scene diaries are around, providing readers with candid and often hilarious commentary – even more impressive considering their writers work for peanuts and the occasional free cocktail. *Whoopsy!* and *Misprint* recognize the abundance of sacred cows in the Austin music scene, and go after them with lip-smacking relish. TCB salutes them for it.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY NATHAN JENSEN

GET OFF MYSPACE ONCE IN A WHILE

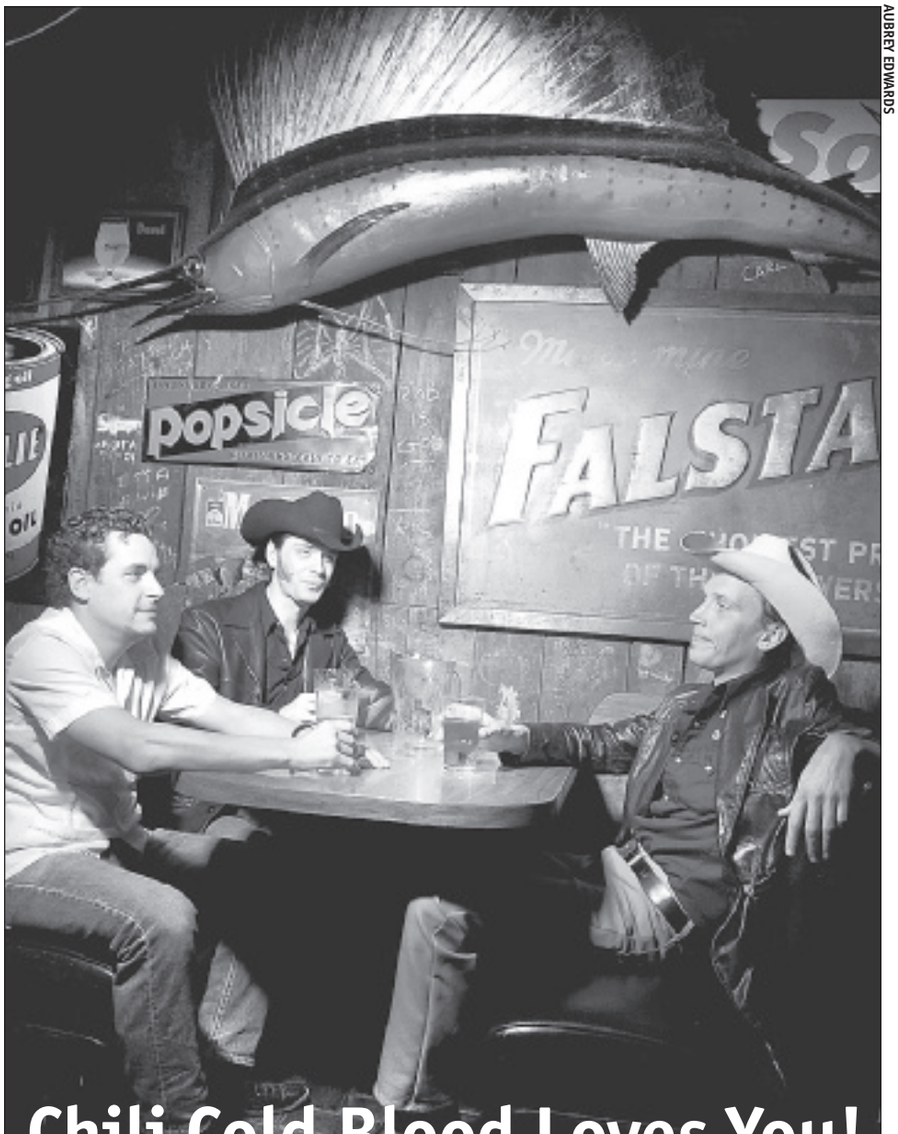
Yes, it's the best way for people to find out about your band ever. It's also the main reason they won't leave their computers to go see you play live.

STAND UP TO THE MAN

Austin's music community has a very simple relationship with City Hall: It gets trotted out like a show pony whenever convenient (usually when people are in from out of town), then shoved right back into the stable. For as much money and publicity as the city rakes in off the music scene, it does almost nothing to improve musicians' quality of life. Until musicians figure out how to speak up for themselves politically, that's exactly what's going to keep happening.

SAVE THE EASTSIDE ... FROM ITSELF

Even as it grows more yuppie-colonized by the hour, the Eastside remains a stronghold of funky, odd, classic Austin. Mostly. (Sayonara, **Church of the Friendly Ghost**.) For those willing to pay attention, it's a reminder that rabid development sometimes stimulates more than just property values. Every new **Longbranch Inn**, **Victory Grill**, **Blue Genie**, or **Peacock** is testimony that Austin is still a great place to live, work, listen, and play. It's just getting harder to remember that lately.



AUBREY EDWARDS

Chili Cold Blood Loves You!

Black & blues cowboy metal with a high-spit sheen

BY DARCIE STEVENS

When R.L. Burnside passed away Sept. 1, another chapter of music history died with him. Widely credited with introducing Delta blues to generation ADD, Burnside's influence was both more subtle but more pervasive; he poured his *Ass Pocket of Whiskey* on everyone from old-school bluesmen to indie and punk rockers.

Six weeks after Burnside's death, Austin's Red River element crowded onstage at Beerland to play tribute to the 79-year-old Mississippi bluesman. This wasn't Stevie Ray's crowd. It was the new blues school: Possessed by Paul James, Scott H. Biram, Walter Daniels, and the raw rock & roll blues of local trio Chili Cold Blood. What began as an evening of short sets interspersed with Burnside tunes became an all-out jam, because that's the way these things should be done.

"Everybody who's in this scene is doing it because they love this music," explains Chili Cold Blood pedal steel player Ethan Shaw. "Everybody's realistic about how big of an audience we're ever going to reach. But there are a lot of people who really dig it, and that's awesome."

Chili Cold Blood is anything but typical. Shaw's pedal steel is played like a slide, adding some psychosis to the act's gutbucket blues. Doug Strahan trades vocal duties with Shaw, his vocals stretched and splayed through a treated mic. Fingerpicking like the blues greats – thumb included – Strahan's lanky figure nods to the beat, his cowboy hat tipping with each measure. The newest member of the band, Matt Puryear, is the glue that brought CCB out of obscurity. His disco beats erase any need for bass.

The sound is razor-blade, roller-coaster, boot-stompin' ecstasy. The freedom of rock & roll, discipline of country, and passion of blues; the best elements of all three genres liquefy into one powerhouse set. When Strahan starts picking a free-flow solo and Shaw's steel flies back and forth like an air hockey puck, a brand-new history lesson is being written at 100 mph.

"It's American music," smiles Strahan.

Pushing the Envelope

Chili Cold Blood has been playing the Poodle Dog Lounge on Burnet every other Saturday for nearly three years. This is their playground. Four-hour sets of trials and standards have replaced practices and rehearsals. At the longtime dive, Strahan and Shaw's guitar amps scream inches away from their fans' noses. What better way to hone your skills?

All three started playing music seriously as sidemen in country bands: Shaw on upright bass, Strahan on guitar, and Puryear on drums. Those years taught them how to read their fellow musicians' thoughts during the first few song notes as opposed to relying on verbal direction. Other cues come courtesy of Johnny Cash, John Lee Hooker, and even Black Sabbath.

"In a lot of ways, the Rolling Stones were influenced by the same influences we are," asserts Strahan. "So it makes a lot of sense: a lot of country, a lot of blues, and angry young men who wanted to get laid."

"We have such a solid foundation that we're not afraid to push the envelope in different directions than we have before," adds Shaw.

In fact, Chili Cold Blood has become impossible to pigeonhole. When Puryear joined the band last year, he took elements from Burnside's grandson and drummer, Cedric, and added them to the CCB mélange.

"The disco beat incorporated with the blues groove is awesome," Puryear exclaims. "It feels good. It's something that comes from the drummer not having a bass player to follow in the band. There's more area to fill in there."

"That's where a lot of modern blues bands shoot themselves in the foot," responds Shaw. "They feel like they can only play three grooves: a shuffle, a slow blues, or a funky blues. That's why we don't ever want anyone to think of us as a blues band. We're definitely not. All these different genres of music came out of the same place. Back in the day, Jimmie Rodgers and Louie Armstrong were playing on recordings together, so what do you call that music?"

Just after Katrina hit New Orleans, CCB took off on their annual band-bonding road trip. Since the Big Easy was their first choice before the hurricane hit, plans were diverted to Memphis, where Burnside saw his final days, where Elvis made his home, and where STAX Records became a national phenomenon. In the halls of the STAX Museum are photos of Booker T & the MGs backing almost every band that came through the doors. That's what Chili Cold Blood is aiming for: not one band, but a community of musicians helping one another reach the pinnacle of their talents.

In that pursuit, they've founded Bloodchili Records along with Rob Story, the man behind all the controversial album covers and poster art for the black & blues threepiece. Due out soon is another record by harpsman Walter Daniels (**austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-11-18/music_feature.html**), as well as their honky-tonk buddies, with Puryear on the kit, Lucas Hudgins & the 1st Cousins, and CCB country alter ego the Moonhangers, who play at Eastside joint Red's Scoot Inn every Wednesday. Bloodchili is the vehicle that binds these acts together. It's not a business endeavor, per se. It's more of a handshake boost, an Austin STAX for the 21st century.

In the meantime, between playing with the Moonhangers, putting out their friends' albums, and writing new material, Chili Cold Blood will keep on rockin', sans bass and with attitude.

"It started way back," Strahan explains. "I imagine a lot of early groups just couldn't afford to put a full band together, so they would just go on with what they had. When [John Lee Hooker] had a bass, it just sounded goofy."

"When you have a bass, you have to stick to the form of a song," adds Shaw. "Part of what Chili Cold Blood is all about is being able to change it around whenever we want."

"And it just sounds so raw without one," grins Strahan. "You can still have a lot of rhythm, enough for everybody, without a bass."

All that rhythm, all that jive, comes from Puryear's tight-ass drumming.

"I can find that frequency with just a kick drum and a floor tom when it's called for," he says. "When these guys get busy, if I just can maintain, as long as I'm not getting flashy and busy, it's going to come across pretty grooving and cool. The basis of the band is the groove. We're all about getting into the groove of things."

The Fuck You Up Man

With the release of *Rock 'n' Roll Motherfucker Redux*, the re-recorded version of CCB's out-of-print 2004 debut, this time with Puryear on drums, comes a slew of opportunity. They recut the album after Italy's Shake Your Ass Records – also home to local acts Walter Daniels & Wade Driver, This Damn Town, and Black Joe Lewis & the Cool Breeze – begged them to put out a 7-inch overseas. After a two-hour recording session, the boys sent the material, and to their surprise, Shake Your Ass loved every second of it. They picked up a couple of tracks ("Why Baby Why" b/w "Slow Down") for the 7-inch and also released the LP in Europe.

As they gain popularity overseas, they stay at home here. With all three guys pushing 30 and holding down full-time jobs and significant others, touring hasn't been a high priority.

"We've all been in bands before, and we've all done a lot of touring," Shaw expresses. "A lot of bands go on tour because it's fun to go out. For us, we're all at a point where we don't necessarily want to be getting crabs from sleeping on the floor of some house."

Can you blame them? Fingers are crossed for a European tour sometime in the future, but the horizon is clear of vans and suitcases.

Earlier this year, CCB released *Jesus Comin' ... I'm the Fuck You Up Man*, their second disc and first on Bloodchili. With every release, that "sharp like a razor, steady like a train" sound (thank Reese Witherspoon's June Carter for that one) owns them more. Like June's Johnny Cash, CCB's songs tell stories of what might be, not necessarily what is. Everyone needs a fuck-you-up man, whether or not he's readily available.

The boys will continue playing their bimonthly Poodle Dog gigs, as well as ever-more-frequent Beerland, Continental Club, and Hole in the Wall shows, and they'll keep putting out LPs (a new one is scheduled for recording in February) that they want to listen to regardless of what's popular at the moment. What it really comes down to, however, is Austin's gutbucket community. Without fans, Chili Cold Blood is nothing, and Ethan Shaw and his boys know it.

"When we say, 'Chili Cold Blood loves you,' we mean it!" ■

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LIVE 8
(EMI)



Live 8, it seems, is about irony. For example, there's Sir Bob Geldof onstage in London lambasting the cynicism of G8 leaders' attitude toward Africa, then trotting out Birhan Woldu, the African girl who was snatched from the jaws of death thanks to the largesse of Live Aid 20 years ago. Madonna smothers the girl in kisses, then drags her around onstage while singing "Like a Prayer." If this is a political event to end poverty in Africa, why is singer Vusi Mahlasela the only representative from the African arm of the concert to make it onto this 4-DVD set? This is particularly ironic given the powerfully resonant image from disc two of Paris Hilton, the bloated face of Western privilege, singing smugly along to Velvet Revolver in London. This celebrity-endorsed event is chockablock with so many self-righteous moments as to be both excruciating and embarrassing, especially a montage featuring white-clad celebrities snapping their fingers every three seconds to indicate the death of another impoverished African child. Fucking drama queens. Musically speaking, the first two discs are moderately interesting, with strong performances by Coldplay, U2, and R.E.M., but things really pick up on the third disc, with scorching performances by Stevie Wonder, the Who, and Pink Floyd in the reunion no one thought would ever happen. The dreamy rendition of "Speak to Me," nearly note-perfect "Money," earnest "Wish You Were Here," and awesome "Comfortably Numb" make this a worthwhile musical document. The tagline for *Live 8* is "2 million spectators, 3 billion viewers." Despite G8 canceling debt for 18 countries and pledging staggering amounts of aid (both financial and pharmaceutical), all this irony won't exactly inspire you to stop watching and start acting.

★★★ *– Melanie Haupt*

AFRICA CALLING: LIVE 8 AT EDEN
(Real World/Warner)



PETER GABRIEL
Still Growing Up: Live and Unwrapped (Real World/Warner)

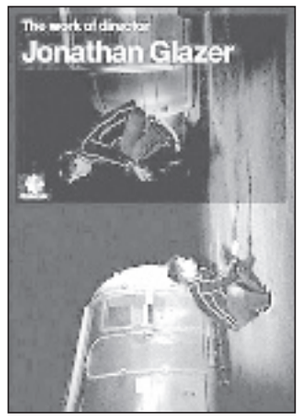


Last summer, Sir Bob Geldof took his lumps for leaving black and African artists off Live 8's main stages. Thanks to *Africa Calling*, a 2-DVD set on Peter Gabriel's Real World imprint, it's clear the 2005 Noble Prize nominee missed an opportunity. As Live 8 offshoot, Gabriel's assemblage of Africa's hottest acts for a concert in Cornwall, UK, showcases talent with real-world experience facing Third World poverty. Despite shaky camera direction and lackluster sets from the legendary Thomas Mapfumo and Youssou N'Dour there are revelations aplenty: the mournful Portuguese Fado of Mozambique-born Mariza; the danceable, West African soul of Angelique Kidjo; and the gospel hip-hop of former Sudanese child soldier Emmanuel Jal. *Still Growing Up*, filmed during Gabriel's 2003 European tour, finds the aging showman parrying a different sort of fatigue. The live portion features stunning concert footage, while the second disc forms a superior tour document. Sadly, at 53, Gabriel has lost vocal range but makes up for it on hits "Solsbury Hill," "Digging in the Dirt," and "Games Without Frontiers." Best of all, wearing a jacket fashioned with lights, Gabriel breathes new life into "Sledgehammer." 2002's *Up* is limited to studio extras on the second disc, but it's much more fun to watch the singer shake the tree on "No Self Control," a 1988 concert extra on disc one.

(Africa Calling) ★★★½
(Peter Gabriel) ★★★★ *– Dan Oko*

THE WORK OF DIRECTOR MARK ROMANEK
(Palm)
THE WORK OF DIRECTOR JONATHAN GLAZER
(Palm)
THE WORK OF DIRECTOR ANTON CORBIJN
(Palm)
THE WORK OF DIRECTOR STÉPHANE SEDANOUI
(Palm)







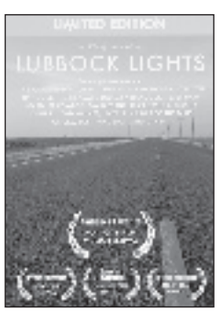


Music videos, note musicians and filmmakers here many times, are thought of quite differently by those who make them and those who fund them. Executives want a simple, preferably cheap way to reach consumers; directors and performers want a lasting piece of art. Fortunately, finding an audience isn't a problem in the rarefied circles kept by these four genre auteurs: U2, Madonna, Jay-Z, R.E.M., Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nine Inch Nails, Depeche Mode, Radiohead. Videos are integral to each act's persona – for some like Björk, they practically are the persona – so when they go before the camera, they want directors who need no introduction past their credits: explosive and direct cineaste Mark Romanek ("Hurt," "Closer"); meticulous, kinetic Monty Python fan Jonathan Glazer ("Karma Police," "Virtual Insanity"); lush and sensual Stéphane Sedanoui ("Give It Away," "Ironic"); Anton Corbijn, taken with religious symbolism and the Mojave desert ("One," "Enjoy the Silence"). Iconic images come one after another: Kurt Cobain's piercing blue eyes in Corbijn's "Heart Shaped Box," Beck's me-and-my-boombox urban odyssey in Romanek's "Devil's Haircut," Björk flitting through Manhattan on a flatbed trailer in Sedanoui's "Big Time Sensuality." Romanek, the lone Yank in the bunch, made his name tweaking the stock live-performance clip to stunning effect in videos as recent as Linkin Park's "Faint" and distant as En Vogue's "Free Your Mind." The Europeans prefer to fashion short films, leading to the phosphorescent orgy of Sedanoui's "Disco Science" (Mirwais), haunted trailer park of Glazer's "Street Spirit" (Radiohead), and U2 drummer Larry Mullen Jr. cavorting with a mermaid in Corbijn's "Electrical Storm." In able hands, videos can be much more besides art. They're great if you want to slather Henry Rollins in red paint or dress up Sofia Coppola like Jodie Foster in *Taxi Driver*.

★★★★ *– Christopher Gray*

GIFT GUIDE

LUBBOCK LIGHTS
(289 Films)



Local director Amy Maner claims *Lubbock Lights* shouldn't be viewed as a complete retracing of this West Texas town's music scene back to Buddy Holly and his predecessors. Rewriting history by glossing over the rock & roller and then having someone state on screen that Tommy X Hancock was more important isn't an improvement. That aside, *Lubbock Lights* concentrates on those who are alive, and it's heavy on the Flatlanders – Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, and Butch Hancock – along with Tommy X and Terry Allen. Archival footage of the original group at the Kerrville Folk Festival in the early Seventies is a delight, while a version "If You Were a Bluebird" from Montreux, late-Eighties, confirms that a bad rendition of the song is nearly impossible. Through extensive interviews, Maner connects Lubbock's native artists to what Butch Hancock calls "the land where everything looms on the horizon." An engaging chronicle of the area's history and legends (the original "Lubbock Lights" were supposedly UFOs), answers as to why so much creativity has come out of Lubbock remain elusive.

★★★ *– Jim Calgiuri*

ERIC JOHNSON
***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**
JOHN HIATT
***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**
TEXAS TORNADOS
***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**
DWIGHT YOAKAM
***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**
JOHNNY CASH
***Live From Austin TX* (New West)**



Five new titles from the New West series of *Austin City Limits* shows hit the market in a wide variety of styles and personalities. John Hiatt, Texas Tornados, Dwight Yoakam, Johnny Cash, and Eric Johnson all appeared on the long-running PBS staple between 1987 and 1993, leaving memorable performances, warm nostalgia, and occasional giggles at the mode of the day. That's the trouble with vintage shows, especially those from the Eighties. Here's Eric Johnson during his "Cliffs of Dover" period in 1988, with overly moussed hair and an outfit possibly stolen from a high school band director, yet utterly sublime on guitar. Dwight Yoakum taped in 1988 also, fierce and rocking with "Guitars, Cadillacs" and doing his knock-kneed boot scoot with guests Buck Owens and Flaco Jimenez. From 1993, John Hiatt's accomplished songwriting falls victim to repetitive styles and too much mugging for the camera. When he gets it right ("Thing Called Love," "Memphis in the Meantime"), he matches the best. The Texas Tornados are sentimental favorites in their 1990 segment, hot and fresh as a No. 2 dinner. Doug Sahm hams it up ("please stand for the San Antonio national anthem") as he introduces "Hey Baby Que Paso," but Freddie Fender is all Tejano pride amid his hits ("Wasted Days and Wasted Nights"). "See ya at the Hole in the Wall!" Sahm urges after the set. If only. The total class act is Johnny Cash in 1987, pre-Rick Rubin and hardcore to the bone. The voice, the face, the songs: This is Americana in its purest sense. With longtime drummer W.S. Holland and pianist Earl Poole Ball in tow, and guests Anita and June Carter, Cash's segment is pure history. As with the previous *ACL* DVDs, there's nothing extra save song lists, though CDs on all but the Cash set are also out simultaneously. That's *Austin City Limits*: Just the music, please.

(John Hiatt) ★★½
(Eric Johnson, Dwight Yoakam) ★★★
(Texas Tornados) ★★★½
(Johnny Cash) ★★★★ *– Margaret Moser*

THE JAZZ SINGER
(Anchor Bay)

Neil Diamond isn't the best actor, and the 1980 version of *The Jazz Singer* doesn't have the best script, but this movie (love on the) rocks nonetheless. The 25th anniversary

continued on p.62

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various/NEXTMEN
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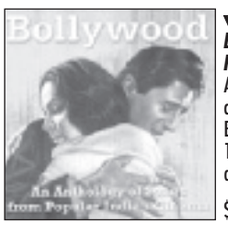
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THE GREENHORNES
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Championed by rock and roll luminaries and showered with glowing reviews by publications all over the world, the Greenhornes have been tapping into the true soul of rock and roll since 1996. Today, they bring a breath of fresh air and much needed authenticity to the world of rock.

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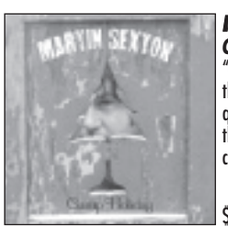


STEVE SPACEK
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PRINCE PAUL
Hip Hop Gold Dust (Antidote)
Prince Paul has amassed a formidable collection of unreleased tracks in his home basement. With tracks by De La Soul, Biz Markie, Stetsasonic, the Gravediggaz and plenty more, some might call these undiscovered gems "Hip Hop Gold Dust."

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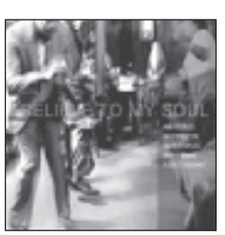
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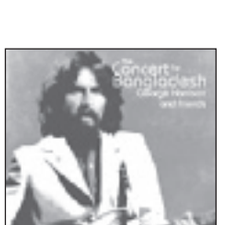


DEAD CAN DANCE
Memento: Very Best Of (Rhino/ Warner)
Spanning two decades of groundbreaking music, first-ever single-disc retrospective from the legendary band and its visionary leaders, Lisa Gerrard and Brendan Perry.

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GEORGE HARRISON & FRIENDS
Concert for Bangladesh (Apple)
Ravi Shankar planted the seed, but it was George Harrison who turned this historic benefit concert into reality. All artist royalties go to UNICEF, or, as Harrison notes in his band introduction, "nobody's gettin' paid for anything."

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DVD, now in widescreen with a handful of extras, still tracks Yussel Rabinovitch, the Jewish cantor with pop aspirations, and remains a *Spinal Tap*-like masterpiece. The soundtrack is everything the new Rick Rubin-produced *12 Songs* isn't: a classic. The clincher: Neil Diamond in blackface.



★★★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

RAY CHARLES

The Dick Cavett Show **(Shout! Factory)**



Unless you're a Ray Charles completist, you'll probably want to pass on this 2-DVD set featuring the late great's three appearances with amiable but bland late-night TV host Dick Cavett in 1972-73. Despite being the sole guest on one 90-minute show and performing beautifully on 11 songs overall (some with the Raelettes), plus three silly duets with Cavett, relatively little of the 3½ hours here is allotted to music. Charles spends as much time kibitzing with the host, not to mention sharing the stage with Tony Randall, Margaret Mead, and NYC Mayor John Lindsay. Culturally fascinating but musically frustrating.

★★ – *Jay Trachtenberg*

R. KELLY

Trapped in the Closet Chapters 1-12 **(Jive)**



After viewing R. Kelly's rap opera only one question comes to mind: Is he out of his braid-ridden skull? No doubt Kelly's had a rough couple of years with the legal system, but now he really does believe he can fly. He "sings" all the parts in all the songs, of which there are roughly a dozen. We first see him waking up to a woman he doesn't know, but with whom he's obviously gone to the bone yard. He's forced to hide in her closet because her husband is coming up the stairs. From there, we get Kelly whipping out his Baretta as he asks her pastor husband, "Why can't we handle this Christian-like?" Threats and cell phone calls are made, and, as Kelly relays in the audio commentary (which is him screening the movie and explaining each scene while he smokes a cigar), there are lots of "cliffhangas." Husbands and wives are cheated on, people are shot, a spatula is used as a weapon, and a midget makes an appearance, making for one intriguing car wreck with a great beat. R. Kelly obviously does not give a fuck.

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

BOB MARLEY & THE WAILERS

Live at the Rainbow **(Island/Universal)**

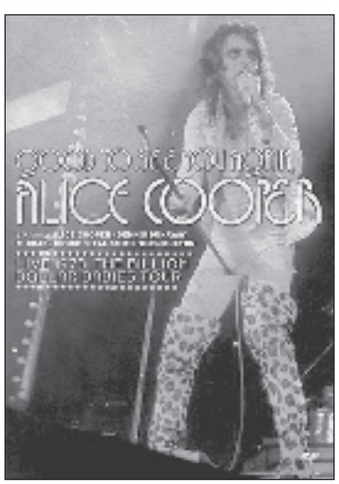


Like no less than Otis Redding, Bob Marley knew his voice had few limits, so he worked it like a beast of burden. In 1977, when the singer's caravan of Rasta prophets played London's Rainbow Theatre during the *Exodus* tour, Marley's voice already exhibited the ghost of a rasp that worsened until his death from cancer in 1981. Tuff Gong looks a tad thin, too. Otherwise, *Live at the Rainbow* preserves one of soul music's greatest acts just off its peak. The Barrett brothers, in the top three of all-time rhythm tandems, drop global grounding, while the I-Threes chirp like "Three Little Birds." Backing's as tight as the one drop, yet loose enough to follow Marley's every lead. Even then, all lens of this expert shoot are the denim-bound preacher, eyes closed, possessed by the spirit; bouncing, running in place, swaying like a dreadlocked scarecrow. Allegorical lyrics or not ("The Heathen"), this is gospel. The second DVD, *Caribbean Nights*, another Eighties issue VHS finally digitized, doesn't boast any notable extras either, but doesn't need any. The 85-minute documentary, far too estate-oriented, remains definitive, the footage extraordinary.

★★★½ – *Raoul Hernandez*

ALICE COOPER

Good to See You Again **(Shout! Factory)**



Lest you think the Alice Cooper Band's 1973 *Billion Dollar Babies* tour was all misogynistic B-horror-movie filth, note that one of the show's many climaxes involves a giant tooth brush bringing a molar to orgasm. True, this is preceded by a deranged dentist mega drilling Cooper, the intervening fluoride flourish censored, but really, it was all just good, clean rock cabaret. In a commentary track to this 1974 theatrical release, Cooper is adamant that no one in rock & roll was this Dada/vaudeville, rightly taking credit for Marilyn Manson, but that hardly excuses the *Help*-less "plot" wrapped around this otherwise eye-popping live document. (Granted, a donkey in sneakers gives quality yuks.) *Good to See You Again*'s play-concert-only option siphons 100 minutes down to an hour from Houston and Dallas, writhing with dismembered mannequins ("I Love the Dead"), babies on a sword ("Dead Babies"), a possibly intoxicated boa constrictor ("Sick Things"), the now infamous guillotine, and a sarcophagus (hello, Iron Maiden). "That's why Salvador Dali loved us," boasts the long underwear, knee-high leopard-skin boots and ghoulish mascara-wearing ringmaster, who admits singing was secondary to the stage show. Nevertheless, "Elected"/"I'm Eighteen" snarls, "No More Mr. Nice Guy" grinds three guitars, and "Under My Wheels" mows down Richard Nixon. (Find the concert audio on 2001's *BDB* reissue.) "What year was this?" asks Cooper. "1973? We should've known better." Fat chance.

★★★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

CHICK COREA

Rendezvous in New York **(Image)**



The numbers add up: nine bands of 23 players helping Chick Corea improvise for 21 nights, documented on 10 DVDs. Corea's jazz-elder standing arises from work with Miles Davis *(Bitches Brew*, *In a Silent Way)*, solo albums, the seminal fusion outfit Return to Forever, and gigantic keyboard skills. For *Rendezvous*, Corea invited alumni and friends to perform at NYC's Blue Note in celebration of his 60th birthday in late 2001. The lineups range from duos to large ensembles, including Michael Brecker, Christian McBride, Steve Gadd, Bobby McFerrin, Joshua Redman, and Terence Blanchard, and of course they can only sound so good onscreen as compared to how they sound live. Yet one has to hand it to Corea: Aside from powerhouses like Keith Jarrett, it's hard to imagine another contemporary pianist ballsy enough to attempt such an endeavor and accomplished enough to pull it off. In theory, it sounds too good to be true. In praxis, it's just good. Highlights: a duet with Cuba piano force Gonzalo Rubalcaba, anything with Roy Haynes on the trap set, musicians giving Corea props on disc 10's documentary, and the hard bop meets classical in "Quartet No. 2, Part 2" by the Three Quartets Band. Tasteful camera POVs concentrate as much on countenances as hand movements, and playback comes in stereo, Dolby 4.0, and DTS 4.0. *Rendezvous* proves Chick Corea one of the most versatile jazz composers, band leaders, and players going.

★★★★ – *David Lynch*

AUDIOSLAVE

Live in Cuba **(Sony)**



This probably sounded perfect on paper: the most left-leaning American rock band this side of System of a Down cranks up their amps for Cuba's rock-starved populace, pleasing Communists (free concert!) and capitalists (DVD tie-in!) alike. Stuck promoting brand-new material to a crowd that barely recognizes "Like a Stone," Audioslave gives it their all but don't even speak Spanish until near the end. In turn, the 60,000 in Havana's Anti-Imperialist Plaza come off more curious than rabid. The deluxe edition boasts extra songs, a behind-the-scenes doc, and bonus "Sessions at AOL" live footage. Take that, Fidel.

★★ – *Christopher Gray*

BLACKMORE'S NIGHT

Castles & Dreams **(SPV)**



Ritchie Blackmore (Deep Purple, Rainbow) fans who haven't followed his recent work may be surprised to find him in the Middle Ages. Performing with his young, lushly blond wife, Candice Night, *Castles & Dreams* is an elegant, 2-DVD package of Celtic rock: She's Loreena McKennitt for the masses, and he's a rock star for the Ren Faire crowd. Surrounded by sound musicianship and high-concept staging, the four hours of concert and voluminous extras (videos, documentaries, and offstage chatter) conjure fey and fantasy. Forget *Spinal Tap* and jokes about Stonehenge being crushed by dwarves; *Castles & Dreams* is a journey to the past, enjoyably imaginative and musically satisfying.

★★★ – *Margaret Moser*

JOURNEY

Live in Houston 1981, The Escape Tour **(Sony)**

Scan the immense stadium crowd, and it's all muscle T's, mullets, and fists in the air. It was a good time for Journey. This Houston show was filmed on the heels of their No. 1 album *Escape* by a fledgling channel called MTV (they once showed music videos). Steve Perry belts out the hits with zeal, feathered hair bouncing along to "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Anyway You Want It." Ballads like "Open Arms" and "Lights" get the lighters going, and this comes with a live CD, for when the party really gets going.



★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

PUNK: ATTITUDE

(Capital Entertainment)



Originally aired on IFC, Don Letts' fast-paced documentary on the history of punk rock gives as thorough an overview as 120 minutes allows, the now-familiar arc from the MC5 and the Velvets up through Nirvana and Blink-182. The bonus disc contains even more interview footage. The Pistols, Ramones, and Buzzcocks perform alongside lesser-knowns like London's Slits, L.A.'s Screamers, and NYC's James Chance & the Contortions. Sadly, it's all in fleeting 30-second cutaways. Fans are left salivating for more music, but maybe that's the point.

★★★ – *Greg Beets*

PIXIES

Sell Out **(Rhino)**



The Pixies never pretended 2004's blockbuster reunion tour was about much more than getting paid, and they earned every cent. Last year's *Best of* DVD remains the more complete package, but this appearance at Belfort, France's Eurockéennes Festival packs a hefty 28-song set list and dependably ace playing. Fifteen bonus tracks follow the band through Coachella and beyond; of special interest are "Subbacultcha" and feverish "Vamos" from last year's ACL festival, and a bulldozing "No. 13 Baby" recorded in their old Lowell, Mass., stomping grounds.

★★★ – *Christopher Gray*

FRANZ FERDINAND



(Domino)

Nothing like early-Seventies hipsters on acid. Not Franz Ferdinand, the lovable Scottish fourpiece in sweater vests and skinny ties. Showcasing seven performances from their chart-topping 2003 debut, this DVD hits the States two months after sophomore follow-up *You Could Have It So Much Better*, but then the jangly chorus of "Take Me Out" is probably *still* stuck in your head. Lucky for you the entire debut's performed three times (disc two comprises two complete sets from London's Brixton Academy and San Francisco's Regency Grand), and a 30-minute tour doc stars a karaoke party with the aforementioned Seventies hipsters.

★★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

GREEN DAY



Bullet in a Bible **(Reprise)**

Green Day proved their festival rock mettle at Woodstock '94, but it took *American Idiot* to move them "beyond the shadow of *Dookie*," as bassist Mike Dirnt puts it. This DVD/CD documents the trio's June 2005 concerts at Milton Keynes, England, in front of 65,000 fans passionately singing along to "Wake Me Up When September Ends." Guitarist/vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong is in full ham revival mode, leading the crowd in a "Shout" and screaming "Awright, England!" more times than you can count, but it only makes you wish you could watch it again through the eyes of a 15-year-old.

★★★ – *Greg Beets*

U2



Vertigo 2005: Live From Chicago **(Interscope)**

"This is the 'Vertigo' tour, forever," announces Bono on the least of U2's three live DVDs, following 2001's *Live From Boston* and 03's *Slane Castle*. Blasts of *Boy*, from a snippet of "Stories for Boys" in "Vertigo" to Bono acting out the black cat of "An Cat Dubh," electrifies the first hour, but the UN infomercial in the back half bogs down save for the magic "Running to Stand Still." A *Vertigo* trifecta at the end, particularly "Original of the Species," rebounds. The deluxe version pads a light-headed doc on a second disc while doubling the price.

★★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

BAUHAUS



Shadow of Light/Archive **(Beggars Banquet)**

Originally released when London's Bat Cave was still in existence, this is the gothic Rosetta Stone writ large in blood on black tablets. There's "Bela Lugosi's Dead," natch, alongside all nine official Bauhaus "promotional films," but it's the stunning live performance at London's Old Vic Theater from 1982 that really captures the band's dark magic. Murphy preens and struts like a devilish, Cocteau-ian marionette, enunciating his whipcord wordplay with the garish finesse of a butcher's blade held quick to the apocalyptic heartbeat of Kevin Haskins' relentless tribal drumming, the sturm und drang thrum of David J.'s writhing basslines, and Daniel Ash's imperious, maniacal guitar work. Consider your gothling's stocking stuffed.

★★★★ – *Marc Savlov*

NEW ORDER



Item: A Collection & New Order Story **(Rhino)**

"I think the essence is to maintain exactly what they are, whether it be illusion or not," producer John Robie says of Manchester supergroup New Order in a superfluous 1994 doc, *New Order Story*. "I'm not really sure they're anything more than illusion." Superfluous might not be the right word. Pretentious, nonsequential, confusing, vague: all the reasons we loved New Order in the first place. That said, this 2-DVD set, packaged for the first time on DVD along with the group's complete video catalog, is for super fans only. Lacking information and any relevance to the world around them, *New Order Story* is a picture of the band at its best and worst, from the resurrection and the triumphs to Bernard Sumner's drugged-out eyes and Tony Wilson's megalomania. The jarring info cards are frustratingly impatient, and the bad Eighties videos are embarrassingly long, but if you love "Confusion" and "World in Motion" as much as "Temptation" and "Bizarre Love Triangle," it's a holiday must-have.

★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

THE WHO



Tommy and Quadrophenia Live **(Rhino)**

A well-conceptualized 3-DVD set combining the Who's 1989 *Tommy* and 1996-97 *Quadrophenia* treks. The interactive commentary smacks the bull's-eye, much less interesting on the latter tour de force. Performances are passable, but sad, really, Daltrey, Entwistle, and a mostly acoustic Townshend surrounded by an orchestra of backup. A handful of guests highlighted by Steve Winwood actually helps. A third disc rounds out both tour's nonconceptual sets, the *Quad* spin-off fanning a few embers. Don't get fooled again.

★★ – *Raoul Hernandez*

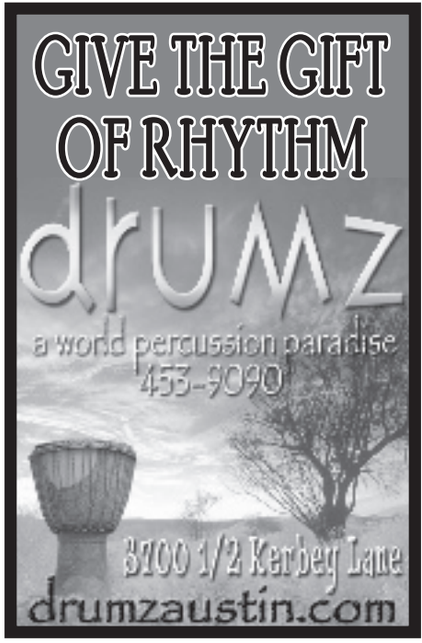
BARBRA STREISAND



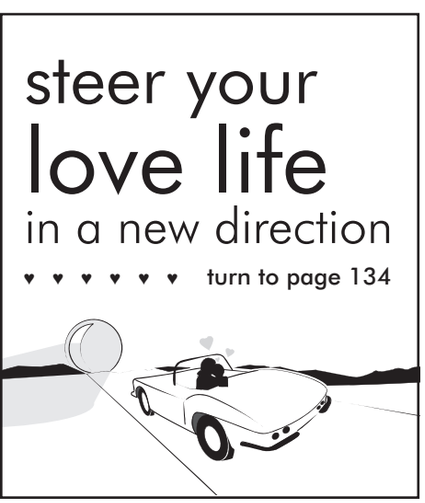
The Television Specials **(Rhino)**

The five television specials Barbra Streisand made between 1965 and 1973 are testimonials to her ascendancy as a star and TV's expanding boundaries in the tumultuous Sixties. *My Name Is Barbra* (1965) was her first, a black & white tour-de-force that still elicits praise. *Color Me Barbra* (1966) was literal, a time when television swung from black & white to color, and the companion to *My Name Is Barbra*. Less success though more conceptual was *The Belle of 14th Street* (1967), her take on turn-of-the-century favorites. *Barbra Streisand: A Happening in Central Park* (1967) returned her to her diva-like status on the small screen. By the time *Barbra Streisand ... And Other Musical Instruments* (1973) came out, she'd forgone the upswept hairdos and dramatic gowns for a mildly hippie look and a more casual approach to music (Ray Charles guests). Streisand's unyielding good taste in music is uniform, first demonstrated in *My Name Is Barbra*, when American viewers got their first close-up of her classic style and off-beat beauty. Gorgeous production and songs that became her trademark – "Second Hand Rose," "People," and "Happy Days Are Here Again" – work much better than the silliness of *Color Me Barbra*, in which five penguins are desperate to escape her nearness during the "Circus Medley." Of the five DVDs, *My Name Is Barbra* is only matched by *Barbra Streisand: A Happening in Central Park*, a legendary performance in which Streisand earned her angel wings before an audience of 150,000. She's at her zenith here, confident, composed, and bursting with glorious song.

★★★½ – *Margaret Moser*

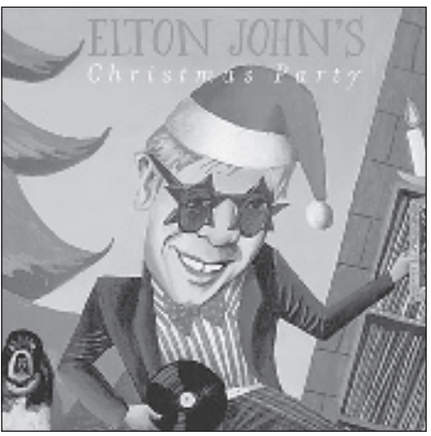























GIFT GUIDE

ODETTA
***Gonna Let It Shine* (MC)**

Folk singer extraordinaire sheds light on the idea that African-American slaves identified with the plight of the Israelites by adopting biblical stories as their own. With vocal accompaniment from the Holmes Brothers, tried-and-true spirituals such as "Down by the Riverside" and "What Month Was Jesus Born In?" are fleshed to energetic life live at Fordham University.

★★★★ – *Robert Gabriel*

NAT KING COLE
***The Christmas Song* (Capitol)**

Few vocalists ever transmitted more emotional warmth than Nat King Cole, which makes his take on Mel Tormé & Bob Wells' "The Christmas Song" (aka "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire") the definitive article. Three versions of the song, including a posthumous 1998 duet with daughter Natalie, appear here alongside convincing renditions of "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" and "O Tannenbaum."

★★★ – *Greg Beets*

MERRY MIXMAS: CHRISTMAS CLASSICS REMIXED
(Capitol)

Updating holiday mainstays like Ella Fitzgerald's "Sleigh Ride" and Lena Horne's "Let It Snow!" with snazzy breakbeats, *Merry Mixmas* puts a refreshing spin on songs that have become second nature to mall-shoppers. Breathing new life into the likes of Nat King Cole's "All I Want for Christmas" and Eartha Kitt's "Santa Baby," an international array of producers puts a little hip back into the mundane hop of seasonal overkill.

★★★ – *Robert Gabriel*

MICHAEL MCDONALD
***Through the Many Winters: A Christmas Album* (Hallmark)**

Why would Michael McDonald kick off his second Christmas album with a somnambulant arrangement of "Silent Night"? Doesn't everyone know that's a born closer? To his credit, McDonald provides fans with a wassail-flavored Doobie fix on a "Come, O Come Emmanuel/What Month Was Jesus Born" medley, but otherwise, *Winters*' front-loaded snooze is a clear indication Hallmark should stick to greeting cards.

★½ – *Greg Beets*

AL GREEN
***Feels Like Christmas* (Capitol)**

It takes a certain soulfulness to fully appreciate the holiday season, thus it goes without saying that Al Green possesses just the voice to enhance "special times with family sharing love so openly." Compiling nine yuletide classics originally released by Green in 1983, *Feels Like Christmas* would completely lack the magic touch of producer Willie Mitchell if not for the inclusion of the 1976 original "Glory Glory."

★★ – *Robert Gabriel*

BRIAN WILSON
***What I Really Want for Christmas* (Arista)**

The older Brian Wilson gets, the more childlike he becomes. Sometimes endearing, on his first holiday album, Wilson's naïveté and charm are downright corny. Originals "The Man With All the Toys" and the Coca-Cola-endorsed "Little Saint Nick" highlight a disc full of simply arranged traditionals smocked with Wilson's familiar harmonies. Santa-believers might relish, but the rest should stick with Bing.

★ – *Darcie Stevens*

MARTIN SEXTON
***Camp Holiday* (Kitchen Table)**

Martin Sexton revamps holiday standards busker-style: mouth trumpet on "Holly Jolly Christmas" and various vocal geegaws to the particularly lovely "Silver Bells." The sole original on the album, "Welcome to the Camp," is a cute celebration of every imaginable December holiday. Probably not destined to be a classic, but a pleasant enough romp o'er the hills of snow.

★★★ – *Melanie Haupt*

ELTON JOHN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
(Hear Music/Universal)

"Let Elton John be your holiday DJ." Not an *SNL* sketch gone awry, rather an impressive survey of Christmas pop. Springsteen's "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" you expect; the Flaming Lips' "A Change at Christmas" maybe you don't; OutKast's "Playa's Ball" is totally out of the blue, and the Pet Shop Boys side by side with Jimmy Buffett ... don't ask, don't tell.

★★★½ – *Christopher Gray*

THE LEEVEES
***Hanukkah Rocks* (Reprise/JDub)**

It takes balls to make your debut about Chanukah. Adam Gardner (Guster) and Dave Schneider (the Zambonis) have taken latkes and kugel to a new level with *Hanukkah Rocks*, an album that Adam Sandler would've made if he fronted Weezer. The LeeVees go from drooling over potato cakes to enduring goyim friends and serenading time shares in Florida. Shalom!

★★★ – *Darcie Stevens*

NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT & CONCENTUS MUSICUS WIEN
***Handel: Messiah* (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi)**

Do we really need another version of Georg Friedrich Händel's *Messiah*? Originally performed during Easter, Messiah has become synonymous with Christmas, so German master musician, sound historian, and Grammy winner Nikolaus Harnoncourt offers another rendering. In his and his friends' capable hands the baroque classic – a 2-CD set recorded live in Austria last holiday season – has never sounded better.

★★★★ – *David Lynch*

JOEL COHEN & THE BOSTON CAMERATA
***A Mediterranean Christmas* (Warner Classics)**

The Boston Camerata describes its holiday fare as broader than early music, but that shouldn't stop fans of the genre from picking up this work of holidays past. Bridging the Straits of Gibraltar and the edge of the Levant – including Arabic and Sephardic elements – this ensemble warmly realizes religious and folk works from 1200 to 1900 and does so with aplomb and elegance.

★★★ – *David Lynch*

HERB ALPERT & THE TIJUANA BRASS
***Christmas Album* (Shout! Factory)**

Although the trans-generational appeal of Herb Alpert's signature sound propelled this album to No. 1 in 1968, the Tijuana Brass is often overwhelmed by saccharine Shorty Rogers vocal arrangements. Instead of nonstop uplifting vim, Alpert falls back on an elevator-styled TV-special approach. "Jingle Bell Rock" and "My Favorite Things" pack their punches, but this could've been a fiesta instead of a corporate office party.

★★ – *Greg Beets*

KATE & ANNA MCGARRIGLE
***The McGarrigle Christmas Hour* (Nonesuch)**

While the McGarrigle sisters are almost supporting players on their own disc, their warm spirit permeates throughout. Guests include Emmylou Harris on a radiant "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and Kate's now-famous children, Rufus and Martha Wainwright, who bring originals as solid as anything they've ever done. Recommended to those who enjoy a heady mix of pop and faith.

★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

A SKAGGS FAMILY CHRISTMAS: VOLUME ONE
(Skaggs Family)

These days a Ricky Skaggs album is sure to deliver solid playing, handsome harmonies, and a spoonful of religious faith in a traditional bluegrass style. A Christmas LP is tailor-made for such qualities, and with the help of his family and band, Kentucky Thunder, Skaggs assembles a yuletide collection filled with old-fashioned sentimentality. Too sugary at times, this *Family Christmas* will still likely charm Skaggs' extended family.

★★½ – *Jim Caligiuri*

MARAH
***A Christmas Kind of Town* (Yep Roc)**

Leave it to Philly rockers Marah to celebrate a New York Christmas. Loosely presented as an audio play, they blend solid originals like the jolly "New York Is a Christmas Kind of Town" and hopped-up polka "Counting the Days ('Til Christmas)" with an eclectic array of classics that jangle ("Christmas Time's A Comin'"), wobble ("Baby It's Cold Outside"), and doo-wop ("Silver Bells").

★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

REV. HORTON HEAT
***We Three Kings: Christmas Favorites* (Yep Roc)**

Christmas with the Rev. is hardly a psychobilly freakout. It's standard yuletide fare tailored to his reverby specifications and lesser-known seasonals ("Santa Bring My Baby Back") that are little more than mundane rockabilly exercises. Saucy versions of "Santa Looked Like Daddy" and "Run Rudolph Run" offer at least a hint of that silver-tongued devil with the magic fingers.

★★ – *Christopher Gray*

TASTE OF CHRISTMAS
(Warcon)

On *Taste of Christmas*, the Used's Bert McCracken covers Lennon's "Happy Christmas (War Is Over)," and it's a god-awful, overprocessed mess. Skindred does that reggaeton/metal version of "Jingle Bells" you *never* wanted to hear, and the once virginal "First Noel" is now wet with teenage boy tears thanks to My American Heart. This *Taste* kind of made me want to vomit.

★ – *Audra Schroeder*

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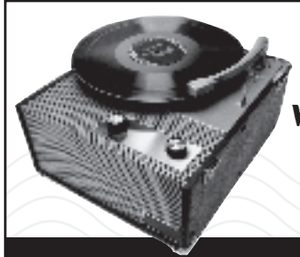
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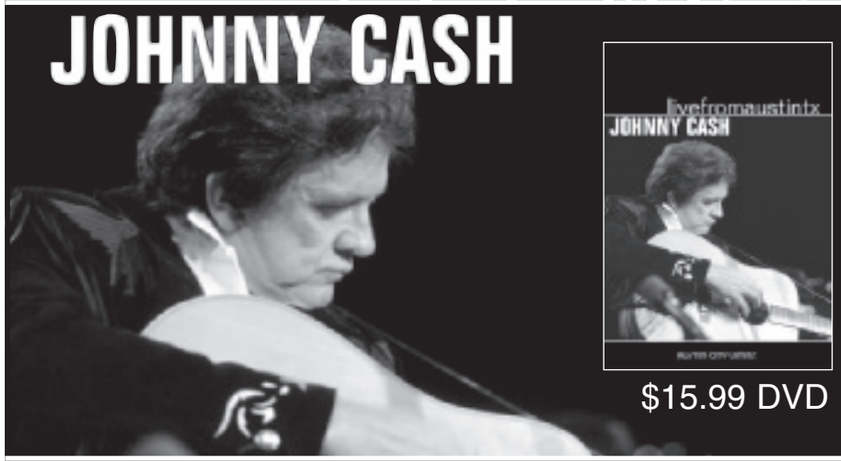
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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

News of the Weird

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

LEAD STORY

British store owners seeking to drive away obnoxious, congregating teenagers have turned to security consultant Howard Stapleton's recent invention, similar to a dog whistle, that emits a high-frequency sound audible to most teens but few older people. "The Mosquito" (it's "small and annoying," Stapleton told a *New York Times* reporter, who vouched that she couldn't hear it, either) emits what one merchant called a pulsating chirp, not painful but surely irritating. A professor of neurophysiology verified that the ability to hear high frequency dissipates with age but that some people in their 20s and 30s could probably still hear it.

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

• 1) Robbin Doolin, 31, accidentally fell from her car while driving on U.S. 71 in Kansas City, Mo., in July when she opened the door to spit and leaned too far. (She quickly jumped up and chased her car, which left the road and ran down an embankment.) 2) In Amarillo, Texas, Bobby Reynolds, 74, and his son Gary, 43, were hospitalized in July after an incident in which their car got stuck on tracks at a railroad crossing. After unsuccessfully trying the move it, reported the *Amarillo Globe-News*, they somehow fell asleep in the car and were later hit by a train.

• In November, Parker Houghtaling, 23, standing on a station platform in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., was hit in the head when he leaned out too far over the tracks as a Metro-North train was arriving. *The Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that Houghtaling was similarly hit by a New York City subway car in 2002 when he leaned out too far. (He was hospitalized both times.)

THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY

Barnard Lorence filed a $2 million lawsuit in Stuart, Fla., in November against the First National Bank and Trust, accusing it of falsely advertising that it cares about its customers. He said he had been charged a $32 fee for overdrawing his checking account by $5, was unsuccessful in asking for a waiver, and said the stress from the incident exacerbated a 2001 brain injury.



Singer Kenny Chesney, explaining to *Life* magazine in October how profoundly he felt the loss when he and actress Renée Zellweger ended their recent, brief marriage: It was "like opening the door to your house and having someone come in and take your big-screen TV off the wall during the big game, and there's nothing you can do about it."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Kelley Borland of Evans, Colo., who in September received a $100 ransom demand for the return of his missing dog, authenticated by what was supposedly a sample of the dog's droppings: "It looked like my dog's poop, but I'm not a dog poop expert."

RECURRING THEMES

• "Cargo cults" have made "News of the Weird" several times in this column's 17 years and still flourish in Papua New Guinea, whose police arrested 320 cultists recently for practicing sorcery. (The cults typically believe that Western products, brought by missionaries before World War II, are gifts from God, and they even worshipped the airstrips on which the goods-bearing planes landed.) A female leader of one of the groups involved in the recent arrests said she "found strange teachings about women and their monthly period" in the Bible's book of Leviticus. The leaders concluded that menstrual blood was sacred water that let them see "invisible things," according to a Reuters report quoting *The National*, a newspaper in Boroko.

• "News of the Weird" last reported on Hormel Foods Corp.'s SPAM in 2002 when McDonald's was test-marketing a breakfast containing the luncheon meat in Hawaii, where SPAM is a delicacy. It is perhaps even more highly revered in South Korea, where (according to an October *Los Angeles Times* dispatch) an estimated 8 million cans are sold each holiday season, and a gift set of 12 in upscale department stores goes for about $44. Jeon Pyoung Soo, the South Korean SPAM brand manager, continues to be puzzled at the product's U.S. reputation: "I can't understand what is funny about SPAM."

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

• Latest Insanity Pleas: Ryan T. Green was convicted of murder in Pensacola, Fla., in October despite his defense that he was certain the "A" on his police officer-victim's hat was for Antichrist, whom he was obligated to kill. And Clayton E. Butsch was convicted of murder in Everett, Wash., in October despite his defense that he was part of *The Truman Show* movie and had been ordered to kill by a pet cat. And Reyes Olivares was charged with murder in Las Vegas, Nev., despite his defense in October that his construction-foreman-victim was a sorcerer who put a spell on him with his flatulence.

• A November paper by Sheffield (England) University education lecturer Pat Sikes argued that not all teacher-pupil romances are bad and that, in fact, sometimes "the seductive nature and 'erotic charge' often characteristic of 'good' teaching" can provoke a "positive and exciting response." Dr. Sikes, 50, who met her now-husband in 1970 when she was 14 and he was a 22-year-old history teacher, estimated that 1,500 pupil-teacher affairs develop in Britain every year.

THE POOR DEARS

• *The Boston Globe* reported in September that the elite Palmer & Dodge law firm in Boston had been awarded almost $100,000 in fee reimbursement after putting a partner and three other lawyers to work representing a prison inmate upset mainly at being restricted in his use of the prison law library and being prevented from receiving "sexually explicit" photos in the mail. The complainant, Daniel LaPlante, murdered a pregnant woman and her two children, reportedly smirked at the jury, and was described by his trial judge as so detestable that the judge would have "no problem" personally executing him.



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• Inmate Robert Murray refused to appear at a court hearing in September in New York City because he "found it humiliating" to have to wear Hannibal Lecter-type restraints. (The HIV-positive Murray had admitted to at least four attempts to infect police officers by spitting blood at them.) And Biswanth Halder, facing 338 felony counts, including aggravated murder, in a shooting spree in Cleveland, declined to come to court in November until the judge let his lawyers go buy him a hairpiece. (The judge acquiesced.)

BOOK-LEARNING OVERRATED

A judge in Santa Maria, Calif., ordered Nobel-prize-winning physicist John Robert Schrieffer, 74, to prison for two years in November after he acknowledged that he killed a man and injured seven others when he fell asleep at the wheel of his car, at more than 100 mph. Schrieffer had nine previous speeding tickets and was driving at the time on a suspended Florida license. He also admitted that he lied to police about the cause of the collision. (Schrieffer and two others shared the 1972 Nobel for their theory of electrical superconductivity.)

LATEST TRUCK SPILLS

1) "Hundreds" of Krispy Kreme doughnuts onto Vineville Avenue in Macon, Ga., in September, when a delivery truck overturned to avoid a dog. 2) 30,000 pieces of mail to IRS (mostly estimated-tax payments) into San Francisco Bay in September when a truck was involved in a collision on the San Mateo Bridge. 3) Thirty-five tons of cooking oil onto already-icy I-65 near Lowell, Ind., in November when a tanker overturned. 4) And just hours apart in June in Ohio, one truck overturned, spilling 19 tons of stick dynamite on I-70 near Summerford (forcing nearby evacuations) and another carrying 16 tons of toilets overturned on I-275 near Sharonville.

THINNING THE HERD

A 43-year-old motorcyclist was killed on I-35 near Osceola, Iowa, when he tried to stand on his bike with his arms folded (and smashed into a guardrail) (October). A 19-year-old driver, performing for two pals who were videotaping, was killed in West Rutland, Vt., when he attempted a *Jackass*-like stunt by leaping from the car at about 30 mph (September). A 39-year-old bicyclist was killed when he raced, unsuccessfully, to beat an oncoming train through a railroad crossing in Oakland Park, Fla., and was knocked more than 100 feet (November).

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new year's eve guide

BY JESS SAUER

What is there to do, dear reader, while you – ahem – wait for that ball to finally drop? Here we proffer a few selections for your trans-annum entertainment consideration.

clubs & eateries

ANCHOVIES Oh cheeky cheeky. Oh naughty sneaky. Swingers' club Anchovies rings in the New Year with a "bang" (their words). Dress in formal attire with something slinky underneath. "Group lodging" at the Austin Ambassador Hotel. Wink, wink. *8pm-3am. Austin Ambassador Hotel, 7800 N. I-35. $60 ($20, single women), regular seating; $80 ($30, single women), VIP seating; $75, hotel accommodations.* **www.anchoviesaustin.com**.

ANTONE'S We're not going to pretend that seeing Bob Schneider at Antone's is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but this *is* your last chance to see him in 2005, okay? *Antone's, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424.*

ARARAT has a lot more to offer than baba ganoush this New Year's. They're hosting a masquerade with pomegranate champagne, Renaissance fire dancing by House of Rhoaad, a performance by drag troupe Kings 'N Things with "extra special surprise guests," and, as Ararat puts it, a "trip through our special human buffet served live on Hocake." We couldn't make this shit up if we tried. BYOB. *7pm-3am. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692. $40, parties of two or more; $30, buffet; $15, backyard party.* **www.araratrestaurant.net**.

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Say aloha to 2005 and get leid at the restaurant formerly known as D&L's Texas Music Cafe. Their New Year's luau features Combo Mahalo and men in (grass) skirts. *Beck's on Congess, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441.*

BEERLAND We just knew you'd choose live music over smoking. Driveshaft and the Strange Boys rock the little bar that could. *Beerland, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK.*

BROKEN SPOKE Like your ceilings low and your bathroom stalls doorless? Head to Austin's famed honky-tonk for an evening with hardcore country-man Alvin Crow. Rest assured that, as owner James White says, they ain't fancy, but they're damn sure country. Yuppies beware. *The Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189.*

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Want to go where everybody knows your name? We can't promise that, but we are betting everybody will know the words at the Carousel Lounge's New Year's show. Celebrate with Austin's favorite (and, perhaps, only) TV theme song cover band, Greatest American Heroes. *Carousel Lounge, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790.* **www.greatestamericanheroes.com**.

CONTINENTAL CLUB The LeRoi Brothers are ushering the new year in with Eve & the Exiles and Toni Price tonight. Get on it ASAP; Continental Club events sell out like greased lightning. *9pm. Continental Club, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444.*

EMO'S Break out the Royal Crown and hop in your jet-black Cadillac: Emo's is hosting psychobilly locals the Flametrick Subs this New Year's. They'll be joined by special guests Slick57 and Basin Street. *Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS.*

FABRIC Get gussied up and put the ass back in class at Fabric's first night fiesta on Fifth. Watch the ball drop and drop it like it's hot. *9pm. Fabric, 101 W. Fifth, 322-9333.*

FLAMINGO CANTINA Keep it irie at the New Year's Reggae and Dub Ball with Grimy Styles, Tribal Nation, and Mau Mau Chaplains. Catered Carribean food and a mellow mood are guaranteed, and we imagine the only jerk there will be the chicken. *8:30pm. Flamingo Cantina, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336. $12.* **www.flamingocantina.com**.

HOLE IN THE WALL Want to know what exactly Scott H. Biram's Champagne Chicken Roast is? Well then, guess you'll just have to go to the Hole in the Wall and find out. Jane Bond opens. *10pm. Hole in the Wall, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747. $10.*

JOVITA'S The Gourds are holding down the fort at Jovita's New Year's celebration tonight. Will there be a ram's blood toast at midnight? One can only speculate. *Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825.*

LA ZONA ROSA Outlaw Joe Ely electrifies the Warehouse District's own red-light district, with Reckless Kelly opening. *9pm. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293. $42 ($39, advance).*

STUBB'S There's no reason New Year's has to be formal. This is Austin, for chrissakes. Stubb's New Year's fete features a barbecue buffet and music by the South Austin Jug Band. There's also a midnight champagne toast to wash down the Lone Star. *9:30pm. Stubb's Bar-B-Q, 801 Red River, 480-8341. $27.*

TAMBALEO On a night where you're meant to be looking to the future, Tambaleo wants to transport you to the darkest reaches of fashion's past: the Eighties. Break out the Aquanet and put on your best Eighties formalwear (does Benetton make tuxes?). We don't know about the caviar dreams, but there will most certainly be champagne wishes. *Tambaleo, 302 Bowie, 391-0397. $20.* **www.tambaleo.com**.

THE PARISH The elevenpiece Grupo Fantasma are famous for getting their audiences moving with their self-described mix of Afro-Latin funk, dancehall, cumbia, and dub. Their New Year's Eve show at the Parish, with DJ Starsign and Maneja Beto opening, is likely to be no exception. DJ Starsign and Maneja Beto open. *10pm. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth, upstairs, 478-6372. $25 ($20, in advance).*

REED'S There's a multicourse dinner upstairs, but the real party at this Warehouse District staple is downstairs, where the dance floor will be in full swing as Cienfuegos play Cuban jazz. There will be party favors, an a la carte menu, and the obligatory champagne toast at midnight. *8:30pm. Reed's Jazz & Supper Club, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977. $75.*

RUTA MAYA The South Congress standby is throwing a bash with DJ Blip, the Devil Bat, ST 37, Rubble (with King Coffey), and Tia Carrera for your ears. Your eyes, meanwhile, can feast on multimedia work by the infamous Lori Surfer. *9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.*

theatre, comedy, and more

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Don Weeda provides the New Year's serenade at AIFD's party, which promises to be so folking awesome it necessitates the use of a pun we swore we'd never make. Scandinavian and request dances all night long, but no alcohol allowed, which is a shame because we hear Contra dancing and Cointreau *do* mix. *7:30pm-1am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765.* **www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html**.

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB: GREG WARREN Local faves Brendon Walsh and Doug Mellard open for this touring funnyman, and the late show includes party favors, a champagne toast when the New Year clicks in, and a breakfast buffet after the hilarity's subsided. *Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. $20, 8pm show; $37.50, 10:30pm show.* **www.capcitycomedy.com**.

CAPITAL CITY MYSTERY PLAYERS Don't worry if the liquor robs you of your sea legs, the Capital City Mystery Players' New Year's Eve Cruise Ship Crime is docked safely at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Set aboard "Carnivore Cruiselines," this evening involves missing jewels and, you guessed it, a murder that *you* help solve. That's not all though: if you haven't been in a real conga line recently, here's your chance to participate in a theatrical one. Meta. *7 & 10pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $119, couple.* **www.capcitymystery.com**.

GAG REFLEX NEW YEAR'S COMEDY BASH This is Gag Reflex's fourth annual New Year's show, and what with its sold-out track record, you'll need to hustle to get a seat. Forget "Auld Lang Syne," the group's busting out a heavily musical sketch show lambasting such topics as "office fridge cleaning, rabid mimes, Star Trek, pets, therapy, cooties, Laura Bush, the conservative takeover of PBS, diner-speak, Patsy Cline, and the avian flu." That *is* a mouthful. The late show features champagne, door prizes, and free pizza! *7 & 10pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY, 731-3945. $20, 7pm show; $40 ($75, couples), 10pm show.* **www.gagplanet.com**.



THE SMALL STARS & THE WHITE GHOST SHIVERS Go east for one of the evening's most eccentric events. Local favorites the Small Stars and the White Ghost Shivers are presiding over this New Year's spectacular, a circus featuring stilt-walkers, fire dancers, vaudevillian villains, Brazilian martial artists, and freaks of all stripes. It's worth it for its worthy cause, too, with proceeds going to the Handsome Joel Foundation. They're expecting 1,000 attendees, will you be one of them? *8:30pm. Blue Genie Art Industries, 916 Springdale, 444-6655. $45 ($35, in advance).* **www.newyearseve.thesmallstars.com**, **www.whiteghostshivers.com**.

HOLIDAY POPS We're only halfway through, but if you're already weary of the Noughts, let Five by Design transport you back to the Forties with *Radio Days*. The ensemble's breaking out big band *Billboard* chart-toppers to suit all your nostalgic needs. *8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. $25, general; $40, tables.*

KEITH AND MARGO'S 15TH ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY MADNESS Dining, dancing, and death are guarantees at this event. There's no telling who the victims will be, but with the venerable Keith O'Leary and Margo Morrison in charge, you can trust that it won't be an obvious character actor. The duo promise no French maids, no *Clue*-esque punny names, and not one, not two, but three deaths. Go, or Father Time gets it. *8:30pm. Omni Austin Hotel Southpark, 4140 Governor's Row, 888/U-SOLVE-IT. $277 per couple (room not included).* **www.murdermysterytexas.com/austinNYE.html**.

ZACHARY SCOTT THEATRE If you agree with Bill O'Reilly that "Happy holidays" is anti-Christian sloganeering, why not give New Year's the finger by … celebrating Christmas again! Or, heck, if you just happened to be sleeping all month and missed Lee Eddy in *The Santaland Diaries*, Zach Scott's got you covered. *Shear Madness* and Zach's annual *Rockin' Christmas Party* are also playing, so hurry up, before it's Easter season. *Through Dec. 31. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1.* **www.zachscott.com**

stay safe

AMERICAN YELLOW CHECKER CAB Do yourself and everyone else a favor and leave the car at home if you're planning on tying one on tonight. Through their soberRide program, American Yellow Checker Cab is giving free rides to the inebriated this New Year's. Rides must originate within city limits, be under $30 (or you pay the difference), and you must be over 21. Also, this is a ride home, *not* to another bar, you lush, you. *11pm-4am. American Yellow Checker Cab Co., 452-9999.*

AUSTIN DESIGNATED DRIVER We're friends, right? And friends don't let friends drink and drive. Ten percent of all alcohol-related traffic deaths in America take place in Texas. There are a few No. 1 positions we shouldn't be proud of in this state, but this is just pathetic. Do your part to change it. Austin Designated Driver is there to be responsible when you haven't been, and they'll drive your car home for you for the same cost as a cab ride. No excuses. *9pm-3am. 775-2918. $2.95/mile (credit cards accepted).* **www.austindesignateddriver.com**.

CAPITAL METRO Austin's public transportation system has no shortage of socially lubricated passengers on any given day, but you can bet they'll have a surplus tonight. *Regular Sat. schedule.*

for the kids

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM If midnight is past your kiddo's bedtime, the Austin Children's Museum has got you covered with party-hat making, snacks, and balloon drops at noon and 2pm. Put some shades on the little ones and they won't realize it's not quite Eve yet. *10am-5pm. Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. $5.50 ($3.50, kids ages 12-24 months).*

AUSTIN ROCK GYM LOCK-IN Think you'll find a babysitter this New Year's? Not likely. Unless, that is, you want your house transformed into a wild teenage make-out party after the little ones are asleep. Lucky for you, there's the Austin Rock Gym Lock-In, an all-night event where your kids can learn to belay, sweat off those sugar cookies and latkes on the gym's climbing walls, and rock out to their favorite music. Just be sure you're lucid by the 7am pickup time. Sign-up deadline: *Wed., Dec. 28. 8pm-7am. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299.* **www.austinrockgym.com**.

more fun stuff

AUSTIN SOCIAL SCENE Move and shake with the movers and shakers of Austin at Austin Social Scene's 13th annual New Year's Gala. Featuring LC Rocks, the Calico Kings, the Crush, and Taboo. Legend has it that this party is legendary. *8pm-2am. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 331-7890. $35 before Dec. 26, $45 thereafter.* **www.austinsocialscene.com/nye2005.htm**.

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN Spend New Year's riding through the Hill Country on the Twilight Flyer. The four-hour ride includes a buffet, and either the onboard comedian or open bar will have you rolling in the aisles. *Departs from Cedar Park. 9pm-1am. Departs from Cedar Park, 477-8468.* **www.austinsteamtrain.org**.

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN is an alcohol-free arts festival taking place citywide tonight. There are dance, spoken word, and theatre performances, art exhibits, live music, video installations, puppets – more than we can list here. There will be free events outside, and indoor events can be entered with a $10 admission button. Check their Web site for a full program, and your *Chronicle* next week for more detailed coverage. *$10 ($8, advance).* **www.firstnightaustin.org**.

SENIORS' NEW YEAR LUNCH CELEBRATION One step ahead of the rest of us, the JCAA is hosting a New Year's luncheon for seniors the day *before* New Year's. Between you and me, New Year's was sooo three months ago. *Fri., Dec. 30. JCAA Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Ln., 735-8086. $4.*

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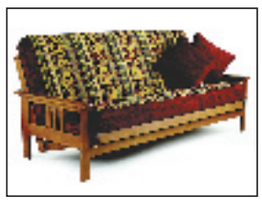
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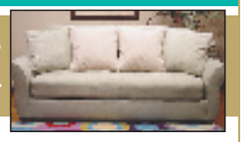


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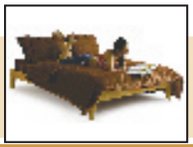


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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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



WYATT HERTZ

Thursday 22

A CHRISTMAS STORY ROAST DUCK FEAST Included with your ticket to see what is arguably the greatest Christmas movie of all time, is a multicourse meal including mashed potatoes (which will be served in time for you to eat them with Ralphy, just like the piggy does) and Chinese roast duck. Plus, the sharpest BB-gun shooter in the audience will take home a life-sized leg lamp to put in the front window. (See Special Screenings) *7pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. $40.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR The Austin holiday market turns the big 3-0 this year. Spend it like you've got it, folks. (See Club Listings) *Through Dec. 24. 11am-11pm, daily. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 447-1605. $3 (weekdays, 11am-7pm); $5 (evenings & weekends); free (children younger than 12).* **www.armadillobazaar.com**.

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS Help build giant insect bicycle puppets and transform your own set of wheels into a crazy bug of your choice! Then, invade Austin's New Year's Parade with a gang of friendly insects! *3-7pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.* **bikesacrossborders@riseup.net**, **www.bikesacrossborders.org**.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Check out the wares of local artist who have set up shop inside Blue Genie Industries. (See Arts Listings) *Through Dec. 24. Opens at 10am, daily. Blue Genie Art Industries, 916 Springdale, 444-6655. Free.*

BOARD GAME NIGHT AT VENTANA DEL SOUL *6pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. Free.*

COMMUNITY DINNER Sup with the folks of the Rhizome Collective. Donations of pots, pans, food containers, spices, and the like are welcome. *Volunteer prep, 4-6pm; community dinner, 6-7pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.*

GIVE BLOOD These vampires will give you juice, cookies, and a free T-shirt. Better than two holes in the neck! Though all blood types are welcome, O negative and O positive are especially needed. *8am-7pm. Blood & Tissue Center of Central Texas, 4300 N. Lamar, 206-1266; hotline, 733-3333. Free.*

Bikes Across Borders, why you buggin'?

(SEE THURSDAY, 12/22)

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT The holidays are the traditional time to give to those less fortunate than yourself. The holidays are also an especially lonely time to be locked-up, away from your home and your family. And, wouldn't you know! IBP receives more thank-you letters from inmates around the holidays than any other time of the year. Help these good people raise funds to answer the more than 600 requests they recieve every month from prisoners in Texas. If you can donate $2, $20, or $200, it will make all the difference to one, 10, or 100 prisoners. In addition to monetary donations, IBP has a great need for packaging materials (e.g. packaging tape and large envelopes), volunteers, and books. Donations: *12th St. Books, 827 W. 12th*. Vonlunteer: *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL have extended the deadline for KAB Awards applications. So, if you know of an individual or organization worthy of some props (or if you're looking for a little boost yourself), now's your chance. Seriously, *now*, because the deadline is tomorrow, *Fri., Dec. 23. 391-0622.* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**.

THE STOREHOUSE Hungry? Broke? Come and eat. *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.* **info@the-storehouse.org**.

ZILKER PARK TRAIL OF LIGHTS FESTIVAL makes the traffic *crazy* on Barton Springs Road. Luckily, Cap Metro offers a shuttle service for you and yours. *Through Dec. 23. 6:45-10:45pm. Between Waterloo and Zilker parks. $2 ($1, kids).*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Gremlins *@ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
1986, **Faceless Werewolves** *Emo's*
Banana Blender Surprise Reunion *Continental Club*

Friday 23

CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH CLASSES *1pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.*

NAVIGATING BREAST CANCER TOGETHER *6-8:30pm. St. David's Health Resource Center, 3000 N. I-35, 472-1738 x100.*

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR *Through Dec. 24. 11am-11pm, daily. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 447-1605. $3 (weekdays, 11am-7pm); $5 (evenings & weekends); free (children younger than 12).* **www.armadillobazaar.com**. (See Thursday 12/22)

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR *Through Dec. 24. Opens at 10am, daily. Blue Genie Art Industries, 916 Springdale, 444-6655. Free.* (See Thursday 12/22)

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL *391-0622.* **www.keepaustinbeautiful.org**. (See Thursday 12/22)

ZILKER PARK TRAIL OF LIGHTS FESTIVAL *$2 ($1, kids).* (See Thursday 12/22)

COMEDY (See Arts Listings)
Matt Bearden *Velveeta Room*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Slugfest Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Gremlins *@ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid*
Sinus Christmas Show *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45pm*

Saturday 24

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET *9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

BOOK BONANZA Free books! Piles and piles! *10am. Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe; Friends Monster Book Store, 1800 S. Fifth, 974-7400.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library/news/nr20030625.htm**.

CAPOEIRA WITH KABULA *2-4pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES *4pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free.* **www.stdave.org**.

FOOD NOT BOMBS feeds people delicious, healthy, and free food. Volunteers are always needed for prep. Cooking: *11am-2pm. House of Commons, 2610 Rio Grande;* serving: *3-5pm. Wooldridge Square Park, Guadalupe between Ninth & 10th.* **fnbaustin@gooutside.net**.

HOLIDAY FAIRE Featuring Santa himself! Plus, William Melstrom's glazed pottery, Melba Martinez's painted roses, Ines Batillo's paintings, perfumes, and glass-blown bottles for the seriously down-to-the-wire last-minute shopper! With live music from the gospel rock group the Gospel Project. *7am-1pm. Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Tony Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free.*

PROMISLEAND HOMECOMING '05 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Haven't you been wondering what

the young ones

BORDERS North Children's story times are always fun. *Thursdays, 10:30am; Saturdays, 11am. Borders, 10225 Research, 795-9553.* **South** Children's story times are always tons of fun *here*, too. *Fridays and Saturdays, 11am. Borders, 4477 S. Lamar, 891-8974.*

HANCOCK RECREATION CENTER offers child care for children ages 3-5. All instructors are CPR/First Aid certified. *Available Mon.-Fri. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765.*

SHOTS FOR TOTS Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services offer free immunizations at two locations. **Far South Clinic**: *Mondays, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic), 8-11:30am; first Saturday of the month (walk-in clinic), 9am-1pm. Far South Clinic, 405 W. Stassney.* **St. John Clinic**: *Mondays & Thursdays, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; Tuesdays, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic), 8-11:30am; third Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm. St. John Clinic, 7500 Blessing. 972-5520. Free.*

NATURAL EAR MUSIC SCHOOL is looking for kids ages 8-13 to join rock & roll bands forming in January. In addition to kid bands, they also offer lessons and rock & roll camps during the winter and summer. *447-5910. $575, semester.* **april@naturalearmusic.com**, **www.naturalearmusic.com**.

GUITAR CLASSES FOR GIRLS taught by a degreed female instructor. Ages 6 and older. *809-7799. Group classes stating at $10 (private classes available).* **emilycmarks@hotmail.com**.

GROUNDWATER ESSAY CONTEST FOR $1,500 SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE Hey, high school seniors. Write an essay about groundwater issues (you know, like pollution prevention, water conservation, or hydrogeology) and yours might be one of the two winning essays selected by an independent evaluation panel. (If you've completed the GED in the past six months, you can give it go, too.) See the Web site for more information. *Essays and applications must be received by March 1. 282-8441.* **www.bseacd.org/scholarship_program.htm**.

CONNECTING CHILDREN TO BOOKS features the wonderful Miss Tiffany with a story each Friday. *Fridays, 10am. Connections Resource Center, 825 E. 53rd Ste. E-101, 478-5725 x214.* **www.connectionscenter.org**.

DADS AND DAUGHTERS PLAYGROUP offers a chance for young girls (ages 2-3) to hang out with their Pops and do sporty things on the weekend. But, since these are nice people, they'd like to stress that it doesn't *have* to be a daughter/dad combo. They don't want to make anyone feel unwanted, after all. Call or e-mail for more info. *Various locations, 990-2624.* **ausitnlabradors@yahoo.com**.

GIANT CHESS GAME Play knee-high chess! Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis (chess skills not required). Plus, another reason to become a Park Pal: You can borrow the set for at-home games. *Saturdays, 12:30-3:30pm.* **www.austinparks.org/volunteer.html**.

FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA *Through Dec. 25. Saturdays, 11am-6pm; Sundays, 2-5pm. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.*

MITCHIE'S STORY TIME features African and African-American folktales with refreshments, a free gift, and 30% off book purchases. *Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1-2pm. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.*

RUTA MAYA KIDS presents a kids show weekly with entertainers like Mr. and Mrs. Mays, the Telephone Company, Col. Josh & His Cowboy Pals, and Drumming With Mr. Steve. Drinks and breakfast items available for sale. *Sundays, 10:30am. Ruta Maya Cafe, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

AMERICAN YOUTH WORKS ENROLLMENT MEETINGS AYW offers a *free* fast-paced curriculum for motivated 16-20-year-old students. *Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm. American YouthWorks, 1900 E. Ben White, 472-8220. Free.*

KWANZAA CELEBRATIONS AT AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY OK. Kwanzaa isn't a Christmas substitute (and, as it happens, neither is Chanukah). Founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of family, community responsibilty, commerce (You too, Kwanzaa? Sigh.), and self-improvement. Celebrate and learn African traditions with Elizabeth Kahura, an educator from the motherland. *Tue., Dec. 27, 3pm. LIttle Walnut Creek Branch, 835 W. Rundberg, 836-8975; Wed., Dec. 28, 3pm. Carver Branch, 1161 Angelina, 974-1010; Thu., Dec. 29, 3pm. University Hills Branch, 4721 Loyola Ln., 929-0551.*

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 Jan. 6 issue is Monday, Dec. 26**. 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**.

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

Diana Welch (everything else): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.

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

this place looks like inside? It's got, like, a movie theatre and stuff. *6, 8pm. Promiseland Church, 1504 E. 51st, 476-7696. Free.* **www.promiselandchruch.net**.

SOUTH MANCHACA ART MARKET *9am-2pm. 11800 Manchaca Rd.* **www.soaustin.com**.

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR *Through Dec. 24. 11am-11pm, daily. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 447-1605. $3 (weekdays, 11am-7pm); $5 (evenings & weekends); free (children younger than 12).* **www.armadillobazaar.com**. (See Thursday 12/22)

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR *Through Dec. 24. Opens at 10am, daily. Blue Genie Art Industries, 916 Springdale, 444-6655. Free.* (See Thursday 12/22)

THE STOREHOUSE *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.* **info@the-storehouse.org**. (See Thursday 12/22)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
A Christmas Story *@ Alamo Drafthouse South, noon*

Sunday 25

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS Come early for a continental breakfast in Smoot Hall, followed by the "Our Joyful Christmas" special music and worship service. Most importantly, bring an unwrapped gift for Any Baby Can, a nonprofit that helps families of children with special needs and initiates new programs in the areas of parenting education, prevention, and advocacy. *Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free.*

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES *10am. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196.* **www.stdave.org**.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING *7pm. 5900 Dunbury, 371-9803.* **www.diamondway.org/austin**.

ESPERANTO CLUB MEETING *3pm. Texpresso, 2700 W. Anderson Ln., 467-9898.* **www.esperantoaustin.org**.







"Best outdoor events."
– The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll

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the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

QUEERY HOLIDAYS! We here at "The Gay Place" are all about the semantics. But, tell you what, if we hear one more "debate" over "Happy Holidays vs. Merry Christmas," we will projectile vomit on the offender. Who freaking cares? Goodwill and well wishes are goodwill and well wishes for fat Santa's sake. Gracious! Be happy someone cares enough to wish you well. Our standard holiday greeting? "Keep the yuletide gay." Thank you, and have a super queer new year. – *The Kates*

Q FOR FELLAS You need only one letter to find Austin's hot new happenin' for guys 18-29: Q. Social support, coming out support, health education, parties, discussion groups, and a variety of other events, all to give all the young dudes the chance to meet new guys and form friendships. Call or e-mail right now for details. *420-8557.* **mp_austin@sbcglobal.net**.

ALLGO WRITING & PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS There's still time to sign up for ALLGO's January 2006 workshop series featuring **D'Lo** from L.A. Actors, writers, get on it! And even beginners: The workshops are intended for you, too. *ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001 x106.* **sharon@sharonbridgforth.com**.

DESTINATION: 2006 Check out Austin's new San Jacinto hot spot getting all jingly for the holidays! Their three nights, three events should have you hitting the holiday "spirits" next weekend and donning all that gay shizzzz: the **Boarding Party** hosted by DJ Chris Allen, **Supersonic** New Year's, and **Touchdown** Retro Tea Dance early New Year's day. *Fri-Sat., Dec. 30-31, and Sun., Dec. 1, respectively. The Cock Pit, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010.* **www.cockpitaustin.com**.

FOODIES Oooooh, it's a Secret! But **Santa** may make an appearance at this week's night out for **Women Who Love Women Who Love Food**! And we've heard that he's sobered up since last year, that naughty ol' elf. Hmmmm. Might be a little tough, seeing as how happy hour, 5-7pm, gets ya half-off all beer imports and wines – including bottles. This e-mail-based social network holds weekly meet-ups, private house parties, and special events for the lay-deez. What better time than the holidays to scootch yourself up next to some fine, warm Kitty? E-mail Kitty to get on the list. *Thu., Dec. 22, 5-10pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos (on Fifth, two blocks east of I-35), 493-0963.* **foodiesaustin@ultraultra.net**, **www.ultraultra.net**.

FABRIC GETS CLASSY Bubbly flowing, boys and girlies upscaled in their "Auld Lang Syne" best, and dancing until that damn ball drops … and well after. Finally, a New Year's that won't suck. Pinch us. We might just be dreaming. *Sat., Dec. 31, 9pm. Fabric, 101 W. Fifth, 322-9333.*

A NEW YEAR'S MASQUERADE Where ringing in the New Year means gloriously peeking from behind a mask, diggin' on belly dancing, oohing and ahhing at a troupe of fire dancing crazy kids, getting your gender bent with the **Kings N Things**, and the world's only walking, talking buffet, **HoCake.** Eating is believing, folks. Do it up right for dinner with a family style meal ($40) or a lower-profile middle eastern buffet ($30). Hang out until the after-show dance party in their new space next door, with tunes by **DJ SeeNSay** and the **T Spot.** Damn. Now *that's* a Happy New Year. *Sat., Dec. 31, 7pm-3am. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692.*

WHEN PIGS FLY Campy. Gutsy. Naughty. That's right, to combat all the turkey dinners and family hub-bubbing, Naughty Austin presents the comic musical that is hitting every hot town on the map with queer fever and costumes, ridiculously flamboyant costumes. Mermaids, Vegas, and gargoyles. Sounds like more fun than your in-laws. *Thu.-Sat., Through Jan. 28. 8pm. Arts on Real Theater, 2826 Real, 472-2787.* **www.artsonreal.com**.

CHARLIE'S FREE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER Come by at noon for some food and fabulousness with Austin's absolute friendliest! Our downtown club, under the glow of the pink dome hosts this totally free afternoon feast. Plus, check out the **SuperSunday Christmas Show**. Then mark the calendar for one week later, for Charlie's **Super Sunday New Year's Show**, with champagne toast. *Sun., Dec. 25, noon. Charlie's, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481.*



HAPPY HEDDA HOLIDAYS! Whether you're coming off a family freak-out or a day alone, pondering the existential abyss, make a plan right now: "I will not let Christmas suck totally; I will mark my calender for 10pm, Rain." Follow the star: **Miss Hedda Layne** and her special 10pm show will make the yuletide merry and bright. *Sun., Dec. 25, 10pm. Rain, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150.*

***For more gay stuff, see Calendar online:* austinchronicle.com.**
***Send gay bits to* gayplace@austinchronicle.com.**

HAPPY LIVING WITH JUSTICE offers a free yoga practice, followed by a meeting to increase awareness on environmental, peace, and justice issues. Locations vary. *4-6pm. 292-8093. Free.* **happylivingwithjustice@gmail.com**.

Monday 26

AUSTIN AGAINST WAR MEETING *7pm. 2107 San Antonio, 323-9778.* **aaw@austinagainstwar.org**, **www.austinagainstwar.org**.

BUTTERFLY FORUM *7pm. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 444-3471.*

CAPITOL CITY HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND offer free lessons at their practices each week. *5:30-6:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 346-3123 or 567-1282. Free.*

CENTRAL AUSTIN TOASTMASTERS MEETING *6-7pm. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2200 Justin.* **www.tmd55.org/centralaustin**.

DEVELOP YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITIES RSVP … with your mind! *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $100, four-week course.*

HEALING CLINIC: HEALINGS WITH CLAIRVOYANT PROGRAM *6:45-7:30pm. Call for exact location, 560-5193.* **intuitiveguide@yahoo.com**, **www.intuitivestudiesaustin.com**.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS MEETING *6:30pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 383-1191. Free.* **www.hillcountryoutdoors.com**.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MEETING Call for location. *327-2802. Free.* **www.oa.org**.

YEAR OF BODHISATTVA RENAISSANCE AWAKENING: A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR LIBERATING ENLIGHTENMENT Awakeners reshape their lives by tapping hidden powers of their bodies and minds. *7-8:30pm. Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. Fifth, 771-3184. $10.* **kayoneill@earthlink.net**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Britcoms: Channel 4 Forever *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*
Head *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, outside of Mission, explodes with activity during the winter months. Not only does the number of human visitors increase, but the wildlife population rises, too. It is no wonder that the World Birding Center is headquartered in the park on the banks of the Rio Grande.

"The weather, birds, and butterflies are our main attractions during the winter," says James Booker, park naturalist. "This is definitely our busy season." With daytime temperatures generally hovering around 70 degrees, the area attracts snow birds in recreational vehicles and migratory birds on the wing escaping Arctic blasts. Even birds from the mountains in Mexico will visit the park to take advantage of the tropical climate.

The 760-acre park is a wonderful place to visit any time of the year; it's just that during the fall and spring migrations and the months in between, the area hosts more species of birds than any other place in the U.S. The thick forest along the river seems to be teeming with birds and butterflies.

More than 300 bird species have been sighted in the brush along the river. Add to that hundreds of butterfly species, some of them extremely rare. A year ago, a Thick-Tipped Greta butterfly was spotted in the park, the first sighting in 100 years according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists. Already this year volunteers have spotted the first U.S. sightings on record of four kinds of butterflies.

You don't have to be a birdwatcher or butterflier to enjoy the park. The fertile river valley and tropical weather combine to create an ecosystem found nowhere else in the U.S. Palm trees tower over desert cacti draped with Spanish moss. Without the near five miles of hiking trails, the forest would be almost impenetrable.

Booker says that the winter is a great time to see mammals in the park because they are more active during the daytime. Armadillos will change from being nocturnal during the cooler weather. The park also has several bobcat, coyote, and javalina – which have generally lost their bad tempers toward hikers, but not their shyness.

To get around the natural area, the park provides a tram that circles the area every 30 minutes during the day. Visitors can rent bicycles or bring their own to travel the paved roads. There are canoes for rent to explore or fish the *resaca*, an old cut-off river channel that has been refilled with water. The park staff also offers nature programs daily.

Leave the driving to us.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

To learn the interesting story of birds on the North American continent, take a little time to explore the museum at the headquarters. The excellent displays in English and Spanish provide a simple education in ornithology and in the ecology of the Rio Grande Valley.

At one time, most of the Lower Rio Grande Valley looked like the lush woodlands of Bentsen State Park. Farming, industry, and urbanization destroyed much of the native ecosystem. Public and private efforts have preserved more than 1,700 acres of natural habitat along 120 miles of the river.

Bentsen State Park is the headquarters and only one part of a string of nine pearls of refuge land stretching from Roma to Brownsville and the Gulf Coast. Each offers its own unique wilderness experience and attractions. If you can only make it to one other site besides Bentsen State Park, Booker recommends not missing the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands. The 40-acre site has six acres of nature gardens that attract wildlife, especially in the evenings when a large number of birds come to roost at the park. "I would call it the 'cathedral' of the birding center," Booker says.

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park is on the west side of Mission off of U.S. 83 at the end of Bentsen Palm Drive. No motorized vehicles, other than park vehicles, are allowed in the park. Visitors are welcome between 7am and 10pm for $5 per person. This is one of the few state parks that have an espresso machine in their snack bar. For more information, call 956/585-1107 or go to **www.worldbirdingcenter.org** or **www.tpwd.state.tx.us**. For information on the area, point your browser to **www.missionchamber.com** or **www.rgvparks.com**.

758th 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.*

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

WALKWAY OF LIGHTS opens for the holiday season with more than 100 lighted sculptures that visitors can walk through and around. *Through Jan. 1. Lakeside Park, Marble Falls, 830/693-2815.* **www.marblefalls.org**.

TESTIGOS DE LA HISTORIA features the works of modern and contemporary Mexican documentary photographers. *Through Feb. 12. Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, Alkek Library, Texas State University, San Marcos, 512/245-2313.* **www.wg.tx.state.edu**.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Bastrop River of Lights, Wimberley's Bullockville Lighting Display, Wimberley's Pioneer Town, Wimberley's Emily Ann Trail of Lights, Hill Country Regional Lighting Trail, *all through Jan. 1.* **www.tex-fest.com**.

LAKE MEREDITH TURNS 40 Explore the Panhandle lake's history from prehistoric artifacts from the Alibates Ruin to water use and natural gas wells. Also see the works of Jim Ward, a painter and sculptor who was once the illustrator for *American Quarter Horse Journal. Through Feb. 19. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, 806/651-2244.* **www.panhandleplains.org**.

TEXAS TALL TALE exhibits folk art and curiosities from the Lone Star State. *Through Feb. 18. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085.* **www.webbgallery.com**.

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT invites everyone to participate in the world's largest and oldest citizen science project. Registration required. *Through Jan. 5. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and various locations, 979/480-0999.* **www.audubon.org/bird/cbc**.

CHRISTMAS TOY SHOW brings out the vintage cars, old toys, and dolls from the days before video games. *Dec. 11-Jan. 1, noon-5pm. Shooting Star Museum, Castroville, 830/931-3837.*

IN THE AMERICAN WEST returns for its anniversary showing 20 years after Richard Avedon unveiled the landmark photographic exhibit. *Through Jan. 8. Amon Carter Museum, 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, 817/332-8451.* **www.cartermuseum.org**.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS fills the glass pyramid greenhouses with thousands of twinkling lights, plus ice skating and holiday music. *Through Jan. 7, including Christmas and Christmas Day, 6-10pm. Moody Gardens, Galveston, 800/582-4673.* **www.moodygardens.org**.

ZWEITE WEIHNACHTEN follows the German family tradition of extending the Christmas party an extra day with family and friends sharing songs and refreshments. *Mon., Dec. 26, 2-5pm. Gillespie County Historical Society, 312 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg, 830/997-2009.*

LOCKHART OPRY features traditional country and gospel music in a relaxed, family atmosphere. *Mon., Dec. 26, 7pm. Lions Club, 220 Bufkin Ln., Lockhart, 512/281-3854.*

BOXING DAY CELEBRATION Boxing Day is the traditional British holiday for giving gifts to those who have rendered a service during the previous year. At the winery, the day is an extension of the Christmas holiday with song, readings, refreshments, and an occasional cannon blast. *Mon., Dec. 26, 10am-5pm. Becker Vineyards, Jenschke Lane, three miles west of Stonewall, 830/644-2681.* **www.beckervineyards.com**.

Ongoing Events

MOTHERS' MILK BANK NEEDS YOUR HELP Calling all dairy queens! The Mothers' Milk Bank accepts donations of surplus milk from healthy breast-feeding women, pasteurizes the milk, and dispenses it by prescription to premature and sick babies, primarily those in the hospital. *494-0800.* **april@mmbaustin.org**, **www.mmbaustin.org**.

SANTA'S RANCH Drive through 10 acres of glowing elves, rocking reindeer, and the like. Get your yule tied on early. *Through Jan. 1, Sun.-Thu., 6-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. South I-35, exit 199. 830/743-1293. $12, vehicle ($10 with nonperishable food item).* **www.santasranch.net**.

HOUSE THE HOMELESS THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE You've got until Christmas to donate $10 and help keep somebody a little bit warmer this winter. Mail your tax-deductable donation to *House the Homeless, PO Box 2312, Austin, 78768, 796-4366.*

FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES is recruiting up to 350 volunteers to provide free income tax preparation for low-income, working families in Central Texas during the 2006 tax season. Check the Web site for training information. *447-2026 x35.* **www.foundcom.org**, **www.communitytaxcenters.org**.

PROJECT HOLIDAY HELP CAMPAIGN Lifeworks has received a record number of requests for help from kids and families in need this holiday season. Call them and see how you can help. *Lifeworks, 1800 Lavaca #110, 735-2222.* **holidayhelp@lifeworksweb.org**, **www.lifeworksweb.org/projectholidayhelp.asp#sponsorapp**.

CONTINUING RELIEF EFFORTS FOR GULF COAST EVACUEES For updated survivor information, resources, and community-action calls, see our Web site. **www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/hurricane2.php**.

HUMAN POTENTIAL CENTER This South Austin nonprofit has a myriad of classes and workshops – from yoga and Reiki to art classes and dream interpretation – just waiting to maximize your potential. Check out the Web site for more info. *Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

ONCE-A-YEAR AUSTIN AVATAR COURSE *Tue., Dec. 27-Wed., Jan. 4. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 447-8560. $80-2,295.* **www.internationalavatarcourse.com**.

Tuesday 27

AUSTIN AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIPS Yes, shredders, it's that time again. Perfect for those too broke to practice on a real guitar, this annual event brings the finest mime-stylings of Austin's rockers to the stage. Check the Web site for a complete list of rules and start prepping those neck muscles. *9:45pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320.* **www.austinairguitar.com**.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING *7pm. Texas Union, UT Campus, 24th & Guadalupe.* **www.diamondway.org/austin**.

GUIDED-IMAGERY MEDITATION *7-8pm. Wellness by Design, 4701 Westgate Ste. C-301. Donations accepted.* **www.wellnessbydesign.us**.

IGNITE YOUR INVENTIVENESS *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $95, supplies included.*

PAST LIVES, PRESENT LESSONS: HOW TO FIND DIVINE LOVE *7-8:30pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. Free.* **www.eckankar-texas.org**.

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION meets monthly and promotes learning and excellence for writers, editors, and illustrators of nonfiction. *6-8pm. MCC Building, 3925 W. Braker.* **programs@stcaustin.org**, **www.stcaustin.org**.

TEXAS OUTDOORS-WOMAN NETWORK MEETING (See "Recreation & Fitness") *6:30pm.* **www.townaustin.org**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Up in Smoke *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*

Wednesday 28

AUSTIN INDYMEDIA COLLECTIVE MEETING Open to everybody, so don't be shy. Austin Indymedia wants to teach you how to make your voice heard. *5-6:30pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.* **www.austin.indymedia.org**.

AUSTIN SINGING INSTITUTE VOCAL LIBERATION CLASS RSVP *7-10pm. Music Lab, 1306 W. Oltorf, 554-8771. $50.* **guy@guymonroe.com**, **www.austinsinginginstitute.net**.

AUSTIN WOMEN IN BLACK encourage all those opposed to war to join them in their weekly vigil. *Noon-1pm. Texas State Capital Building.* **www.austinwomeninblack.org**.

CAPITAL AREA MASTER NATURALIST GENERAL MEETING *6:30pm. Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8180. Free.* **www.camn.org**.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS MEETING *7:30-8:30pm. Shoal Creek Hospital, cafeteria annex, 3501 Mills Ave.* **www.emotionsanonymous.org**.

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN CLASS *6:30-8pm. German-Texan Heritage Society, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. $60, 12 weeks ($50, members).*

TRADITIONAL MAYAN CLAENDAR STUDY with Carlos Cedillo. *6pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **ww.cosmicjaguar.com**, **www.rutamaya.net**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Deep Blue *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*
Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm*

Thursday 29

SING-A-LONG CAROLING WITH JERRY JEFF WALKER AND FRIENDS Gather under the Christmas tree and sing carols with Jerry Jeff Walker, Marcia Ball, Shawn Colvin, Eliza Gilkyson, Dale Watson, Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis, Django Walker, and surprise guests. *8-9pm. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. Free.*

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS *3-7pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.* **bikesacrossborders@riseup.net**, **www.bikesacrossborders.org**. (See Thursday 12/22)

BOARD GAME NIGHT AT VENTANA DEL SOUL *6pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. Free.*

COMMUNITY DINNER *Volunteer prep, 4-6pm; community dinner, 6-7pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.* (See Thursday 12/22)

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695.* (See Thursday 12/22)

THE STOREHOUSE *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.* **info@the-storehouse.org**. (See Thursday 12/22)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
This Land Is Your Land *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*
Up in Smoke *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*

Sports BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN TOROS See "Tip Time" for more. Vs. Arkansas: *Fri., Dec. 23, 7:30pm.* Vs. Tulsa: *Wed., Dec. 28 and Fri., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 236-8333. $8-27.* **www.nba.com/dleague/austin**.

AUSTIN ICE BATS This Wednesday is Lance Armstrong Foundation Night at the Bat Cave so get out your bright-yellow clothing and support a good cause while enjoying some Ice Bats hockey. Vs. Lubbock: *Wed., Dec. 28, 7:30pm. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln., 977-PUCK.* **www.icebats.com**.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Texas State: *Thu., Dec. 22, 7pm. Frank Erwin Center.* **www.texassports.com**.

THE AUSTIN VALKYRIES WOMEN'S RUGBY CLUB It's never too late to join. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9pm; all interested women are invited. *Burnet Middle School, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289.* **www.austinvalkyries.com**.

THE AUSTIN LONESTARS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB, Austin's inclusive men's rugby team, welcomes new players regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or experience. *Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:45pm. Burnet Middle School, 3000 S. I-35, 841-8289.* **www.lonestarsrugby.org**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

HOOPZONE HoopZone is a nonprofit organization committed to providing the best basketball training experience for Austin's youth. Check out their facility – 23,000 square feet of gym space, 11 basketball hoops, a strength and conditioning center, two regulation-sized courts, and much more. Improve your fundamental skills and have fun learning the game. *HoopZone, 826 Rutland, 837-5553.* **www.hoopzone.net**.

THUNDER HILL RACEWAY There are races every Saturday night at this paved oval racetrack in South Austin. *Saturdays, 7pm. 24801 I-35, Kyle, 512/262-1352.* **www.thuderhillraceway.com**.

TEAM TEXAS ADULT SWIM TEAM Swimming training for adults for fitness or preparation for competition, open water swims, or triathlons. *Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:30am, 8:30am, and noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Dell Jewish Community Association of Austin, 327-1280.* **www.swimttex.com**.

WEEKLY CHESS TOURNAMENT All are welcome at this weekly tournament. Cash prizes, yo. *Mondays, 7pm, Dobie Mall, second floor food court. $1 entry fee.*

THE HARVEY PENICK GOLF CAMPUS Holiday Golf Camp Students must bring a bag lunch, however, snacks and a beverage will be provided. This camp is open to youth 7-17 years of age. An entry fee of $100 includes instruction, range balls, course playing time, camp gift/prizes, and snacks. *Thu., Dec. 22, 8am. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 732-0380.* **www.harveypenickgc.com**.

WILD GOOSE QI GONG Wild Goose Qi Gong combines physical and mental techniques to increase and circulate one's "Qi" (internal energy) by interpreting the movements of geese. *Saturdays, noon-12:30pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $5.*

RAINBOW ROLLERSKATING A semimonthly roller-skating event for the gay and lesbian community. A good way to meet new people, have some fun skating, and get a little exercise as well. Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. *Wed., Dec. 28, 8pm. Skate World Northwest, 9514 Anderson Mill Rd., 258-8886. $6.* **www.main.org/rainbowskate**.

ACC SPRING GOLF CLASSES This 18-hour class covers set-up fundamentals (grip and stance) for the short game and full swing. Self-paced; no experience necessary. Evening and Saturday classes forming for January/February *223-7542.* **www3.austincce.due/schedule/wcell/cepfr.htm**.

CHAPARRAL ICE Austin's premier rink folks are offering free first lessons every Saturday for those ages 6 and older. Also, check out their men's, women's, and youth hockey leagues. *Sat., Dec. 24, 11:30am. Chaparral Ice, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. Sat., Dec. 24, 1pm. Northcross Mall. 451-5102. Free.* **Free Hockey Try-It Class** The sport of hockey has been growing steadily in Texas for years now and here's your chance to get in on the fun with this free 30-minute class. *Sun., Dec. 25, 4pm. Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free.* **www.chaparralice.com**.

AUSTIN ROCK GYM has a free ladies' night climbing clinic. *Mon., Dec. 26, 7:30pm. Both locations. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. Free.* **www.austinrockgym.com**.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

THE AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION has plenty of bicycling activities to offer this bike-loving city. Check their Web site for details. **www.austincycling.org/rides.html**.

REI LECTURES & CLINICS Ride Like a Girl The Austin Ridge Riders and Race Like a Girl mountain bike team are hosting a summer program of 15 weekly women's mountain bike rides, plus five weekend rides at local mountain bike trails/parks. This is an opportunity to ride with other women, learn new trails, new skills, build riders' abilities, and much more. *Mondays, 6pm. For more info and directions see* **www.austinridgeriders.com**.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. **www.wildbasin.org**.

Tip Time



Austin's own NBDL team, the **Toros**, is off to a 2-5 start, but that isn't from lack of effort. Their last three games have all gone to overtime and have all been tallied in the loss column. Much like the Houston Rockets at the start to their season, the Toros need to learn how to put their opponents away when given the opportunity or continue to suffer more of these heart-wrenching defeats. The Toros certainly aren't lacking in "name" talent. Texas Tech standout guard **Andre Emmett** is displaying his NBA potential with his scrappy play and strong numbers. He is averaging 15.6 points per game (11th in the NBDL) with a .469 shooting percentage, as well as hitting a late-game shot to send last Saturday's game in Fort Worth to overtime. The addition of **Marcus Fizer** to the roster was quite a coup for the first-year Toros. The Chicago Bulls first-round (fourth overall) draft pick in the 2000 draft, Fizer has been displaying his skills to the delight of the NBDL fans, scoring 17.6 points per game (ninth in the NBDL) while shooting .516 from the field and pulling down seven boards per game (12th in the league). I would expect a call-up to the bigs for either of these two players at some point during the season, so catch 'em with the Toros while you can. Vs. Arkansas: *Fri., Dec. 23, 7:30pm*. Vs. Tulsa: *Wed., Dec. 28 and Fri., Dec. 30, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center.* – *Mark Fagan*

Soccer WATCH

Champions League Round of 16

Chelsea – Barcelona
Real Madrid – Arsenal
Glasgow Rangers – Villarreal
Bayern Munich – AC Milan
Werder Bremen – Juventus
Ajax Amsterdam – Inter Milan
Benfica – Liverpool
PSV Eindhoven – Lyon

Sao Paolo of Brazil won the **FIFA world club championship** on Sunday, beating European champions Liverpool 1-0 in the final of the six-team tournament in Japan.

Pairings for the **European Champions League** Round of 16 were announced Friday. Highlights include three Spain-Britain clashes – **Chelsea-Barcelona**, who may just be the two best teams in the world right now; **Real Madrid-Arsenal**, two struggling giants, one of whom will be out of Europe early and under extra pressure at home; and **Rangers-Villarreal**, a favorable draw for the first Scottish team ever to reach this level – plus two Italy-Germany matchups. – *Nick Barbaro*

A Christmas Carol Roasting on an Open Fire

The Vortex, through Jan. 7

"Dear Mr. Kris Kringle,

All I want for Christmas this year is a Hollywood legend posable action set so that I can do all the voices and play *Christmas Carol*-pretend forever and ever, amen."

That's how a young Rob Nash's letter to Santa might have read, but last year he made that wish come true himself with his version of the mother of all yuletide stories, *A Christmas Carol Roasting on an Open Fire*. Multiple-character solo acts are Nash's specialty, and for his 15th such show, he's lit a fire under Dickens' perennial fable like Austin's problem child with a grill. He's given the role of Scrooge to the quintessential bitch Bette Davis and cast other silver screen queens in the majority of the story's male roles while male movie stars portray the female characters. Every figure is an icon and every moment a cinematic allusion, as Nash spikes Dickens' holiday punch with famous movie quotes, such as Davis' "fasten your seat belts" line when the clock strikes or Humphrey Bogart's "hill of beans" speech from *Casablanca* delivered to Scrooge as the jilted Belle. The humor stems from the black-and-white contrast between a Christmas classic and classic motion pictures. And Nash pulls it off so smoothly, it seems as though it was Dickens' intention all along to have Joan Crawford as Marley Dearest or Mae West as Scrooge's nephew.

Nash first enchanted audiences with the show last December, but he's since refined the script and his impressions of the show's many celebrities. Most of the portrayals are recognizable, but during the show many younger audience members had to refer to their programs, which conveniently lists the characters with the corresponding bigwigs. Someone like me, who may have seen about a third of the 24 films that Nash references, is not left in the dark, especially considering that not all of the actors are of the 1930s era; for instance, Nash puts spitfire diva Megan Mullally of *Will and Grace* fame in the shoes of the Ghost of Christmas Future. It's much more pleasant when you try to guess who's up next and shake your head at the cleverness.

Sporting a sweater, jeans, and Vans, Nash is devoid of red-carpet wear. Nevertheless, the moment he opens his mouth into a drawl as the Ghost of Christmas Past and tells Scrooge that his lip is tremblin,' his everyday clothing melts into Vivian Leigh's barbecue dress from *Gone With the Wind*. The fast pace of the show and particularly of Nash's switches between characters, as when he morphs from Moe to Larry to Curly and back to Moe again, intensifies the sense of madcap revelry.

No matter who's playing Scrooge, the old miser's line to Marley's ghost that he "may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato" still produces a laugh. But to hear it said with Davis sass while Nash lifts up his arm and gestures as if his fingers were covered with wet nail polish is like watching a restoration of *All About Christmas Eve*. – *Patti Hadad*



Rob Nash



J. Damian Gillen portrays not only Ebenezer Scrooge but every single character in his comic adaptation – called *Bah, Humbug!* – of Dickens' holiday heartwarmer.

Theatre

OPENING

BAH, HUMBUG! is based on – what else? – Charles Dickens' classic *Christmas Carol*, with Scrooge and Marley and Cratchit, and all the rest, living and dead, past and present. But in this version? One man – J. Damian Gillen, to be precise – plays *all* the characters. One night only: *Thu., Dec. 22, 7pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 963-8499. Pay what you wish.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty**.

ONGOING

WHEN PIGS FLY Naughty Austin shreds the boundaries of extravagance and camp with this musical comedy revue directed by Blake Yelavich from a script by Dick Gallagher, Howard Crabtree, and Mark Waldrop. Mermaids, show girls, gargoyles, and more. Totally over the top – *any* top. *Through Jan. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787.* **www.artsonreal.com**.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE is the possibly multiple-personality-disordered Rob Nash performing Dickens' classic through scarily spot-on impersonations of Mae West, Judy Garland, Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and the like. How one man can be so talented, one show so delightfully twisted, only Santa knows for sure – and Nash probably has him locked in a dungeon somewhere. *Through Jan. 7. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. (No shows on Dec. 24-25.) The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $10-30.* **www.vortexrep.org**.

SHEAR MADNESS The longest-running comedy in Zachary Scott Theatre's history is back, under the direction of Alice Wilson and Dave Steakley. Paul Portner's script provides murder among the curlers in this funny whodunit where you play armchair detective, uncover the secrets, and help an outrageous cast of characters solve the crime amidst a trendy Austin hair salon. Now with Robert Newell! *Held over through Dec. 31. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. $28-38.* **www.zachscott.com**.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES David Sedaris' acerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with a brand new elf, and OMG! It's *Lee Eddy*! Fresh from her stint in *Keepin' It Weird*, the woman noted as Best Actress in the *Chronicle*'s recent "Best of Austin" issue dons the elfin haberdashery for a show, also featuring the talents of Meredith McCall and pianist Jason Connor, which will turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by who? Yes: Dave Steakley. *Through Jan. 8. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 & 8pm; Sun., 2 & 6pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. $28-38.* **www.zachscott.com**.

ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH's annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-la-ing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Cold Miser's permafrost heart. What's the director's first name? Dave. And you know the rest. *Through Jan. 1. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 2:30 & 7pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1.* **www.zachscott.com**.

DINNER THEATRE

HOW TO MURDER A MERRY MILLIONAIRE Gary Payne's Capital City Mystery Players offer this interactive comedy whodunit to put the tinsel on your tree, know what we mean? And a big ol' pastalicious dinner accompanies the sleuthy shenanigans that *you* help to solve. *Thu., Dec. 22. 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

AUDITIONS

FRONTERAFEST: LATINO ACTORS NEEDED To perform in *Among the Sand and Smog*, a new play about the disappearances and murders of young women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Needed: females (ages 18-45); males (ages 25-30). E-mail résumés and inquiries to the address provided below, or call *569-6101*. **johnsmithatx@hotmail.com**.

FRONTERAFEST: GENERAL Short comic piece needs actors (two male, one female), plus tech/stage manager/director. Pay is minimal. *Call Hal at 278-1365*.

RED CANS is the newest from Rubber Repertory, and they're looking for "physically flexible and/or

petite performers" to help create this daring new show (with rehearsals in January). Dancers and athletes encouraged to audition. Call for appt. *470-1735.* **www.rubberrep.org**.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

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

The Mish Mash Show is a veritable *omelette* of Austin comics, egging you on to new, previously unscaled heights of laughter. *Unscaled*, baybee! Never been *scaled* before! What? No, see, that means that, the heights? No one has, like, *gotten up there* prior to this particular point in time. What? No, girl, it has nothing to do with *eggs*. No, see, that's just the introductory metaphor. Yeah, baby, and the unscaled heights, they're - Oh, baby, now ... I am *not* dissing your lack of education! I *know* you couldn't afford tuition for that final year, baby, I – look, c'mere. No, come *here*, goddamnit. Just, hey - it's *okay*, it's alright. C'mon, knock me some sugar, baby ... *Dec. 22-24. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $4.50-12.*

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).*

Greg "Uncle Earl" Warren hits Cap City with a grand slam of comedy, following openers by Brendon Walsh and Doug Mellard. Now this here's a truly Austin-style comedy knockout off a show, with a feted New Year's celebration, too - check our New Year's Guide for more. *Dec. 27-31. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $4.50-12.*

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

Esther's Follies wreaks some havoc on seasonal tribulations with a preview of the upcoming Governor's race, Tom DeLay's brush with the law, and George Bush's crony Karl Rove dodging special prosecutor's bullets. Much comedy-riddled song and dance, with magician Ray Anderson and featured guest Stuart "Isn't That Carol Channing?" Moulton. *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. $20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional $5 for special reserved seats*.

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688.

Improv Allfer brings you a veritable clusterfuck of Austin improv troupes in one show, battling to see which one's *really* gonna send the old year out in style. You think, what? That they just make this stuff up? *Fridays, 9pm. $6.*

Maestro Your talented Heroes of Comedy and their guests battle it out improv-style from audience suggestions, creating a sort of spontaneity-death-match on the Hideout's upstairs stage. Recommended. *Saturdays, 10:30pm. $7.*

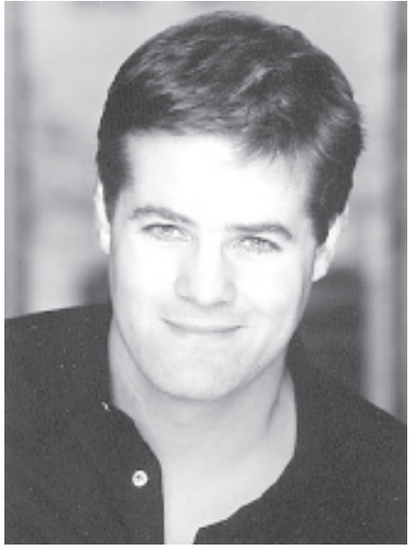
Steel Cage Improv Bars do not a prison make, they say, and so this steel cage is in the mind. But the mind, like love, is one hell of a battlefield. And so's the Hideout's stage as two improv troupes duke it out to determine, evolutionarily, which gets to continue to *next* week's show. Oh baby, the gloves are *off* for this one. *Fridays, 10:30pm. $6.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

Matt Bearden Hey, whoa, it's your old pallie Quentin from MTV's *Austin Stories*. But, c'mon, this Bearden fellow is *so* much more than just that. He's got gags aplenty and a personality fit to charm the pants off your mother-in-law. Drop on in and watch him bring the funny; but maybe leave that mother-in-law at home. Well, unless she looks really *good* without pants, y'know what I'm sayin'? Parley-vous *American Pie*, you sick little monkey? *Fri., Dec. 23, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

Dance

BALLET AUSTIN: THE NUTCRACKER Choreographed by BA artistic director Stephen Mills and set to the music of Tchaikovsky as performed by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, *The Nutcracker* continues to delight children of all ages. More than 150 area schoolkids are involved in the onstage antics, as is this year's crop of celebrity guest Mother Gingers. Arrive 75 minutes early for the free "Footlights" program, during which the night's ballet gets an informal pre-performance discussion. On matinee days, arrive early (12:45pm) for the Kids Corps program about the company and the ballet. *Through Dec. 23. Thu., 7:30pm; Fri., 2pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 469-SHOW. $17-75.* **www.balletaustin.com**.



The boyish charm that is Greg "Uncle Earl" Warren mmmmm-bops its way onto the Cap City Comedy stage, with Brendon Walsh and Doug Mellard blazing the trail.

1,001 NIGHTS

ARARAT Almost every night of the week, beautiful belly dancing accompanies your Mideast feast. *Nightly, times vary. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop. 419-1692.*

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, all ages welcome. *Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. $6 ($4, members, students).* **ABD classes** Five-week sessions, beginners to advanced dancers. *Tuesday & Thursday nights. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. Prices vary*. **www.austinballroomdancers.org**.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Bellydancing (all levels), Flamenco, Salsa/Merengue, Creative Movement for kids 5 to 10 years old, and T'ai-Chi classes are all forming now. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-9900.* **www.luciladance.com**.

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**.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to current, former, and new students (DI, UT, and other), these Ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice with your feet. Parties: *Sundays, 6-8pm*. Practices: *Tuesdays 8-9pm. 8611 Green Valley Dr., 232-2623.* **www.dancein.org**.

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Traditional Swedish and Norwegian dances. Beginners welcome, no partners needed. New classes start every

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 Jan. 6 issue is Monday, Dec. 26**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.

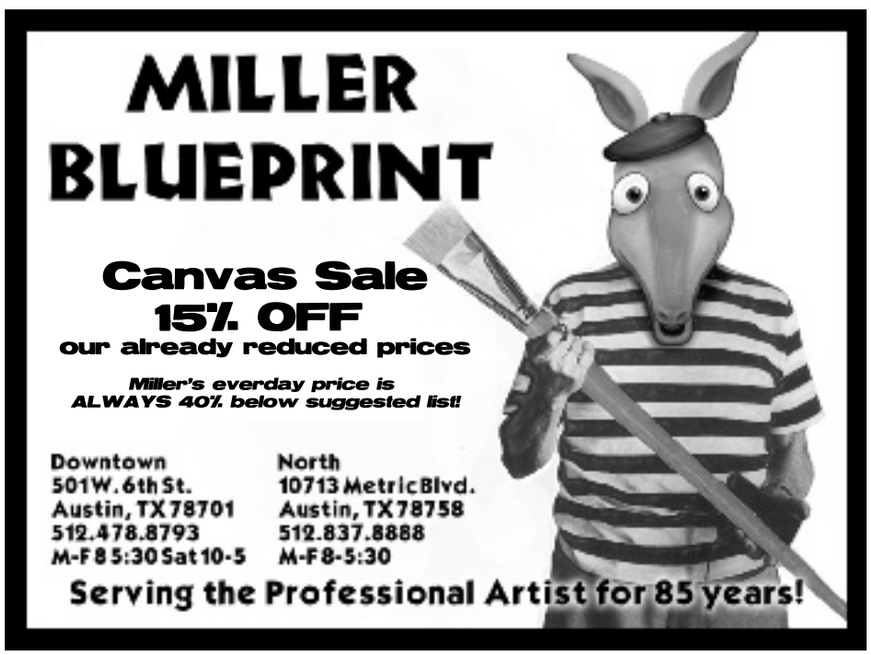
Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical. **dance-classical@austinchronicle.com**.

Ric Williams, litera. **litera@austinchronicle.com**.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. **art@austinchronicle.com**.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor. **brenner@austinchronicle.com**.







month. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. $3.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Learn dances from around the world for couples, singles, and everybody at once. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Frequent live music. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons) followed by an open dance. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. $5.* **www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.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**.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS 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**.

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS *Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. South Austin Senior Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca, 264-2642. $45 ($22.50, youth).*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. $4 ($2, members).* **www.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

NOTES & ENCORES

FIELDWORK: CALL FOR ENTRIES Choreographers, writers, performance artists, actors, comics, acrobats: If you can perform it, Fieldwork wants it. This six-week workshop provides emerging and established artists the opportunity to present works-in-progress to peers, to receive "rigorously honest feedback, in a strictly directed format, as the work develops." It all culminates in performances at Cafe Dance. *Starting Feb. 12. Contact Peggy Lamb for details. 833-0179. $75.* **www.massagepublications.com**.

Classical Music

NOTES & ENCORES

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER: ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC ACADEMY Study and perform chamber music, led by some of Austin's finest classical musicians in one of Austin's longest serving academies. School-age and adult sessions forming for the spring semester. Registration forms, tuition forms, and class information may be found online. Call for appt. Auditions: *Sun., Jan. 8. Ascension Lutheran Church, 6420 Hart, 454-7562.* **www.austinchambermusic.org**.

OPENING

CAROLING AT NOON This Advent season, join guest choirs for noonday caroling. Each concert ends with a candlelight sing-along of "Silent Night." This week: A combination of handbells and women's choir, Canterbury Bells and Magnificat, from St. David's, directed Gail Findlay and David Stevens. *Thursdays, 12:05pm (lunch at 12:30pm). Through Dec. 22. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free concert ($6, with lunch).* **www.stdave.org**.

A LIGHT DUSTING OF ARTS EVENTS FOR A WINTRY WEEKEND When Christmas falls on a weekend day
All the arts groups hibernate
For music, one can meditate
Or hear streaming audio, newly premiered on KMFA
For classicists and dancers all
Xmas stamps a frosty end to fall
But wait a fortnight and then come out in a hurry
When dance and classical music events swirl like winter flurries
(snap snap snap)
Happy Holidays

CLOSING

TEXAS HOLIDAY FAVORITES *Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. Free with exhibit admission.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

ARMADILLO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR celebrates 30 years of art and music. All collectors, gift givers, and music lovers are invited to shop and bop amid eclectic displays that range from the sophisticated to the funky. *Through Dec. 24. Daily, 11am-11pm.* Live Music: *Mon.-Fri., 8-11pm; Sat.-Sun., 12:30-2:24pm and 3:30-6pm.* $3 (weekdays to 7pm); $5 (evenings and weekends); free, ages 11 and younger. *208 Nueces, 263-4146.* **www.directevents.net**.

BLUE GENIE ART BAZAAR Just in time for all your holiday shopping – if you're the sort of person who buys gorgeous, original *art* for your cherished others, that is. Here's an entire warehouse full of it, from some of the city's most creative talents, with the Blue Genie space all decked out and featuring (on weekend nights) live music for your entertainment. *Through Dec. 24. Sun.-Thu., 10am-10pm. Fri.-Sat., 10am-12mid. 916 Springdale, 444-6655.* **www.bluegenieart.com**.

OPENING

SLUGFEST GALLERY presents recent work by Slugfest members. Get some beautiful art for Christmas by members including Allison Aydelotte, Margie Crisp, Tom Druecker, Margaret Simpson, Jill Thrasher, and Eric Zimmerman. Christmas cookies every Saturday afternoon! Exhibition: *Fri., Dec. 23, 1:30-6pm; Tue.-Sat., Jan. 3-31, 1:30-6pm. 1906 Miriam, 477-7204.*

CLOSING

WOMEN & THEIR WORK presents "Stitch in Time," works by nine women artists working in fiber. The broad array of artists' materials encompasses wool yarn, embroidered thread, upholstery fabric, vinyl, and recycled material. *Through Dec. 23. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

ROSEMINN GALLERY Prints and paintings by William B. Montgomery, Margie Crisp, and Helen Kwiatkowski make this slightly out-of-town venue a must-see for the true art aficionado. *Through Dec. 24. 116 Depot, Elgin, 512/285-3478.* **www.roseminn.com**.

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and sometimes (in rotation) others. *12400 Amherst #102. 825-8577.* **www.eyecontactart.com**.

ARS IPSA: TEMPORARY DIVIDERS features assemblage, printmaking, and installation by Logan Hill, Heather Johnson, Laura Latimer, Ted Ollier, Clif Riley, and Emilio Villarruel. *Through Dec. 31. Second & San Antonio, 633-2282.* **www.arsipsa.com**.

2040 GALLERY presents "Small Deeds," new small works by ex studio mates Laura Garanzuay and Mo Scollan. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 24. 2040 S. Lamar, 912-0902.*

ART ON 5TH: CRITTER ART This popular space gets its animal on for the holidays, with 10 artists and their creations conjuring up a veritable bungle in the jungle. *Through Dec. 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.* **www.arton5th.com**.

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 Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770.* **www.austinbluemoon.com**.

BLUE SKIES FRAME COMPANY "Landscapes of Death Valley" showcases the photography of Gordon MacGregor in the Let's Get Small Gallery. *4408 Medical Pkwy., 302-4779.*

THE FACE OF TEXAS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL O'BRIEN includes 43 of O'Brien's large-scale photographs that celebrate the individuality and independent spirit of Texas through portraits of its people – a fascinating and diverse array of native and adoptive Texans, from powerful big-city movers to unique small-town characters. *Through Jan. 8. 1800 Congress, 936-8746.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.



The intricate work of Jill Thrasher – such as pictured here – is among the printly treasures at Slugfest Gallery as one year segues into another.

CAMP FIG: BILL IVEY VS. THE FUTURE See what happens when four artists (Tim Brown, Lance McMahan, Josh Rios, and Enoch Rios) challenge Bill Ivey, conceptual sage and professor of art at Texas State, to a duel at sundown. Hint: It'll *fill* this downtown space. *Saturdays, 1-5pm, through Dec. 31. 305-B E. Fifth, 698-0327.* **www.campfig.com**.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591.* **www.serieproject.org**.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: HEYDAYS is a multifaceted series of events and participation opps presented by students at UT's Department of Art and Art History for the Austin public. Definitely check their Web site! *Through Jan. 14. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.* **www.uts.cc.utexas.edu/~crlab**.

CULTURAS DE ARTE is a new gallery featuring Mexican folk art (statues, paintings, home decor, masks, and more) as well as unique works by proprietor Julian Orozco. *3311 N. I-35 Ste. C, 473-2302.* **www.artcultures.com**.

D BERMAN GALLERY presents "Billow & Fold," a series of new paintings by Austin artist Sydney Yeager, whose vividly hued paintings continue to evolve and delight. *Through Jan. 2. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

DIAZ GALLERY presents fresh work by Ebbessen Davis, Rick Van Dyke, Aaron Speyer, Nicole Filz, Stephanie Freedman, Blake Yantis, and Christopher Fitzgerald. *Through Jan. 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.*

F8 FINE ART GALLERY presents "The Fourth Season," with works by painter Ray Donley and fine art photographer Rosanne Olson. Donley unveils haunting portraits executed in his rich Baroque style. Olson proves to be part shaman, part shutterbug by merging animal intuition with human form in dark fairytale images. *Through Dec. 31. 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242.* **www.f8fineart.com**.

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO Functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100.* **www.fireislandglass.com**.

FLUX GALLERY presents "The Best of 2005," 35mm photography by Rey Shaun Maldolora. *Through Jan. 13. 2401 E. Sixth, Bldg. 2, 320-0753.* **www.austinfluxstudio.com**.

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim Francois. *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI'S XMAS EXPO offers the unique wares of fine art from more than 50 area artists, including Alejandra Almuelle, Tom Besson, Nancy Lay, Sharon Smith, and Rick Van Dyke. *Through Jan. 7. 910 W. Third, 481-1088.* **www.gallerylombardi.com**.

GALLERY SHOAL CREEK presents new work by longtime gallery artists Priscilla Hoback and Tony Saladino. Works include monotypes and abstractions. Exhibition: *Through Jan. 14. 1500 W. 34th, 454-6671.*

GALLERY SOCO carries original art in various media, currently featuring works by Sylvia Angeli, Cheryl Tamborello, Jeff Scott, Lisa Fittipaldi, and others. *1714-A S. Congress, 442-5144.*

HARRY RANSOM CENTER "Ansel Adams: A Legacy" is an exhibition of 126 photographs that Adams assembled to demonstrate and commemorate his life's achievement in photography; it's the largest known collection created by Adams. *Through Jan. 1. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* **www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC**.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100.* **www.kwomack.com**.

LAS AMERICAS FINE ARTS GALLERY presents new paintings and sculptures by artists from the Austin area, Mexico, and Peru. Artists include Bob Coffee, Rick Calzadilla, Drew Randall, Tim Donovan, Ofelia Michil, and Augusto Brocca. For more information call 971-3643 or 467-7481. *1103 E. Sixth.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY presents "Slacker Economy," a solo exhibition by Conrad Bakker, featuring hand-carved and painted reproductions

of consumer products. Included in this exhibition will be 30 carved VHS video tapes of Richard Linklater's 1991 film, *Slacker*. *Through Jan. 7. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965.* **www.lorareynolds.com**.

MANUEL'S MICRO GALLERY presents "Brenda Ladd: Musical Legends," art-brushed photo paintings. Works include the likes of Dr. John, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, and Marcia Ball. *Through Jan. 17. 310 Congress, 472-7555.* **www.manuels.com**.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM presents the many wonders of "Collecting Latin American Art." *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373.*

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**.

OSWALD GALLERY presents Jerry Uelsmann, legendary pioneer of photomontage and multinegative printing, and Maggie Taylor, renowned contemporary photo collage artist. Uelsmann and Taylor, married since 1989, represent the polar opposites in photographic process; Uelsmann works in the darkroom, while Taylor works digitally. *Through Jan. 3. 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**.

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.*

REFLECT TIME is a video installation by Sally Weber. This inaugural piece of First Night Austin's New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts will be installed in the windows of the Scarbrough Building and shown daily from dusk to midnight. *Through Jan. 15. 101 W. Sixth, 477-7884.*

THE VARIETY SHOW presents the varied concepts and mediums of local and not-so-local visual artists, as curated by Mike Parsons and friends, in near phantasmagoric proportions at that new gallery called Shiny Object. *Through Dec. 31. 509 W. 18th, 469-5901.*

STUDIO 107 presents "Holiday Punch," featuring the work of Bennie Flores Ansell, Candace Briceno, Jonas Criscoe, Leona-Scull Hons, Brian & Stella Alesi, and many more in this highly recommended show. *Through Dec. 31. 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092.* **www.studio107.com**.

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN & MUSEUM presents "Modernist: Seven From the University of Texas." Works by David Adickes, Constance Forsyth, Seymour Fogel, John Guerin, Charles Umlauf, and Donald Weismann. *Through Dec. 30. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582.* **www.umlaufsculpture.org**.

URBAN ROOTS GALLERY presents "Confession" by E. Moises Diaz, exploring everyday emotions through abstracted acrylics on paper. *1202-A W. Sixth.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART presents oodles of new drawings by Jad Fair, co-founder and front man for the legendary punk rock band Half Japanese, whose paintings and paper cuttings have been exhibited throughout the world. *Through Dec. 31. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613.*

SPACES

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**.

ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE presents "Mardi Gras & New Orleans," paintings by Cara St. Marie. *Through Jan. 17. 314 W. 17th, 469-0380.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY features tropical butterflies artfully displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT presents award-winning Mexican-American artwork and children's books. *Through Jan. 31. 3600 Presidential Blvd., 369-6600.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/newairport**.

CAFE JOSIE displays the innovative photography of Bruce Hop. *1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226.*

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. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

CROFTS ORIGINAL presents new jewelry in gold and silver by local artist Michelle Podell of Zahava Kala. *1714 S. Congress, 445-6308.*

LAS AMERICAS FINE ARTS GALLERY presents new works by Peruvian painter and sculptor Augusto Brocca. Current Hours: *Weekends and by appt. 1103 E. Sixth.*

LA PENA: RUG HOOKING PROJECT Hooked rugs from the *Mujeres en Cambio* group of San Miguel de Allende decorate the walls of this downtown eatery. *Through Dec. 23. 211 Congress, 472-9357.*

LITTLE CITY DOWNTOWN New works of abstract photography by Angie Steding, concentrating on the "microcosms of everyday life." *Through Dec. 31. 916 Congress, 476-2489.* **www.angiesteding.com**.

MAGNOLIA CAFE presents the paintings of Cara St. Marie. *Through Nov. 28. 1920 S. Congress, 445-0000.* **www.cafemagnolia.com**.

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE presents paintings and sculpture by Augusto Brocca, Rachel Koper, Drew Randall, M. Raja, Shekar Roy, Douglas Brown, Jose Perez, and Youryoni Mylingham. *Through Jan. 31. 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888.*

NORWOOD GALLERY presents new works by AVAA artists Avram Dumitrescu, Ann Naylor, Christopher Hynes, Greg Campillo, Hayden Dunham, Taylor Winn, Walker Winn, Melanie Hickerson, Vee Sawyer, Oscar Silva, Bob Coffee, and Luis Abreux. Exhibit is on view 24/7 at the street-level gallery windows. Exhibition: *Through Dec. 28. 114 W. Seventh St.*

ROADHOUSE RELICS is a vintage-neon gallery and studio where artist Todd Sanders creates neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. *1720 S. First, 442-6366.* **www.roadhouserelics.com**.

PSYCHEDELIC RELICS is a collection of posters, prints, and paintings by R. Thies. *Through Jan. 4. 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

WET SALON presents portraiture and figurative work of women by David de Lara. *Through Dec. 31. 1109 S. Congress, 444-7375.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AUSTIN ART IN PUBLIC PLACES is issuing a Request for Qualifications to Texas artists interested in creating unique artwork for the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The budget for the project is $120,000. The complete RFQ is listed on the AIPP Web site. Deadline: *Jan. 6*. COA is also seeking works for the "People's Gallery" at City Hall. Deadline: *Jan. 6. 505 Barton Springs Rd. #850, 974-9312.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp**.

DIVERSEARTS is gearing up for its 17th annual Austin Jazz and Arts Festival. They're seeking volunteers to assist with preproduction and various responsibilities during the event. All inquires should be addressed to Harold McMillan via e-mail, and specify "Volunteer" in the subject line. *1705 Guadalupe #234, 477-9438.* **info@diversearts.org**.

IRON GATE STUDIOS DARKROOM offers their black-and-white darkroom with 24-hour access for $75 a month. Check their Web site for details. *2205 E. Fifth, 495-9994.* **www.irongatestudios.org**.

JORDAN GALLERY & STUDIOS Located in the retail section of Main Street in Smithville, Texas, this 1909 building has been completely remodeled and is now available for studio rental. Contact the proprietors via e-mail. *657-2491.* **jordangallery@austin.rr.com**.

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE is seeking submissions for a group exhibition. Two-dimensional work can be up to 8-feet-by-6-feet, and some 3-D works are acceptable. For more information contact Rick at **pictures_98@yahoo.com**. *311 W. Sixth, 236-9888.*

SPIRIT ECHOES ART FESTIVAL out in Round Top has extended the deadline for artist applications: *Jan. 2*. Check their Web site or call Melodie Spears Schmidt for more: *512/345-0706. 701 Brazos, in lobby of Omni hotel, 320-1492.* **www.spiritechoes.com**.

CALL-FOR-WORKS for the very first All Horny Toad Art Show! All forms of media will be accepted. The only rule is that there must be a horned lizard (the Texas state reptile) somewhere in or on the piece of art. Three categories: Professional, Amateur, and Youth, with prizes for each category and cash prizes for the professional category winners. Entrance fee is only $5 for everyone over 19 years old and free to those under. Event: *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 4-5, 10am-4pm*. For more information visit **www.hornedlizards.org** for application. Mail to *HLCS, PO Box 122, Austin, TX 78767 or contact Bill Brooks, 581-0377 or* **bgbrooks@mail.utexas.edu**. *805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 327-7622.* **www.wildbasin.org**.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK is soliciting proposals for individual and curated group exhibitions for its Gallery Artist Series to begin in January 2007. Find requirements and application at **www.womenandtheirwork.org/callfor.htm**. Deadline: *March 10, 2006, postmark. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

NOT ONE HELL OF A LOT going on in this section at this time of year, as all the touring and lecturing writers, attached to some grand university or otherwise, seem to shrivel deep into the rugose folds of whatever passes for home, there to pen (or, more likely in these modern times, *type*) the tomes that will afford them fame and fortune (or, more likely, *heartbreak and penury*) in the year that lies ahead. Think of them, these poor, compulsive scribblers, toiling away in their ill-lit, scotch-fueled, self-consciously erudite stupors while you carouse with neckless abandon on the frost-limned streets of holiday cheer. Think of them, won't you? And, yes, we did mean *neckless*.

WRITING ON THE AIR celebrates the holidays with a discussion of the work of James Rice, a Texas-based illustrator. Susan Daniels interviews. *Sat., Dec. 24, 4-4:30pm. 91.7FM KOOP.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents the new Texas Poet Laureate Alan Lee Birkelbach in a reading at the Poetry Society of Texas' 2005 festival. Texas Nafas airs every *Saturday 11am and 10pm on Channel 16*. **farid@texasnafas.org**.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

STORY CIRCLE NETWORK is a nonprofit organization for women, offering monthly reading and writing circles and more, in North, Central, and South Austin. *454-9833.* **www.storycircle.org**.

FREE BOOKS FOR AUSTIN Regifting that rocks. The Friends Monster Book Store gives away free books every Saturday. *Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe. The Friends Monster Book Store, 1800 S. Fifth. 974-7400.*

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK is a supportive group of writers open to anyone struggling to get that stubborn writing project going, as well as to those who want a fresh critique on their completed work. No membership fee. *Tuesdays, 4:30pm. Note the new location. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872.* **groups.yahoo.com/group/austinwritersblock**.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

D'LO This L.A.-based performance artist will conduct a series of writing and performance workshops, Jan. 4-30. Workshops conclude with a staged performance at the end of January. Workshop themes are: Female Masculinity, Writing for Solo Stage Performance, and Creative Spirit: Activate! D'Lo is a Tamil Sri Lankan-American, political performance artist, and music producer. Her work includes comedy, hip-hop theatre, dance, poetry, and music. She has trained in South Indian music and dance in addition to her degree in ethnomusicology from UCLA and additional training in NYC in sound engineering. *ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-1001 x106.* **sharon@sharonbridgforth.com**.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE BALCONES POETRY PRIZE is accepting submissions. The $1,000 award recognizes an outstanding book of poetry published between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2005. Books must be of 42 pages or more. Send three copies; books must bear a publication date. Reading fee: $20. Checks payable to Austin Community College. Address: *John Herndon, Associate Director, Balcones Center for Creative Writing, Austin Community College, 1212 Rio Grande, Austin, TX 78701.* Deadline: *Jan. 31.*

FARFELU is a new nonprofit magazine devoted to the work of Austin writers and artists, seeking submissions for its first 2006 issue. Editors Elisabeth McKetta, Kim Pyle, and Michelle Lee seek work in all genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, paintings, drawings, cartoons, and photographs. Check their Web site for more. Deadline: *Jan. 1.* **www.farfelumagazine.com.**

YOUTH POETRY ANTHOLOGY The Austin International Poetry Festival is accepting submissions for its yearly juried Youth Poetry Anthology. Students who have poems chosen for the anthology receive one copy of the anthology and are invited to read their poem at the Youth Showcase on the last day of the festival. Open to all students K-12. See their Web site for details. Deadline: *Feb. 1.* **ww.aipf.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, 300 Allen, 385-3695.* **www.rhizomecollective.org**.

OPEN MICS

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE is hosted by B. Fran. *Wednesdays, 8:30pm. Antonio's Tex Mex, 7522 N. I-35.* **www.southflavas.com**.

AUSTIN JAVA COMPANY features open-mic poetry and spoken word with your hosts, Rhiannon and Christopher Robin. *Thursdays, 6-10pm. Austin Java Cafe & Bar, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829.* **www.austinjava.com**.

CAFFEINATED POETRY (with added live music) is a new open-mic venue open to musicians and poets. Hosted by Thom the World Poet. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.*

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**.

GENUINE POETRY is hosted by Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. *Mondays, 7-9pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576.* **www.genuinejoe.com**.

HIDEOUT MIC is always an Open Universe event with your newest host, Bevin Shaw. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry.* **www.thehideout.org**.

POETRY@LA TAZZA FRESCA features Ian Evans, Lyndoria Davis, and Edgar Pace. Round robin open mic after the featured readers. Hosted by Kathleen Romana and johnniZanni. *Fri., Dec. 23, 7p9pm. La Tazza Fresca, 519 W. 37th, 453-0403.*

RUTA MAYA is hosted by Aaron Sanders and Mark Maslow. Bring canned food for the Poets' Pantry. *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, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

MISCELLANEOUS

MONSTER BOOK SALE is the Friends of the Austin Public Library's annual fundraiser. Every week until they stop. One dollar for paperbacks and children's books, $2 for hard covers, with hundred of books, CDs, DVDs, and more to choose from. *Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-2pm; Thursdays, 7-9pm. 1800 S. Fifth in the old South Austin Post Office. 440-1241.*

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND CALENDAR, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the School for the Blind, can be found at 12th Street Books and Curio Corner Books. $15 buys a fine collector's item, glimpses into the history of a local landmark, rare photos, and support of a worthy cause. **www.tsbvi.edu/school/sesq**.

MORE POETRY! *& the season darkens & the lights like ribbons of snakes from the garden of the eternal spread their message of change. shed the old skin; milk these last days of what has been & tongue the air of a new dawn crisp & bright like angel's fire–circle of paradise & only the nakedness of sorrow crawls like god's own shame into the place of all that is longing to be at last forgotten & all hail the new lords & ladies of wide eyes & fierce truth, a deep compassion for all that breaks like the hearts of fragile & lovely lonely souls*. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Pouring out the other world Intense and suddenly sublime The glowing flame of biblical fire Washes through this open land But your hands Flowing over my silky smooth – this – inside these ashes barely cooled Will be our wanton victory.

– Kristi Sprinkle

Ushpizin



D: Giddi Dar; with Shuli Rand, Michal Bat-Sheva Rand, Shaul Mizrahi, Ilan Gannai, Avraham Abutboul. (PG, 90 min., subtitled)

The Israeli comedy *Ushpizin* begins something like Guy Ritchie's *Snatch* and ends like the Coen brothers' *Raising Arizona* – in between it's a wholly original movie, the first film (so far as I know) set and filmed entirely within the insular realm of Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox Hasidim. Forget *A Price Above Rubies* – the real jewel that everyone seems to be coveting in the holy city is a lumpy yellow citrus fruit known as the ethrog. The bitter citron plays a key role in the Jewish holiday of Sukkoth, a thanksgiving for the autumn harvest that is symbolically commemorated by observant Jews by moving out of their homes and into temporary shelters known as sukkahs for the duration of the weeklong holiday. For the less observant this usually means a hastily lashed-together assemblage of sticks and reeds, but for poor-but-penitent Rebbe Moshe (Rand) and his wife, Mali (Rand's real-life spouse, Michal), it means moving their entire household into a sturdy, respectable sukkah in the middle of their neighborhood. Without money, however, there's no way to do that, much less pay off the landlord whose persistent knocking is driving the childless pair to distraction. Clearly, a miracle is called for, and after much fervent prayer from both husband and wife, a pair of miracles manifest in the form of an anonymous 1,000 American dollars slipped under their door and the unexpected but rebbe-sanctioned use of an idle sukkah from another part of town. It's all the happy couple can do not to explode from joy over their good fortune – or, possibly, from Mali's ceaseless culinary wizardry. Yet woe of a certain sort follows quickly on the heels of their luck in the form of two gregarious prison escapees: Eliyahu "Scorpio" (Mizrahi) and Yossef (Gannai), who know the once-wayward Moshe from the proverbial bad old days. Abiding by their duty to Talmudic scripture, which commands that all Sukkoth guests be welcomed with open arms no matter who they are or how dodgy their pasts and their loyalty to one another, Moshe and Mali find themselves tested as no couple has been since Abraham and Sarah, who, as Mali wryly observes, also had to endure some very Job-like trials before they, too, could conceive a child. For all its obvious religious overtones, *Ushpizin*'s basic setup is as secular as they come. The shekel-less young couple might as well be in Crown Heights as Old Jerusalem – or Sheboygan, for that matter – and their fortunes, both good and ill, will be instantly familiar to anyone who's ever struggled to keep hearth and home together in the face of fiscal malaise. Rand, who also wrote the witty, breezy script, is a formidable name on the Israeli stage and screen, who abandoned his craft for the real-world rigors of the Hasidim he so ably portrays in this film (for which he sought and received a special rabbinical dispensation to perform in). The film rests squarely on the backs of Rand and his wife, who snatches the spotlight from her professionally trained husband in her acting debut. Tellingly, the film's title translates as "guests" in ancient Aramaic, which echoes not only the couple's household but the overarching Torah message of the transient nature of worldly life. And that's something almost any religious group can identify with, even if your only higher spiritual calling is true love. – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Dobie

New Reviews

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

D: Adam Shankman; with Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt, Eugene Levy, Piper Perabo, Carmen Electra, Eugene Levy, Hilary Duff, Tom Welling, Alyson Stoner. (PG, 100 min.)

It's the snobs vs. the slobs! And this holiday's no picnic! Choreographer-turned-director Shankman (Martin-starrer *Bringing Down the House*) takes the wheel of this unasked-for sequel, which fuses the original concept with the well-worn formula of the family-vacation romp (think *Summer Rental* and *The Great Outdoors*). On the halcyon shores of Wisconsin's Lake Winnetka, we find once more intrusive, loathsome yuppies (Levy and Electra), meddlesome rodents (a kleptomaniac CGI mouse nicknamed "The Chiseler"), and a stuffy country club whose doyen battles our heroes for some kind of trophy in the third act (you have seen *Summer Rental*, correct?). The filmmakers stop short of actually exhuming John Candy, for which viewers can be thankful, but they're otherwise shameless. When Tom Baker (Martin) corrals his brood of 12 for old-fashioned bonding up at the lake, the gang promptly runs afoul of Jimmy Murtaugh (Levy, the perennial B-comedy go-to guy), a corporate blowhard who owns the surrounding property with his blow-up trophy wife (Electra, who gamely makes sport of herself). There's various business involving some of the children (Perabo is pregnant; Duff is moving to New York; tomboyish tween Sarah [Stoner] has a first crush on one of the Murtaugh boys), but the others remain undifferentiated. (I liked the fat kid who wears a series of ironic T-shirts, but his role in the movie is unclear.) Meanwhile, the two dads compete to see who can be more obnoxious to his children. Generally I like a movie that characterizes the rich as pushy, soulless, competitive, authoritarian jerks with poor taste who never actually have fun, and there's a staggeringly candid moment in which the two moms cry into their grocery carts about how they actually have no idea what they're doing and are in fact confused and miserable. Points also for the movie's message: "There's no way to be a perfect parent but about a million ways to be a good one," says new mom Perabo *(Coyote Ugly)*, who then goes on to buckle a newborn into a front-facing car seat. Hunt is marvelous and down-to-earth – at mealtime she throws food across the table to her hungry kids – but the rest of the movie is as funny as mildew, unless you really like watching Martin dance like a dork and get socked in the scrotum, or you really need to see Electra getting humped by a dog. There was a time in our nation's history when watching Martin and Levy logrolling would be comedy gold, but that time is past – now it's just ado before getting socked in the scrotum. The product placement is particularly egregious, even if we charitably accept the appearance of Duff (who looks as tanned and raw as buffalo jerky) as something other than product placement. Ostensibly the film's holiday release is meant to breathe summery life into your winter vacation, but really this sequel needs a sitting-duck family audience. In the dog-eat-dog summer season, it'd be hamburger. – *Marrit Ingman*

★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

D: Dean Parisot; with Jim Carrey, Téa Leoni, Alec Baldwin, Richard Jenkins, Jeff Garlin, Richard Burgi, Angie Harmon. (PG-13, 90 min.)

When the first version of this movie appeared in 1977 it starred George Segal and Jane Fonda and meshed perfectly with its times – a little countercultural, a lot class-conscious, and a touch subversive. This remake arrives starring two of today's most prominent comedy top-liners, Jim Carrey and Téa Leoni, but the movie is missing any insidious edge: There is nothing subtle or understated about this new movie's comedic thrust. It lays the basic plot and then tromps up and down on it. The story, about an upper-middle-class married couple who hit an unexpected downturn when the husband loses his job due to the corporate malfeasance of others, seems perfectly suited to our current era of corporate scandal as names like Enron, WorldCom, and Adelphia have become synonymous with white-collar banditry and crimes against the underclasses. Although hewing pretty closely to the original's basic storyline, the remake shares little of the realism and down-to-earth humor that made the original work so well. In both cases, the couples turn to bank robbery to solve their financial crises, but in the new version the crimes are so overblown and badly staged that it's impossible to believe they actually get away with them. Carrey is in one of his more volatile and frenetic modes here, behaving as though he's acting out every idea that pops into his head. There's little modulation to his character, and at times he's so obnoxious that you might want to root against him rather than sympathize with his underdog status. Leoni needs to start studying the scripts she's offered more carefully, as her recent comedy outings in James Judd Brooks' *Spanglish* and Woody Allen's *Hollywood Ending* have simply done her wrong. Meanwhile, following his turn in *Elizabethtown*, Baldwin seems to have become the new go-to guy to play corporate executives. *Fun With Dick and Jane* is co-writer Apatow's follow-up to this summer's smash comedy, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, although it's not likely his new film will find similar success. However, Carrey brings so much to this movie that isn't on the written page, and yet so little of it appears to be an improvement. The actor needs a stronger controlling influence to keep his incessant spontaneity in check, which doesn't seem likely to happen now that he's moved into producing with this film and his previous comedy *Bruce Almighty*. It's all well and good to run a scroll of corporate evildoers at the end of the film as in *Dick and Jane*, but if these robber barons were skewered properly along the way, such heavy-handed, last-minute tactics wouldn't be necessary. Carrey delivers farce when what is needed is satire. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

web extra

Online Reviews

Check online Friday for the following full-length reviews:

Munich (R)

The Producers (PG-13)

Rumor Has It ... (PG-13)

Wolf Creek (NR)

THE KEEPER: THE LEGEND OF OMAR KHAYYAM

D: Kayvan Mashayekh; with Bruno Lastra, Moritz Bleibtreu, Rade Serbedzija, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Simpson, Marie Espinoza, Adam Echahly, Puya Behinaein, C. Thomas Howell. (PG, 95 min.)

Houston-based, Iranian-born filmmaker Mashayekh seeks to expose the broader public to the story of the pioneering 11th-century mathematician, astronomer, and poet, and thereby remind Western audiences (who tend to be forgetful about these things) that there's more to Iran and the Middle East than suicide bombers and hummus. It's a noble undertaking: We owe not only our system of time measurement to the Persian polymath but also much of our science and art. It may sound like a stretch but it's all too probable: If not for Khayyam's breathtaking breakthroughs in cubic equations and algebra, there'd have been no first man on the moon and, minus his equally fine ear for a handsome turn of phrase, no *Rubaiyatt*. No loaf of bread, jug of wine, or thou? It's a pretty persuasive argument for the reintroduction of Khayyam's life and work to the currently media-supersaturated mindset. Mashayekh's film is no epic poem, however, although it tries mightily to be so. Shot in Uzbekistan, in the same area where Khayyam once lived, and Houston, where the film's ponderous modern storyline takes place, *The Keeper* suffers from a surfeit of scattershot acting and clunky narrative devices that usher the viewer back and forth through time with all the subtlety of a culture clash. Bromides abound in the tale of the scholarly Khayyam (Lastra) and his friendship and eventual break with best friend and confident Hassan Sabbah (Simpson) over the lovely slave girl Darya (Espinoza). Called to court by the Sultan Malikshah (Bliebtreu), who seeks an astrological adviser before the coming Crusades, Khayyam struggles to obey his three guiding principles of manhood – shoot straight, ride well, never tell a lie – while also keeping his considerably secular head as those around him consistently lose theirs. Meanwhile, back in Houston, the dying Nader (Behinaein) regales his 12-year-old brother Kamran (Echahly) with the story of the life and times of the great man. The wraparound storyline is unnecessary and continually interrupts the vastly more interesting story of Khayyam's history. Still, Mashayekh's film is notable for its breathtaking Uzbek scenery, much of which remains as it was when soaring amongst the stars was but a dream in a Persian poet's eye. – *Marc Savlov*

★★ Dobie

Openings

Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG)

Fun With Dick and Jane (PG-13)

The Keeper: The Legend of Omar Khayyam (PG)

Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)

Munich (R)

The Producers (PG-13)

The Ringer (PG-13)

Rumor Has It ... (PG-13)

Ushpizin (PG)

Wolf Creek (NR)

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



Memoirs of a Geisha

GALAXY THEATRES
HIGHLAND 10 I-35 & Middle Fiskville Rd. 512-467-7305
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NARNIA SHOWN IN FANTASTIC DIGITAL PROJECTION!! DLP CINEMA
RUMOR HAS IT... (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
RUMOR HAS IT... (PG–13) Sun. - Thu. 10:15 12:40 2:55 5:05 7:20 9:35
OPENS CHISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
★ CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE (PG) *PRESENTED IN DLP DIGITAL* Fri. & Sun. - Thu. 10:00 10:30 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30 7:00 7:30 10:00 10:30
Sat. 10:00 10:30 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:30 7:00 7:30
★ THE RINGER (PG–13) Fri. & Sat. 10:25 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:25 9:35 11:45
Sun. - Thu. 10:25 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:25 9:35
★ FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG–13) Fri. 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10 7:10 9:10 11:10
Sat. 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10 7:10
Sun. - Thu. 10:10 12:10 2:10 4:10 7:10 9:10
★ CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) Fri. 10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 7:15 9:25 11:45
Sat. 10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 7:15
Sun. - Thu. 10:15 12:25 2:35 4:45 7:15 9:25
★ KING KONG (PG–13) Fri. 11:30 12:30 3:15 4:15 7:00 8:00 10:35 11:45
Sat. 11:30 12:30 3:15 4:15 7:00
Sun. - Thu. 11:30 12:30 3:15 4:15 7:00 8:00 10:35
★ THE FAMILY STONE (PG–13) Fri. 10:05 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:30 9:55 12:20
Sat. 10:05 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:30
Sun. - Thu. 10:05 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:30 9:55
SYRIANA (R) Fri. & Sun. - Thu. 11:00 4:35 10:10
Sat. 11:00 4:35
AEON FLUX (PG–13) Fri. 10:15 12:40 2:55 5:20 7:35 9:50 11:55
Sat. 10:15 12:40 2:55 5:20 7:35
★ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG–13) Fri. - Thu. 1:35 7:05
★ - Special Engagement: No Passes/Coupons
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MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO
COLUMBIA PICTURES DREAMWORKS PICTURES SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT
AN AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT/DOUGLAS WICK & LUCY FISHER PRODUCTION
A ROB MARSHALL FILM "MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA" ZIYI ZHANG KEN WATANABE MICHELLE YEOH
KOJI YAKUSHO YOUKI KUDOH KAORI MOMOI AND GONG LI MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS CO-PRODUCER JOHN DeLUCA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROGER BIRNBAUM GARY BARBER PATRICIA WHITCHER BOBBY COHEN BASED ON THE BOOK BY ARTHUR GOLDEN
SCREENPLAY BY ROBIN SWICORD PRODUCED BY LUCY FISHER DOUGLAS WICK STEVEN SPIELBERG DIRECTED BY ROB MARSHALL
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
MATURE SUBJECT MATTER, SOME SEXUAL CONTENT
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Sorry, No Passes Accepted For This Engagement. For Additional Information, Call Theaters Or Check Directories.

Showtimes WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN *409-B Colorado, 476-1320.* Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.

Britcoms: Channel 4 Forever: Mon, 7:00pm
Feast: *A Christmas Story* Roast Duck Feast: Thu (12/22), 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: *Convention Girls:* Wed (12/21), 12mid
High for the Holidays: *Deep Blue:* Wed (12/28), 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle:* Wed (12/28), 9:45pm
High for the Holidays: *Head:* Mon, 9:45pm
Jerm Pollett Presents Merry F$#@ing Christmas: Thu (12/22), 9:45pm; Sat, 7:30, 10:00
Sinus Christmas Show: Fri, 7:00, 9:45
Weird Wednesday: *Street People:* Wed (12/28), 12mid
AFS: *Sun Valley Serenade:* Wed (12/21), 7:00pm
3rd Coast Activists: *This Land Is Your Land:* Thu (12/29), 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: *Up in Smoke:* Tue, 7:00pm; Thu (12/29), 9:45pm
War on Culture: The Best of Austin's Public Access Preachers: Wed (12/21), 9:45pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-8135.*

Aeon Flux: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:00, 3:25, 7:35, 10:05; Fri-Sat, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
Derailed: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:35, 3:35, 7:25, 10:20; Fri-Sat, 12:50, 3:45, 7:20, 10:25
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:05, 3:00, 7:05, 10:10; Fri-Thu (12/29), 1:35, 4:15, 7:30, 10:10
Gremlins: Thu (12/22)-Fri, 12mid
The Ice Harvest: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:45, 3:10, 7:30, 10:35; Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:10, 7:30, 10:00
Just Friends: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:40, 3:45, 7:20, 10:30
****Memoirs of a Geisha:*** Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 3:20, 7:05, 10:30pm
****The Producers:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:30, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20
Rent: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:00
****The Ringer:*** Fri-Sat, 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:20; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:15, 4:00, 7:25, 10:05
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:10, 3:55, 7:15, 10:00
Syriana: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:50am, 3:05, 7:10, 10:25pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
****Wolf Creek:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:20, 4:05, 7:35, 10:25

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*

Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50; Fri-Sat, 7:15, 9:45; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:15pm
Kids Club: *A Christmas Story:* Sat, 12:00pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Sat, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40; Sun, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:40
Fun With Dick and Jane: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50; Sun, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21), 7:05, 10:30; Thu (12/22), 11:50am, 3:20, 7:05, 10:30pm; Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 3:20pm; Sun, 3:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:50am, 3:20pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:45am, 2:45, 7:00, 9:45pm; Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:05, 9:55pm; Sun, 3:00, 7:05, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:05, 9:55pm
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:35, 10:00pm
Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic: Wed (12/21), 1:00, 7:35, 10:50; Thu (12/22), 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:35, 10:50; Fri-Sat, 1:00, 2:55, 5:00, 7:35, 10:50; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:50pm
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 10:15; Fri-Sat, 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:05; Sun, 3:45, 7:00, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:05

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.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:10
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21), 3:35, 7:10, 10:20; Thu (12/22), 12:05, 3:35, 7:10, 10:20; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:00pm
King Kong: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:40am, 3:50, 6:55, 8:00pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:50pm
The Ringer: Fri-Thu (12/29), 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:40
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Videoke: Fri, 12mid
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21), 3:45, 7:00, 9:55; Thu (12/22), 12:10, 7:00, 9:55; Fri-Thu (12/29), 3:40, 7:10, 10:00

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Brokeback Mountain: Wed (12/21), 11:15am, 11:45, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00, 2:45, 3:45, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:00, 10:15pm; Thu (12/22), 11:15am, 11:45, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:00, 10:15pm; Fri, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30pm; Sat, 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:15am, 11:45, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30pm
Good Night, and Good Luck: Fri-Sat, 11:30am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05pm; Sun, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:05pm
Memoirs of a Geisha: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40pm; Sun, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 3:00, 6:30, 9:40pm
Pride & Prejudice: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:15, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 3:15, 6:45, 9:50
The Producers: Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 3:45, 7:10, 10:20
Rent: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:45am, 3:00, 6:45, 9:40pm; Fri, 11:30am, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15pm; Sat, 11:30am, 3:45, 7:10pm
Shopgirl: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:30am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10pm
The Squid and the Whale: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:15

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) *Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688.* Discounts daily before 6pm.

****Aeon Flux:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 8:00, 10:25
Chicken Little: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 1:20, 3:40, 5:50pm; Fri-Sat, 12:10, 2:25, 4:40; Sun, 4:40pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:10, 2:25, 4:40
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:30am, 11:30, 2:15, 3:20, 6:20, 7:25, 9:50, 10:45pm; Fri, 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35, 10:05pm; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:05am, 2:50, 6:35, 10:05pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:15am, 10:45, 11:15, 12:00, 2:10, 3:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:05, 7:10, 7:55, 9:15, 10:00, 11:00pm; Fri, 10:30am, 11:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:30am, 11:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50pm; Sun, 3:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 11:00, 11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:35, 4:30, 6:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:25, 10:15pm
****Memoirs of a Geisha:*** Fri, 11:20am, 2:45, 7:00, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:20am, 2:45, 7:00pm; Sun, 3:20, 7:00, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:20am, 2:45, 7:00, 10:20pm
****Munich:*** Fri, 11:10am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:25pm; Sat, 11:10am, 3:10, 6:45pm; Sun, 3:10, 6:45, 10:25; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:25pm
Pride & Prejudice: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:25am, 1:35, 4:35, 7:40, 10:35pm; Fri, 10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm; Sat, 10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40pm; Sun, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:45am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm
****The Ringer:*** Fri, 11:45am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55pm; Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30pm; Sun, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55pm
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:10, 2:30, 3:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:35, 10:15; Fri, 7:10, 10:10; Sat, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:10, 10:10
Zathura: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:45pm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts before 6pm.

****Cheaper by the Dozen 2:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:35, 3:05, 4:00, 4:50, 5:25, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 10:05, 10:30; Sat, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:35, 3:05, 4:00, 4:50, 5:25, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:35, 3:05, 4:10, 4:50, 5:25, 6:30, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 10:05, 10:30
****The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:30, 1:15, 2:15, 3:30, 4:15, 5:35, 6:30, 7:15, 8:30, 9:30, 10:10; Sat, 12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 3:30, 4:15, 5:05, 6:30, 7:15, 8:05; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:35, 2:00, 2:55, 4:30, 5:15, 7:05, 7:55, 9:35, 10:20; Sat, 12:35, 2:00, 2:55, 4:30, 5:15, 7:05, 7:55; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55, 9:45, 10:20
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15; Sat, 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:15, 1:05, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:15
Good Night, and Good Luck: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 7:10, 9:20; Sat, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:10, 10:30pm
Just Friends: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25; Sat, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05
****The Producers:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 9:55
Rent: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:50; Sat, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:25, 2:40, 3:20, 4:55, 5:35, 7:10, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10
****Syriana:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15; Sat, 1:45, 4:25, 7:20; Sun-Thu (12/29), 1:45, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15
****Wolf Creek:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:50, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25
Yours, Mine & Ours: Wed (12/21)-Sat, 12:40, 2:55, 5:00; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:05, 2:15, 4:30

DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*

Cape of Good Hope: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 7:20, 9:50
Capote: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 7:10pm; Fri, 7:00pm; Sat-Thu (12/29), 1:00, 7:00
The Constant Gardener: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 7:00, 10:00
Good Night, and Good Luck: Fri, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Thu (12/29), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
The Keeper: The Legend of Omar Khayyam: Fri, 4:00, 7:30, 9:40; Sat-Thu (12/29), 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 9:40
Naked in Ashes: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 9:30pm
Sarah Silverman: Jesus Is Magic: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 7:30, 9:40; Fri-Thu (12/29), 4:30, 10:00
Ushpizin: Fri, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30; Sat-Thu (12/29), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.*

Aeon Flux: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:15am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50, 11:55pm; Sat, 10:15am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:35pm
Cheaper by the Dozen 2: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:15am, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25, 11:45pm; Sat, 10:15am, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:15am, 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25pm
****The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (in DLP digital):*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:00am, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:30pm; Sat, 10:00am, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 10:00, 10:30pm
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55, 12:20am; Sat, 10:05am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:05am, 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:10am, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10pm; Sat, 10:10am, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 7:10pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10pm
****Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:*** 1:35, 7:05
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 11:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:35, 11:45pm; Sat, 11:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:00, 8:00, 10:35pm
****The Ringer:*** Fri-Sat, 10:25am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:25, 9:35, 11:45pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:25am, 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:25, 9:35pm
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 10:15am, 12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35pm
****Syriana:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 11:00am, 4:35, 10:10pm; Sat, 11:00am, 4:35pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 4:35, 10:10pm

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*

Aeon Flux: Wed (12/21), 2:10, 4:35, 9:55; Thu (12/22), 2:10, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55
****Cheaper by the Dozen 2:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:10am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:15, 10:05pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
Chicken Little: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:35am
****The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:*** Wed (12/21), 11:15am, 11:45, 12:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 6:35, 7:05, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45pm; Thu (12/22), 11:15am, 11:45, 12:15, 12:45, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 6:35, 7:05, 7:35, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45pm; Fri-Sat, 12:05, 12:35, 1:05, 1:35, 3:20, 3:50, 4:20, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:45, 10:10; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:35, 1:05, 1:35, 3:50, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 8:10
***The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (open captioned):** Wed (12/21), 12:45, 8:10; Thu (12/22), 4:15, 8:10
The Family Stone: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:20, 9:50pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:50am, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:30am, 3:05, 6:50, 10:20pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 2:35, 6:20, 9:50pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:30am, 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:00, 4:30, 6:30, 8:00, 8:30, 10:30pm; Fri, 11:15am, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm; Sat, 11:15am, 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm; Sun-Mon, 11:15am, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm; Tue, 11:15am, 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm; Wed (12/28), 11:15am, 12:30, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm; Thu (12/29), 11:15am, 12:00, 12:30, 3:30, 4:30, 7:35, 8:00, 9:30pm
***King Kong* (open captioned):** Fri, 12:00pm; Sat, 4:00pm; Sun-Mon, 12:00pm; Tue, 4:00pm; Wed (12/28), 12:00pm; Thu (12/29), 4:00pm
****Munich:*** Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 2:30, 6:10, 9:40pm
The Ringer: Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:30
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:30, 10:25pm
Syriana: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:50am, 12:20, 2:50, 3:30, 6:40, 7:10, 9:40, 10:10pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:30am, 2:25, 6:40, 9:55pm
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:25am, 3:10, 6:55, 10:00pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:20am, 2:20, 6:50, 10:20pm

IMAX THEATRE *Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.*

Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D: Wed (12/21)-Sat, 10:00am, 2:00, 6:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 6:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 2:00, 6:00pm
The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00pm; Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00pm; Sun, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 3:00, 7:00pm
Texas: The Big Picture: 1:00, 5:00

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

Cheaper by the Dozen 2: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:20am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:20am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 11:45, 12:45, 2:20, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 7:50, 9:15, 10:10pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 11:50, 12:30, 2:20, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50, 7:50, 9:15, 10:20pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** 11:30am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:10am, 2:40, 6:45, 10:15pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 2:40, 6:40, 10:15pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:45am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:50, 4:00, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 10:45am, 12:00, 2:50, 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30pm
Yours, Mine & Ours: Fri-Thu (12/29), 11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10pm

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.* Call theatre for showtimes Friday, Dec. 23, through Thursday, Dec. 29.

Aeon Flux: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:15am, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:40, 9:45, 10:15pm
Chicken Little: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:40am, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:30am, 12:15, 1:00, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:50, 10:45pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:30am, 11:00, 12:00, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30pm
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:15am, 12:10, 2:45, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:05, 10:40pm

MILLENNIUM THEATRE *1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.* Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.

The Gospel: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 3:15, 5:15; Fri-Sat, 6:00, 8:30; Wed (12/28)-Thu (12/29), 3:15, 5:15
Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:30am, 1:00pm; Fri-Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:15pm; Wed (12/28)-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 1:00pm

ROUND ROCK 8 *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm.

****Cheaper by the Dozen 2:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:00am, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm; Fri, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm; Sat, 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30pm; Sun, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:10am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm
****The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:10am, 10:40, 1:10, 1:40, 4:10, 4:45, 7:10, 7:50, 10:10pm; Fri, 10:00am, 10:20, 1:00, 1:30, 4:10, 4:30, 7:10, 7:40, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:00am, 10:20, 1:00, 1:30, 4:10, 4:30, 7:10, 7:40pm; Sun, 1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15pm
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40pm; Fri, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20pm; Sun, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:40pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:30am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Fri, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30pm; Sat, 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00pm; Sun, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:00am, 12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:20am, 11:50, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:40, 10:20pm; Fri, 10:30am, 11:45, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50, 10:20pm; Sat, 10:30am, 11:45, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30pm; Sun, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50, 10:20; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 11:45, 2:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:50, 10:20pm
****Memoirs of a Geisha:*** Fri, 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00; Sat, 12:00, 3:30, 6:45; Sun, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun, 1:30, 4:00, 7:40, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 7:40, 10:10pm
Yours, Mine & Ours: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:10am, 1:20, 4:00, 7:45, 10:00pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.*

****Cheaper by the Dozen 2:*** Wed (12/21)-Sat, 9:05am, 11:15, 11:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35pm; Sun, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:05am, 11:15, 11:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:35pm
Chicken Little: Fri-Sat, 9:15am; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:15am
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 9:00am, 9:30, 9:55, 11:30, 12:20, 12:50, 1:20, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:40, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:15, 9:50, 10:20, 10:50pm; Fri-Sat, 9:00am, 9:30, 9:55, 11:30, 12:20, 12:50, 1:20, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:40, 6:30, 7:00, 7:25, 8:15, 9:50, 10:20, 10:50pm; Sun, 3:00, 3:40, 4:10, 6:15, 7:00, 7:25, 10:20, 10:50; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:00am, 9:30, 11:30, 12:20, 12:50, 3:00, 3:40, 4:10, 6:15, 7:00, 7:25, 10:20, 10:50pm
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:05am, 11:35, 1:50, 2:20, 4:35, 5:05, 7:20, 7:50, 10:10, 10:35pm; Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 11:35, 1:50, 2:20, 4:30, 5:05, 7:20, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40pm; Sun, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:05am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Sat, 9:30am, 10:00, 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 2:55, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30pm; Sun, 2:55, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:30am, 10:00, 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 2:55, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 10:00, 10:30pm
****Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 9:10am, 11:40, 12:40, 3:20, 4:20, 6:55, 7:55, 10:25pm; Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 3:20, 6:55, 10:20pm; Sun, 3:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:40am, 3:20pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 9:00am, 9:25, 10:00, 11:00, 11:55, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05, 11:00pm; Fri-Sat, 9:00am, 9:25, 10:00, 11:15, 11:55, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:30, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05pm; Sun, 3:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:00am, 10:00, 11:10, 11:55, 1:00, 2:00, 3:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 9:30, 10:05pm
****Memoirs of a Geisha:*** Fri-Sat, 12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25; Sun, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25
****Munich:*** Fri-Sat, 11:45am, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35pm; Sun, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:35am, 3:25, 7:05, 10:35pm
The Ringer: Fri-Sat, 9:10am, 11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:10pm; Sun, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/29), 9:10am, 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10pm
Syriana: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:15am, 10:45, 1:15, 1:45, 4:15, 4:45, 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:45pm; Fri-Sat, 10:15am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 7:10, 10:15
Walk the Line: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 9:10am, 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:55pm

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.*

****Cheaper by the Dozen 2:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:45am, 11:20, 1:05, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:20, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:45am, 11:20, 1:05, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45pm; Sun, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:20, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:45am, 11:20, 1:05, 2:00, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:20, 10:15pm
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:30am, 10:50, 11:30, 1:00, 1:35, 1:55, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15pm; Sat, 10:30am, 10:50, 11:30, 1:00, 1:35, 1:55, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:10pm; Sun, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:30am, 10:50, 11:30, 1:00, 1:35, 1:55, 3:30, 4:00, 4:40, 5:00, 6:50, 7:10, 8:05, 9:15pm
****The Family Stone:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:35am, 11:05, 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:25, 10:00pm; Sat, 10:35am, 11:05, 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30pm; Sun, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:25, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:35am, 11:05, 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 9:25, 10:00pm
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:40am, 11:30, 12:50, 1:45, 3:35, 4:55, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15pm; Sat, 10:40am, 11:30, 12:50, 1:45, 3:35, 4:55, 7:00, 7:40pm; Sun, 3:35, 4:55, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:40am, 11:30, 12:50, 1:45, 3:35, 4:55, 7:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15pm
Jarhead: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:55am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40pm; Sat, 10:55am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00pm; Sun, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:55am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40pm
Just Friends: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00pm; Sat, 11:05am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15pm
Pride & Prejudice: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40; Sat, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45; Sun, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40
****The Producers:*** Sun, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:25am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm
****Rumor Has It ...:*** Sun, 3:55, 4:55, 6:55, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:50am, 11:25, 1:20, 1:50, 3:55, 4:55, 6:55, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10pm
Syriana: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:30am, 11:10, 1:15, 2:00, 4:15, 4:50, 7:05, 8:05, 9:55pm; Sat, 10:30am, 11:10, 1:15, 2:00, 4:15, 4:50, 7:05pm; Sun, 4:50, 8:05, 9:55; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 8:05, 9:55pm
Yours, Mine & Ours: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:35am, 11:20, 12:45, 1:55, 3:30, 4:45, 7:05, 8:00, 9:30, 10:10pm; Sat, 10:35am, 11:20, 12:45, 1:55, 3:30, 4:45, 7:05pm; Sun, 3:30, 7:05, 9:30; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:35am, 12:45, 3:30, 7:05, 9:30pm

WESTGATE 11 *South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.* Discounts daily before 6pm.

Brokeback Mountain: Fri-Sat, 10:40am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50pm; Sun, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:40am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50pm
Cheaper by the Dozen 2: 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 10:45am, 11:35, 12:30, 2:00, 2:50, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 7:20, 8:30, 9:50, 10:25pm; Fri-Sat, 10:45am, 12:20, 2:00, 3:30, 5:15, 6:40, 8:30, 9:40pm; Sun, 12:20, 2:00, 3:30, 5:15, 6:40, 8:30, 9:40; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:45am, 12:20, 2:00, 3:30, 5:15, 6:40, 8:30, 9:40pm
The Family Stone: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20; Fri, 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15; Sat, 11:50am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
****Fun With Dick and Jane:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:15, 9:30pm; Fri-Sat, 11:15am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:15, 9:40pm; Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 2:00, 4:25, 7:15, 9:40pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:40am, 3:10, 6:50, 10:05pm; Fri, 11:40am, 3:10, 6:45, 10:05pm; Sat, 11:40am, 3:10, 6:35, 9:55pm
****King Kong:*** Wed (12/21)-Thu (12/22), 11:00am, 1:30, 2:50, 5:30, 6:40, 9:30, 10:30pm; Fri-Thu (12/29), 12:00, 1:30, 4:00, 5:30, 8:00, 9:30
Munich: Fri, 11:35am, 3:15, 6:50, 10:20pm; Sat, 11:35am, 3:05, 6:30, 9:55pm; Sun, 11:50am, 3:15, 6:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (12/29), 11:35am, 3:15, 6:50, 10:20pm
Rumor Has It ...: Sun-Thu (12/29), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55pm
Syriana: Wed (12/21)-Fri, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35pm; Sat, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50pm; Sun, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35; Mon-Thu (12/29), 10:50am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:35pm

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

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

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

D: Rob Marshall; with Ziyi Zhang, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li, Ken Watanabe, Kôji Yakusho, Youki Kudoh, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa. (PG-13, 145 min.)

Well, we're not in *Chicago* anymore, or even its soundstage approximation, but that hasn't stopped Oscar-nominated director Rob Marshall from fashioning another epic spectacle out of two squabbling women in (a sort-of) show business. Based on the literary bestseller by Arthur Golden, *Memoirs of a Geisha* charts the impressive rise of a fishing-village indigent who, sold into servitude, eventually conquers her chief rival and all of Kyoto as its most powerful geisha, Sayuri (played as an adult by Ziyi Zhang). Under the tutelage of the elder Mameha (Yeoh), Sayuri is schooled in dancing, pouring tea, socializing, and the delicate art of revealing a strip of skin at the wrist. While Western misconceptions might confuse the geisha with a whore, top-tier geishas were more like entertainers – artists, even … well, artists whose virginity is auctioned off to the highest bidder (a customary practice called *mizuage*). The script, by Robin Swicord (with additional work by *Quills*' Doug Wright), unpacks a lot of practical information about the geisha lifestyle in a relatively gainly fashion (although the voiceover narration proves largely unnecessary and, on occasion, fairly damaging). Sayuri's circumstance and surroundings are historically fascinating things; her character, not so much. After she meets an honorable, kind-eyed businessman known only as "the Chairman" (*The Last Samurai*'s Watanabe, woefully underdeveloped), Sayuri reduces to a thin film of girlish mooniness; Zhang *(2046, House of Flying Daggers)*, an eminently watchable actress, may just be too much of a firecracker to really sell the milquetoast Sayuri. Far more fun is Asian superstar Gong Li as Sayuri's main competition, Hatsumomo. In a role that David Thomson aptly describes as the Joan Crawford part, Li is a trashy blast, a she-devil with forever-bedhead and all-claws-out. (Maybe Marshall just likes his bad girls best – the Oscar-winning Catherine Zeta-Jones was *Chicago*'s stand-out.) When Gong's around, *Memoirs of a Geisha* has speed, purpose, and a sweet tease of camp, but her departure marks a significant dropping-off in the (way, way overlong) film's forward thrust. Unfortunately, right around the same time, *Memoirs of a Geisha*'s other chief pleasure – the spectacular set and costume design – exits as well, as the pesky arrival of World War II into the plot necessitates tighter belts, less opulent silks. As *Memoirs of a Geisha* leaves the confines of the city and its timeframe expands, an air of unreality – the threat of which hangs throughout – finally overtakes the picture. I've little doubt that Swicord and Marshall have produced an accurate account of the geisha lifestyle, but I'm not sure that it feels like a terribly *authentic* one. That may have something to do with the film's curious composition – Chinese actresses mouthing English on a Californian studio lot subbing for the pleasure district of Forties-era Kyoto – or it might simply be the result of the filmmakers' diminishing rendering of context to the viewer. Ah well. At least Marshall and Co. get extra points for sinking their own happy ending via the voiceover. – *Kimberley Jones*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Round Rock, Tinseltown North

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THE ICE HARVEST (1:50 4:10) 7:30 <10:00>
SYRIANA (12:25 3:50) 7:00 10:15
DERAILED (12:55 3:45) 7:50 10:25
AEON FLUX (1:30 4:20) 7:15 10:05
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THE PRODUCERS (12:30 2:40) 7:10 10:00
Rumor has it... (1:10 3:55) 7:15 10:00
WOLF CREEK (1:20 4:00) 7:30 10:20
SYRIANA (12:20 3:40) 7:00 10:15
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Head



***Head* (1968)** *D: Bob Rafelson; with Peter Tork, Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Annette Funicello, Timothy Carey. (G, 86 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** The Monkees overstepped in a most fascinating manner during their jump from the little screen to the big. Bob Rafelson and co-conceptualist Jack Nicholson did for the Monkees what Richard Lester did for the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*: create a wacked-out, aimless universe that constantly riffs on popular culture. Not a hit at the time with the regular Monkees fans, the rarely screened *Head* has since grown in critical stature. It's also the film Rafelson and Nicholson made before their zeitgeist-defining film *Five Easy Pieces*. With music and lots of cameos. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and *High Times*.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Mon., 9:45pm.

MUNICH

D: Steven Spielberg; with Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Ciarán Hinds, Mathieu Kassovitz, Geoffrey Rush, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Yvan Attal. (R, 164 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. The massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games is the subject of this new Spielberg film, which is based on the book *Vengeance* by George Jonas. Tony Kushner and Eric Roth wrote the screenplay, which is reported to be even-handed, and regular Spielberg collaborators Janusz Kaminski as cinematographer and John Williams as composer are along for the ride. *Look online for review.* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE PRODUCERS

D: Susan Stroman; with Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman, Will Ferrell, Roger Bart, Gary Beach, Jon Lovitz, Andrea Martin, Debra Monk. (PG-13, 134 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. It will be hard to top the bad taste of the original Mel Brooks movie with Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder, but this new rendition, which is based on the hit play with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, includes music routines from the show and performances by Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell. *Opens Sunday. Look online for review.* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

THE RINGER

D: Barry W. Blaustein; with Johnny Knoxville, Brian Cox, Katherine Heigl, Camille Chen, Geoffrey Arend, Bill Chott, Luis Avalos, Leonard Flowers, Edward Barbanell, Jed Rees, Leonard Earl Howze. (PG-13, 94 min.)

There's irony in here somewhere but it's embedded so deep in the bones of this thing that it's hard to ferret out. Or maybe not. It seems to me that a comedy that purports to have a message about treating the intellectually challenged as regular human beings and stars Johnny "Jackass" Knoxville is about as disingenuous as a comedy that urges us to see past a person's body size to appreciate the beauty within and stars Gwyneth Paltrow in a fat suit. Oh wait. That's *Shallow Hal*, you say, and the Farrelly brothers already produced that movie a few years ago (with brother Bobby also directing)? And now they're back producing *The Ringer*, which happened to be filmed in the Austin/San Marcos area? I'll leave you on your own to gnaw on the conundrums, but in case you don't want to decide this ethical dilemma on your own, the Special Olympics powers-that-be have gone out of their way to offer *The Ringer* its official seal of approval. Therefore, this film must be good for you – or at least inoffensive to the spokespeople for the group most likely to take offense at the movie's Special Olympics plot device. However, you have to wonder whether such a blessing has the capacity to turn a comedy's humor from barbed to toothless. As it is, *The Ringer*'s humor is never consistently anything. It takes a gauche premise – an average Joe enters the Special Olympics as a ringer, confident he will win big money that will pay off his uncle's gambling debts and obtain the operation needed by his gardener (whose accident is his fault) – and adds on some comeuppance, romantic intrigue, and inspirational lessons. The result is an uneven comedy, whose occasionally hilarious lines of dialogue don't fully compensate for its long interludes of predictability. To its credit, the filmmakers use lots of Special Olympians and intellectually challenged actors, and keeps them front and center throughout the film. Then there's Knoxville, whose whole pre-movie-star identity was based on proving he would do the dumbest things imaginable. In *The Ringer* he plays dumb like a fox as he masquerades as Jeffy to rig the track competition and win the heart of Special Olympics volunteer Lynn (Heigl, currently seen on TV's *Grey's Anatomy*). His fellow Olympians soon smoke out his ruse but follow that old adage about the enemy of your enemy being your friend, and so help train Jeffy to beat the arrogant returning champion Jimmy Flowers. Knoxville is actually turning into a reasonable actor with a strong stage presence, Heigl works her preternatural division between angel and landlubber that she uses to such good affect on *Grey's Anatomy* as the surgeon/former Playmate, and Cox is just baffling as the loutish uncle who looks at all times as if he's doing a Joe Pesci impersonation. Screenwriter Ricky Blitt (TV's *The Family Guy*) has some inspired moments, although one wonders about the wisdom of the charges of idea theft he has launched at the head *South Park* hooligans, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, who last season featured a show with a similar premise. Whether *Ringer*, with its mild comedy and milder messages about inclusiveness and tolerance, will be embraced by Knoxville's hardcore *Jackass* fans remains to be seen. But we can at least trust that the Farrellys will stay the course. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North

RUMOR HAS IT ...

D: Rob Reiner; with Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner, Shirley MacLaine, Mark Ruffalo, Richard Jenkins. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Great premise for a movie has Aniston believing that her family is the one on whom the story of *The Graduate* is based. Or is it just that all girls want to get into Kevin Costner's pants? *Opens Sunday. Look online for review.*
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown South, Westgate

WOLF CREEK

D: Greg McLean; with Andy McPhee, Cassandra Magrath, John Jarratt, Kestie Morassi, Nathan Phillips. (NR, 99 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Just what's needed to counter the holiday spirit: a rip-snortin' slasher film. This Australian goodie tracks three travelers whose Good Samaritan turns out to be – you guessed it – epically deranged. *Opens Sunday. Look online for review.*
Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square



Rumor Has It ...

Ending Thursday (12/22)

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AEON FLUX

D: Karyn Kusama; with Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas, Jonny Lee Miller, Sophie Okonedo, Frances McDormand, Pete Postlethwaite, Amelia Warner. (PG-13, 95 min.)

Aeon Flux may be a mess, but it's a beautiful mess, full of the sort of far-futurist thinking that doesn't lack for nifty (and often depressing) ideas about where mankind is currently heading. Based on Peter Chung's mid-Nineties animated MTV series, the film is set 400 years in the future, after a killer virus has wiped out 99.9% of the world's population. A utopian society has grown up in the shadow of the apocalypse. As in all utopian societies, there's trouble afoot and rebels on the hoof, the latter arriving in the form of Theron's title character, an ultra-chic assassin possessed of an Anna Sui-meets-Richard Kern fashion sense. The film falters, however, when it comes to the script (by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi): At moments it's all you can do not to giggle. While its heart is in the right place, *Aeon Flux*'s head is just a little too high to make much sense. *(12/09/2005)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan

BE HERE TO LOVE ME: A FILM ABOUT TOWNES VAN ZANDT

D: Margaret Brown. (NR, 99 min.)

Vivid yet impressionistic, Margaret Brown's film tribute to the singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt can be as broad and rambling as one of the musician's story songs, but as acute and direct as one of his distinct turns of phrase. Brown does not seek to analyze the reasons for Van Zandt's abbreviated life, and the movie should intrigue newcomers to his music as well as longtime fans. The film is rich with his songs, and the flavorful sampling is enhanced by lots of interviews with colleagues and cohorts as well as family. Brown strikes it rich with the wealth of archival material available, but her real secret ingredient is the cinematography of Lee Daniel, whose contemporary roadside traveling footage is continuously used throughout the film as an evocative editing link. Brown seeks to learn the price paid and the happiness earned by living as this songwriter's songwriter did, in total devotion to his muse, his music. (Margaret Brown will conduct a Q&A after the 7:20pm shows on Friday and Saturday.) *(12/09/2005)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

D: Ang Lee; with Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway, Linda Cardellini, Randy Quaid. (R, 134 min.)

Enough with the "gay cowboy" label, a phrase that has a way of diminishing this amazing movie's focus and reach. *Brokeback Mountain* is a love story that's defined by its staggering heartbreak. The film is no more – or less – a gay cowboy movie than *Casablanca* is a hetero émigré romance or *King Kong* is a love story between human and simian. The lovemaking in *Brokeback* is modestly filmed by modern standards, a choice made by director Ang Lee who, apart from his last

film, *The Hulk*, has never misjudged public taste. The passage of 20 years in a frustrating state of limbo is what makes *Brokeback* the romantic tragedy it is: The love itself isn't sad, only its seeming impossibility. Although it's possible to point to some weak spots in *Brokeback*, there is no movie this year that has moved my heart more. *(12/16/2005)* – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Arbor, Westgate

CAPOTE

D: Bennett Miller; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Chris Cooper, Bruce Greenwood, Bob Balaban, Amy Ryan, Mark Pellegrino. (R, 98 min.)

Capote is a good film, but it hasn't closed the book on the subject, not by a long shot. First-time screenwriter Dan Futterman has narrowed his focus to the years surrounding Capote's work on the seminal *In Cold Blood*. The film provides an absorbing, if limited, look at the writing life: its physical and mental demands and its moral ambiguities. Director Miller *(The Cruise)* has created a film that is confident, mature, and measured, but I wonder if it isn't *too* controlled. The beats are all there; Capote's trajectory begins with a reporter's initial impartiality, slides into complicity, takes a hard-right turn into ruthlessness, and ends, finally, near catatonia as the killers' execution date looms. But the film doesn't linger in these states long enough. The fault does not lie with Hoffman (who doesn't so much act out Capote's distinctive mannerisms and high-pitched lisp as channel them); his performance is undeniably great. Everything else – solid, satisfying though it may be – falls short of that greatness. *(10/28/2005)* – Kimberley Jones
★★★½ Dobie

CHICKEN LITTLE

D: Mark Dindal; with the voices of Zach Braff, Garry Marshall, Joan Cusack, Steve Zahn, Don Knotts, Patrick Stewart, Amy Sedaris, Catherine O'Hara. (G, 80 min.)

Boys and girls, here we have an animated family movie about being ugly, being tormented by your peers, being bad at sports, and being neglected by your parents, who are humiliated by your mistakes and idiosyncrasies – and that last part really hurts. It is funny at times, but *Chicken Little* is painful to watch for all ages, despite a voice-talent roster to make the angels weep. The story's all over the place, and the movie rips through its screen time with such frenzied insouciance that the fancy visuals barely register, as if animated family fare can be cranked out on somebody's lunch hour and the real work is in the marketing. The movie isn't interested in whether Chicken Little is paranoid or mistaken. It's not even very interested in the psychology of panic. Rather, that little scrapper will have his day, so you can damn well bet the sky is actually falling. *(11/11/2005)* – Marrit Ingman
★½ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

D: Andrew Adamson; with Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Tilda Swinton; with the voice of Liam Neeson. (PG, 135 min.)

This is fusillade No. 1 in Disney's presumed seven-film adaptation of C. S. Lewis' beloved children's tales, in which the four Pevensie children are sent by their mother to the English countryside where they encounter a magical wardrobe that functions as the portal to the miraculous land of Narnia, ruled by the White Witch (Swinton), an evil character intent on enslaving the more sun-dappled areas, held by the wise and noble lion Aslan (voiced by Neeson). There's much to dine on visually, but the fact of the matter – whether you fell in love with the seven *Narnia* books as a child or not – is that $150 million no longer seem to add up to very convincing special effects, and in a world populated by a hodge-podge of mythic beasties, that's a huge problem. The film's rapid, almost video-game sense of narrative means there's no sense of calm before the gathering storm because the film is *all* storm. *(12/09/2005)* – Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate













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SAT, DEC 24	JERM POLLETT'S MERRY F-ING XMAS	7 & 9:45
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WED, DEC 28	HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: DEEP BLUE HIGH FOR THE HOLIDAYS: HAROLD & KUMAR WEIRD WED (FREE) STREET PEOPLE	7:00 9:45 MIDNIGHT
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DERAILED

D: Mikael Håfström; with Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston, Melissa George, Vincent Cassel, RZA, Xzibit, Addison Timlin, Giancarlo Esposito. (R, 107 min.)

Derailed is an appropriately grim and stylish bit of latter-day film noir that goes a long way toward burying the memory of Rachel Green but does nothing to mar memories of Barbara Stanwyck, film noir's double-indemnifying queen of the duplicitous dark (as if). As ad exec Charles Schine, Owen is saddled with the requisite loving wife, Deanna (George), and enough personal problems to give Job a run for his shekels. To make matters worse, but infinitely more interesting, he finds himself on the train eyeing a leggy bank exec (Aniston). As so often happens, one thing leads to another, and from there leads to a hotel-room quickie, which, naturally, leads to the sudden violent eruption of Cassel's scheming LaRoche. There is a horrific rape, a pistol-whipping, and then things get really interesting. For a moment, anyway. Håfström's direction is mournfully, soggily assured, but for some reason *Derailed* never fully engages our sympathies. *(11/18/2005)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

THE FAMILY STONE

D: Thomas Bezucha; with Sarah Jessica Parker, Diane Keaton, Claire Danes, Dermot Mulroney, Craig T. Nelson, Rachel McAdams, Luke Wilson, Tyrone Giordano, Brian J. White, Elizabeth Reaser, Paul Schneider, Savannah Stehlin, Elizabeth Reaser. (PG-13, 102 min.)

In plotting her next career move, it makes sense that Parker would want to avoid type-casting and steer clear of any flirty, free-spirit types like Carrie Bradshaw. But methinks Parker may have tipped too far in the other direction: No one's going to confuse this latest role – as Meredith, an uptight woman meeting her boyfriend's family for the first time – with the impish Carrie. (As if you didn't know there's a midmovie transformation coming.) The Stones are a fiercely protective, clique-ish clan and none-too-impressed with Meredith, so the subtle sabotage begins. There is some romantic intrigue, as well, but I'm disheartened to report that there's not a lick of chemistry here. The real love affair here is among the Stone family, and there are just too many damn characters, with the best ones taking a backseat to the dullish love quadrangle. *(12/16/2005)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK

D: George Clooney; with David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr., Patricia Clarkson, Ray Wise, Frank Langella, Jeff Daniels, George Clooney, Dianne Reeves. (PG, 93 min.)

Director and co-screenwriter George Clooney strikes just the right tone in this screen story of TV newsman Edward R. Murrow's courageous battle in the Fifties against the Commie-baiting Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Filmed in lovely black and white that blends smoothly with the historical footage used in the film, *Good Night, and Good Luck* also manages a successful merger between gripping entertainment and understated cautionary tale. The story's implications for the present are there for the taking but are never pounded home. The film does not attempt a rounded portrait or biographical survey of this journalist's journalist. Nor does it attempt to lionize the man and his deeds. Instead, the film provides a more general portrait of the times and the fear and paranoia that ran rampant because of the Communist witch hunts and loyalty oaths that were de rigueur in the workplace. As the revered Murrow, Strathairn delivers the performance of his career. *(10/21/2005)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie

This Land Is Your Land



***This Land Is Your Land* (2004)** *D: Lori Cheatle and Daisy Wright. (NR, 87 min.)* **Third Coast Activists.** This funny and moving documentary looks at the impact of corporations on American society, culture, and democracy, and some of the ways in which individuals have fought back on the local level. Among the interviewees in this 2004 SXSW Film entry are Naomi Klein, Jim Hightower, and Dottie Dean, the owner of the Austin Motel. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Thu. (12/29), 7pm; $6.50 general; $5 students/seniors.

THE GOSPEL

D: Rob Hardy; with Boris Kodjoe, Idris Elba, Nona Gaye, Clifton Powell, Aloma Wright, Donnie McClurkin, Omar Gooding, Tamyra Gray. (PG, 103 min.)

A secular studmuffin with a hit single ("Let Me Undress You") and a fawning manager (Gooding, brother of Cuba), David (Kodjoe) must reconsider his spiritual roots and contend with a childhood friend, who wants to transform the neighborhood congregation into a flashy Christian ecclesiastical empire. This is a largely independent affair – gospel singer and "radical for Christ" Fred Hammond produces (and also stars as himself). And like many faith-based movies, the conflicts onscreen are mostly internal. But unlike many faith-based



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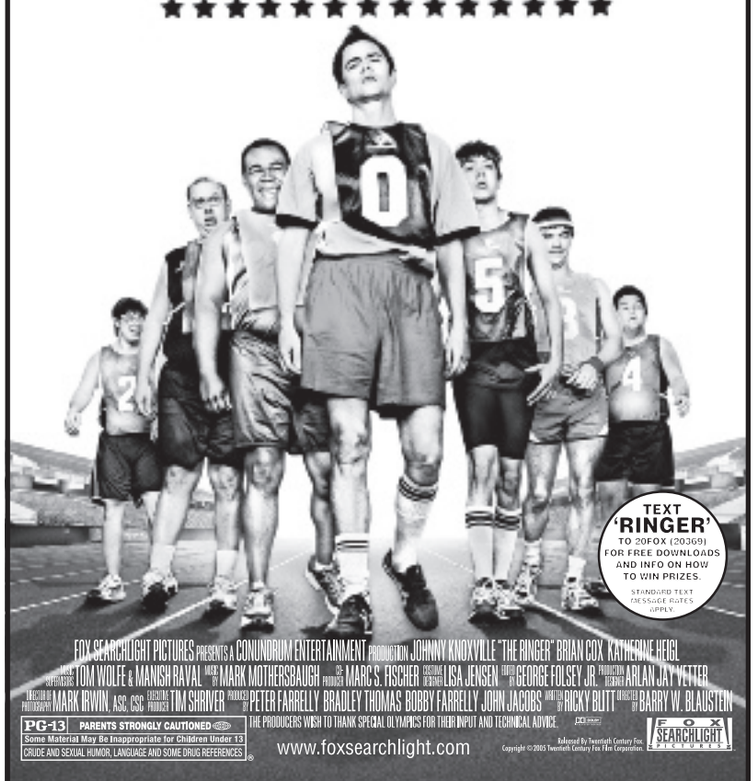
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movies, *The Gospel* successfully captures the ecstatic experience of gospel performance; instead of shaming and blaming, the film makes a pretty salient case for going to church. Its characters aren't abstinent squares – they're ordinary-seeming people with ordinary problems. But the movie wanders around from scene to scene without much momentum; it doesn't have an arc, and it needs one. *(10/14/2005)* *– Marrit Ingman*

★★ Millennium

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

D: Mike Newell; with Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Robbie Coltrane, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Brendan Gleeson, Jason Isaacs, Gary Oldman, Alan Rickman, Maggie Smith, Timothy Spall. (PG-13, 157 min.)

This fourth *Potter* film is qualitatively different from its cinematic forebears: It doesn't linger on the gothic curlicues of its source material, it moves straightforwardly from place to place, and it emphasizes the emotional development of its characters with dramatic interplay rather than expressionistic, atmospheric gloom. Newell understands that the real thrust of the source material – at least in this particular book – is its characters' passage into adolescence, so he keeps a tight rein on author J.K. Rowling's airy digressions into magical whimsy and takes us right into the heart of the beast: teenage hormones, fallings-out with friends, meeting weird kids from other schools, being hated by your schoolmates, fearing your new teacher yet again, and having to slow dance. Parents should be aware that it's more explicitly violent – hence the PG-13 rating, a first for the series – but really its execution is more adult in a variety of ways, and correctly so. *(11/18/2005)* *– Marrit Ingman*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE ICE HARVEST

D: Harold Ramis; with John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Connie Nielsen, Oliver Platt, Randy Quaid. (R, 90 min.)

It's Christmas Eve in Wichita, Kan., and the stage is set for dastardly yet comic film noir doings, but *The Ice Harvest*'s difficult genre-straddling never quite congeals. Instead of an action comedy that's as slick as ice, Ramis' new film is more like a river of slush, neither here nor there. The professionalism of all involved – from comedy veteran Ramis and sardonic leads Cusack and Thornton to the script by Richard Russo and Robert Benton and the delightful secondary performances by Quaid and Platt – ensures that *The Ice Harvest* is always dependable. Yet this level of obvious quality is also what dooms the movie: It never quite lives up to its potential. Indicative of the film's unwillingness to really plumb the depths of the darkness it has set in motion is its substitution of a redemptive ending for the dark finale that concludes Scott Phillips' original novel. *(11/25/2005)* *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

JARHEAD

D: Sam Mendes; with Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard, Jamie Fox, Lucas Black, Chris Cooper, Brian Geraghty, Jacob Vargas, Evan Jones. (R, 123 min.)

Things we learn from watching *Jarhead*: War is not hell, war is purgatory, with sporadic excursions to the Delta House to Get This Party Started, Motherfucker; girlfriends/wives are not to be trusted, ever; the Iraqi desert looks sublime when Red Adair's not in town; screenwriter William Broyles Jr. is still a pro at manufacturing gripping narratives out of men waiting for something, anything to happen. With *Jarhead*, the director of *American Beauty* has adapted Anthony Swofford's 2003 bestseller about his maddening stint with the Marines during the first Gulf War into an equally maddening movie that portrays Our Boys as either tentative heroes, forever on the cusp but never quite allowed to achieve greatness, or borderline psychotics, preprogrammed for mayhem that never arrives, who then, consciously or unconsciously, turn the savagery of combat inward. Mendes' film sports a wealth of grimly beautiful imagery but lacks any noticeable tone, political or otherwise. War not only dehumanizes, the film seems to be saying, it also infantilizes. *(11/04/2005)* *– Marc Savlov*

★★★ Tinseltown South

JUST FRIENDS

D: Roger Kumble; with Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Anna Faris, Chris Klein, Christopher Marquette, Julie Hagerty. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Just Friends is a tepid romantic comedy with a side order of vitriol. The script, by Adam "Tex" Vegas, ricochets between over-earnest romantic comedy staples and a noticeable lack of any con-

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Britcoms: Channel 4 Forever



Britcoms: Channel 4 Forever **Vulcan Video.** Channel 4 in Great Britain remains a creative outlet for emerging comedy talent. Ali G, the comic invention of Sacha Baron Cohen, began as a commentator for Channel 4 before moving his act to HBO. The early work of gangsta newsman Ali G and other cutting-edge material are highlights in this show, as well as samples of *Brass Eye*, the show so risqué and controversial it was canceled after one season. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Mon., 7pm.

sistent tone. Chris Brander (*National Lampoon's Van Wilder* smarm-master Reynolds), to his horror, finds himself stranded in the home town he fled a decade before. Back then he was a strapping 275-plus high school nice guy, who was lovesick for local cheerleader (Smart) but woefully cast in the role of Best Friend 4-Ever. The film's romantic resolution is never in any doubt, although Reynolds and Smart play off each other like pinballs bathed in nitroglycerin. There's both too much recriminatory spieling and not enough good, old-fashioned canoodling going on to make you believe in their mutual destiny for more than a passing moment. Kumble's direction is diffidently garish, and the film feels just a few degrees left of sanity. *(11/25/2005)* *– Marc Savlov*
★↓ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

KING KONG

D: Peter Jackson; with Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Andy Serkis, Thomas Kretschmann, Jamie Bell, Colin Hanks, Evan Parke. (PG-13, 187 min.)

Jackson's remake of Merian C. Cooper's 1933 cinematic godhead is more than the sum of its gargantuan parts; it's also a sweet-natured romantic fable, albeit one that packs in carnivorous cockroaches, rampaging brontosaurs, and the ever-Freudian Empire State Building. It's also a corker of an action/monster movie: part RKO serial; part square-jawed, manly romp; and part classic journey into the unknown that recalls and references, surprisingly and splendidly, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Jackson's film is littered with canny references to Cooper's original, but never fails to be its own unique hybrid. Much of that uniqueness, which makes the whole familiar story fresh again, comes from advances in special-effects technology. This half-human, half-CGI creation will make you reach for your hanky. The interplay between Watts' melancholy blond and the great ape is almost too real to be believed. It's enough to make you weep not only for the displaced and doomed Kong but for the nearly lost art of cinematic panache. *(12/16/2005)* *– Marc Savlov*
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate
★★ Dobie

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen, Brenda Blethyn, Donald Sutherland, Rosamund Pike, Jena Malone, Tom Hollander, Judi Dench. (PG, 127 min.)

This fresh adaptation shakes the dust off Jane Austen's novel and gives it a good airing out. The result is a witty and lovesick skirmish of the sexes that exceeds all expectations. The prickly courtship between the headstrong Lizzie Bennett (Knightley) and the sullen Mr. Darcy (Macfadyen) is one of English literature's great romantic entanglements, and this screen version of *Pride & Prejudice* imbues their rocky relationship with a vitality that's missing from most paint-by-number love stories. While the class and gender stratifications in Austen's world may be uncomfortably retro for a contemporary audience, the film makes good use of them in contrast to the more egalitarian interactions between Lizzie and Darcy. Indeed, for all the talk about a woman's need for marital protection and the manner in which the Bennett daughters flutter about every time there's a bachelor afoot, there's a plucky feminism in this movie, embodied by Knightley's eye-opening performance as Lizzie. *(11/11/2005)* *– Steve Davis*
★★★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown South

RENT

D: Chris Columbus; with Rosario Dawson, Adam Pascal, Taye Diggs, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, Jesse L. Martin, Idina Menzel, Anthony Rapp, Tracie Thoms. (PG-13, 135 min.)

Jonathan Larson's ecstatic and life-affirming update of *La Bohème* is no less relevant today than it was before it garnered a Pulitzer Prize, four Tony Awards, and three OBIEs. Even though both play and film are set in New York City's East Village of 1989, *Rent*, for all its feel-good desperation and plague-battered bonhomie, arrives with the curious but unmistakable air of an artifact from another time, even another world. The characters, a band of starving artists cast in the finest bohemian tradition, are young enough to make merry in their sprawling, unheated lofts, and to manhandle life by the jugular scruff, even as their generational T-cell count plummets faster than the mercury on the Battery come November. Viewers will recognize the virtue inherent in optimistically blowing a Bronx cheer toward death's ivory grin and will revel in the film's contagious passions. However, it arrives as a loud, guitar-driven musical with only one solidly memorable showstopper, and grating, workmanlike direction by Columbus. *(11/25/2005)* *– Marc Savlov*
★★↓ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square





SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC

D: Liam Lynch; with Sarah Silverman, Brian Posehn, Bob Odenkirk, Laura Silverman. (NR, 72 min.)

Silverman says the most outrageous things – dirty, profane, solipsistic, and offensive – but she gets away with it again and again because her delivery is so sly. And with topics such as rape, 9/11, the Holocaust, and AIDS as part of her recurring repertoire, she had best have a deft delivery in order to escape the theatre without getting mugged. *Jesus Is Magic*, however, is a muddle that combines onstage performance with fantasy song sequences and little reality vignettes at the opening and close of the film. Director Lynch helped compose the tunes, but they are as off-key as his direction. And the transitions from performance to song and to reality are strained and awkward. Rather than creating something that might help launch Silverman into greater notoriety, Lynch has done the comic a disservice and helped mold something that's really for the fans only. *(12/09/2005)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie

SYRIANA

D: Stephen Gaghan; with George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Christopher Plummer, Chris Cooper, William Hurt, Alexander Siddig, Amanda Peet, Tim Blake Nelson, Mazhar Munir, Jamey Sheridan, Peter Gerety, Robert Foxworth. (R, 128 min.)

Like the saying about the butterfly flapping its wings on one side of the world and affecting currents on the other, *Syriana* shows how the multitentacled quest to control oil supplies in one part of the world can affect (both intentionally and inadvertently) people, lives, and decisions in another. *Syriana* is a challenging and uncompromising movie. Like writer-director Gaghan's Oscar-winning adapted screenplay for *Traffic*, *Syriana* is a complexly structured narrative that follows several different characters and storylines that only begin to cohere into one larger story as the movie draws toward its climax. *Syriana* is more diffusely focused than *Traffic* however. You'll probably never feel completely clear about the activities of and relationships among all the characters, but it's exactly this tangle that gives *Syriana* a true-to-life feel. There's a lot to absorb here, but it's refreshing to be in the midst of a movie that regards its audience as up to the task. *(12/09/2005)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

WALK THE LINE

D: James Mangold; with Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Patrick, Shelby Lynne, Ginnifer Goodwin, Larry Bagby, Tyler Hilton, Dallas Roberts, Johnathan Rice, Shooter Jennings. (PG-13, 136 min.)

Musician Johnny Cash circumvented the rowdy mantrap of diminishing rock & roll returns by giving up his one true love – little white speed pills – for his other one true love – young Memphis country and gospel sasspot June Carter (Witherspoon), a powder keg of padlocked passions whose sparks ignited for her music, friends, family, and also, to her dismay, this black-clad baritone with the quiver in his voice and the arrow in his heart. Joaquin Phoenix as Cash is the next best thing to having been there, I suppose, and although the sinner man's early successes and echoing woes look chaotically entertaining indeed in that hellishly dashing sort of way young doomsters can exude, the wreckage he leaves in his wake is quick and obvious and banal. Only the steady output of his lonely locomotive guitar and plaintive, almost homely, voice made this bad Cash worth anybody's jukebox dime. *(11/18/2005)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT

D: Nick Park, Steve Box; with Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Peter Sallis, Nicholas Smith. (G, 96 min.)

Enough with the CGI animation, Disney, DreamWorks, et al.: Between Tim Burton's smashingly fine *Corpse Bride* and this excellent new outing from Nick Park and UK-based Aardman Animations, the limitations of pixelated renderings are revealed in full, and they don't hold a guttering candle to the tactile warmth and sheer organic wizardry of Aardman's stop-motion animation. This film is a brilliantly conceived and executed bit of Brit wit, perfect for both kids and their parents and anyone even remotely interested in laughing themselves silly. Here the oblivious garage inventor and his pal are running a pest-control service in rural England. Thanks to a scientific miscalculation that results in the accidental creation of a gigantic, vegetable-crazed rabbit, the pair are thrust into a battle of wits with both their hare-y nemesis and local 'toff scoundrel Victor Quartermaine (Fiennes). It's a ripping good yarn, breathlessly paced and seamlessly edited but, most important, resoundingly and surpassingly fun. *(10/07/2005)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Millennium

YOURS, MINE & OURS

D: Raja Gosnell; with Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo, Linda Hunt, Sean Faris, Katija Pevec. (PG, 88 min.)

If you can't wait to see *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*, you can currently go see this new supersized family comedy, itself a remake of the 1968 Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball original. It won't spoil your appetite or even leave much of an impression, as tame and uninspired as it is. On the other hand, it won't offend any sensibilities or desecrate the memory of the original – and will definitely make *The Brady Bunch* look like an example of prudent family planning. Quaid endures more than his share of comic falls and scrapes, while the kids all unite in various schemes to break their parents apart. Too many of the seams show in *Yours, Mine & Ours* and interrupt any potential flights of comic fancy. Of the 18 child performers, only Pevec and Panabaker as rival step-sisters show any real gift for acting. *(11/25/2005)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown South



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THURSDAY 22

***A Christmas Story* Roast Duck Feast (1983)** *D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Melinda Dillon, Darren McGavin. (PG, 93 min.)* The delightful Christmas comedy. Featuring mashed potatoes and Chinese roast duck: See **www.originalalamo.com** for menu and reservations. Plus BB-gun contest. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; $40.

***Gremlins* (1984)** *D: Joe Dante; with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton, Frances Lee McCain, Polly Holiday, Dick Miller, Judge Reinhold, Corey Feldman; with the voices of Howie Mandel. (PG, 106 min.)* A teenager's furry little pet of mysterious origins spawns a whole town full of snaggle-toothed killer gremlins. It's suburban splatter mixed with humor and in-jokes. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid.

Jerm Pollett Presents Merry F$#@ing Christmas Jerm Pollet (of the Sinus Show) will share some of his favorite clips of Christmas porn (culled from years of study), along with his analysis, as he investigates the true sexual history and symbolism of our modern Christmas celebration. Plus there'll be comedy sketches. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

FRIDAY 23

***Gremlins* (1984)** @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid. (See Thu., 12/22)

Sinus Christmas Show (NR) **Sinus Show.** In a now-annual tradition, the Sinus Show crew hurl their best zingers at favorite holiday movies and TV specials. Some old bits from past years are mixed with lots of new material. Milk and cookies will be served. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

Videoke Act out scenes from various movies and win prizes. See **www.originalalamo.com** for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

***Sesame Street Presents: Follow That Bird* (1985)** *D: Ken Kwapis; with the voices of Carroll Spinney, Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Richard Hunt. (G, 88 min.)* Big Bird on the big screen. @Cafe Mundi, 6pm; free.

***The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)** *D: Henry Selick; with the voices of Danny Elfman, Chris Sarandon, Catherine O'Hara, Paul Reubens, William Hickey, Glenn Shadix. (PG, 75 min.)* Stop-motion photography creates a macabre world of make-believe. (*) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 8pm; free.

***The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)** @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free. (See above)

SATURDAY 24

***A Christmas Story* (1983)** *D: Bob Clark; with Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, Melinda Dillon, Ian Petrella, Scott Schwartz, Tedde Moore. (PG, 98 min.)* **Saturday Morning Kids Club.** Ralphie (Billingsley) is a young boy who wants the "Holy Grail of Christmas presents": a Red Ryder 200-shot, range-model air rifle. "You'll shoot your eye out!" becomes the film's mantra that besieges Ralphie at every turn. Based on Jean Shepherd's novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*, *A Christmas Story* celebrates being young and childhood in a more innocent time. (The Saturday Morning Film Club continues every last Saturday of each month, and is co-sponsored by *Ain't It Cool News*, *The Austin Chronicle*, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12pm; free.

Jerm Pollett Presents Merry F$#@ing Christmas @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7:30, 10. (See Thu., 12/22)

***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**. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

MONDAY 26

Britcoms: Channel 4 Forever Vulcan Video. Channel 4 in Great Britain remains a creative outlet for emerging comedy talent. Ali G, the comic invention of Sacha Baron Cohen, began as a commentator for Channel 4 before moving his act to HBO. The early work of gangsta newsman Ali G and other cutting-edge material are highlights in this show, as well as samples of *Brass Eye*, the show so risqué and controversial it was canceled after one season. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

***Head* (1968)** See p.82.

SPACES

Twin Peaks* and *Carnivale An episode of *Twin Peaks* screens at 7pm, followed by an episode of *Carnivale* at 8pm. Popcorn provided. @Beerland, 7pm; free, 21 and over.

TUESDAY 27

***Up in Smoke* (1978)** *D: Lou Adler; with Cheech Marin, Tommy Chong, Stacy Keach, Tom Skerritt, Edie Adams, Strother Martin. (R, 86 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** Cheech & Chong's first movie is still their best. The duo wrote the genial script about the never-ending search for great pot, and a good supporting cast co-stars. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and *High Times*). (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

SPACES

***Bird* (1988)** *D: Clint Eastwood; with Forest Whitaker, Diane Venora, Samuel E. Wright. (R, 161 min.)* Eastwood and Whitaker create a powerful portrait of the trail-blazing jazz musician Charlie Parker, his descent into drug addiction, and his influence on generations to come. @Cafe Mundi, 8pm; free.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices and showtimes call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

***Magnificent Desolation: Walking on the Moon 3-D* (2005)** *D: Mark Cowen; narrated by Tom Hanks. (NR, 40 min.)* What could be better than the illusion of walking on the moon? Tom Hanks co-produced and narrates this exploration of the lunar surface drawn from NASA footage and CGI images. Many famous actors read passages from *The Lunar Surface Journals*, based on the personal reminiscences of the 12 men who have walked on the moon. Thu. (12/22)-Sat., 10am, 2, 6pm; Sun., 2, 6; Mon.-Thu. (12/29), 10am, 2, 6pm

***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. Thu. (12/22)-Thu. (12/29), 1, 5

***The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience* (2004)** *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolari, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent screens in all its dimensions. (*) Thu. (12/22), 11am, 3, 7pm; Fri.-Sat., 11am, 3, 7, 9pm; Sun., 3, 7, 9; Mon.-Thu. (12/29), 11am, 3, 7pm

Documentaries and Short Films Screenings on the back patio every Tuesday. @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

WEDNESDAY 28

***Deep Blue* (2003)** *D: Andy Byatt and Alastair Fothergill; narrated by Pierce Brosnan. (G, 83 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** A feature-length re-assemblage of footage gathered for the directors' BBC show *The Blue Planet*, *Deep Blue* is the *Microcosmos* and *Winged Migration* of the underwater world. A lush nature documentary, the film is filled with stunning images, swooping camera work, and an expansive score by George Fenton. Come prepared to spend the night with your nose pressed up against a giant aquarium. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and *High Times*.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

***Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* (2004)** *D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés, David Krumholtz, Eddie Kaye Thomas, Neil Patrick Harris, Christopher Meloni. (R, 87 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** "*Harold & Kumar* consistently nails each laugh because it is, quite simply, good, dumb, stoner fun." – *Kimberley Jones*. Featuring all-you-can-eat miniburgers. (Presented by Rhino Releasing and *High Times*.) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

***Street People* (1976)** *D: Maurizio Lucidi; with Roger Moore, Stacy Keach, Ivo Garrani, Fausto Tozzi, Ennio Balbo. (R, 92 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** A Mafia lawyer (Moore) and race-car driver (Keach) team up in this Italian crime film, whose highlight is a bang-up car crash. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

SPACES

***Comin' at Ya!* (1981)** *D: Ferdinando Baldi; with Tony Anthony, Victoria Abril, Gene Quintano, Ricardo Palacios. (R, 91 min.)* This Euro-Western is best known as the movie that revived the 3-D movie phenomenon in the Eighties. 3-D glasses passed out at screening. Free popcorn and doughnuts. (*) @Beerland, 7pm; free, 21 and over.

THURSDAY 29

***This Land Is Your Land* (2004)** See p.84.

***Up in Smoke* (1978)** @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm. (See Tue., 12/27)

Offscreen

Reel Women International Film Festival RW's second international festival will be held March 23-26, in Los Angeles, and they're accepting submissions *now*. Categories include: features, documentaries, shorts, animation, and student films, all of which must be directed by women or written and produced by women. Check their Web site for more information. **www.rwiff.com**.

Screen It Like You Mean It Austin Studios has a new, state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they're opening it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, a surround sound system, and supports Super 35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. *322-0145.* **www.austinstudios.org**.

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 2.0 will keep the popular show keeping on, yea verily, even though the Austin Music Network is no more. Not only will the Austin Movie Show be shown 6-8pm on Sunday nights, but their Film Tournament 2.0 will start up the same night, following the show from 9-11pm. For details about submitting a short film to be considered, check their Web site. **www.austinmovieshow.com**.

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 Jan. 6 issue is Monday, Dec. 26**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): **specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com**; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**.



Deep Blue

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Our critics rarely – almost never – confer the highest rating, which is reserved for movies that will be viewed and discussed for years to come. Heath Ledger gives a bona fide knock-your-socks-off performance."
– MICHAEL BARNES, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

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SCREENPLAY BY LARRY McMURTRY & DIANA OSSANA. BASED ON THE SHORT STORY BY ANNIE PROULX.

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Dale Watson & His Lonestars

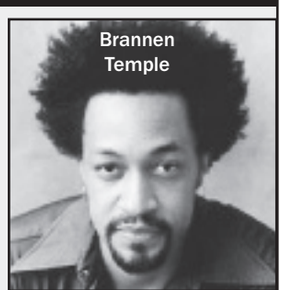
BROKEN SPOKE/CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 23/SUNDAY 25 & MONDAY 26

Our man in black leather is about to tape up the last of his boxes and head to Baltimore (**austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-11-25/music_feature.html**). Temporarily, we hope, but before Dale Watson boot scoots outta town, there's the small matter of a few honky-tonk blow-outs. Friday night, Watson hits the Broken Spoke one last time before his pre-SXSW appearance March 11. The dance floor will be spinning like a top to Watson's old-school country, guaranteed. Sunday brings Watson's annual Christmas Show & Dance to the Continental, always a good excuse to flee the house on Christmas night. After a day of ham and presents, everyone needs a little Lone Star to cool the burn. Monday is the last hurrah: Watson's last night of residency on South Congress. If you missed his last Chicken Shit Sunday at Ginny's earlier this month, this is your chance to make good. They just don't make 'em like Dale anymore. – *Darcie Stevens*



AUBREY EDWARDS

Soundcheck BY DARCIE STEVENS



Brannen Temple

LUCAS HUDGINS & THE 1ST COUSINS
Hole in the Wall, Friday 23
Bloodchilian Lucas Hudgins leads his troupe of honky-tonkers to the Hole.

TRAE, GRIT BOYS, BASSWOOD LINE
Back Room, Friday 23
With the Texas rap song of the moment, "Swang," Trae holds court.

W.C. CLARK, RAY BENSON
Saxon Pub, Saturday 24
Classic blues and classic country.

BRANNEN TEMPLE TRIO
Elephant Room, Sunday 25
Austin's Max Roach thumps the basement floor.

ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS
Saxon Pub, Wednesday 28
Before the vaudevillians begin their Ruta Maya residency, they load in their twang at the knight's lair.

ATTIC TED
Room 710, Thursday 29
Noise, masks, and debauchery from Attic Ted, Chicago's Church Bus, and the Ron Titter Band, with our very own Greg Beets on the mic.

THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS
Continental Club, Thursday 29
Here's hoping they play "You Make It Feel Like Christmas," the Jewish Brooklynian's only recorded original Christmas croon.

live music VENUES ▸ p.93
CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▸ p.94

Old 97's

LA ZONA ROSA, THURSDAY 29



"It's gonna be this way for the rest of our lives," predicts Old 97's singer Rhett Miller about his longtime band as he hustles to board a plane from New York. Currently residing with his wife and son (they're now expecting a second child) on the East Coast, the native Texan is living a dual life as the band's frontman and a solo performer.

Miller's third solo album, *The Believer*, due in February on Verve, hasn't slowed the activity of the Old 97's, who, hot on the heels of double live disc *Alive & Wired*, close out 2005 with a few Texas dates. For the band, renowned for its tight onstage presence, the new CD culminates a long held goal.

"We wanted to release a live record for so long," Miller says. "We wanted to make a Christmas record, too, but that hasn't happened yet."

Instead of holiday classics, *Wired* features alt.country nuggets like "Time Bomb" and "Big Brown Eyes" played over two nights at Gruene Hall. The band revisits more obscure tunes like "New Kid" and "Jagged," or, as Miller puts it, "shows off these songs that got left by the wayside."

After these year-end performances, Miller returns to the business of promoting another solo release. *The Believer* is a more expansive collection than Miller fans may be used to and marks growth for him as a performer. Unlike 2002's *The Instigator* for Elektra, *The Believer* wasn't produced by glossy, in-demand Jon Brion ("He was doing the Kanye West record"), but it does feature Brion and others as the backing band. One of album's highlights is a reworking of the recent Old 97's hit, "Question." Longtime fans have little reason to fear solo Miller taking the place of quartet Rhett.

"I have really exciting ideas for the next Old 97's record," he assures. – *Matt Dentler*

Dallas instrumental rockers Shibboleth open at 9pm.

The Cobras Annual Holiday Reunion

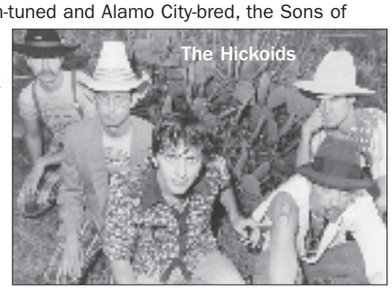
CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 23

This yearly get-together usually feels more like a class reunion. With guitarist Denny Freeman on break from Bob Dylan's eternal tour, the Cobras should be well-oiled to snake-charm the audience with Paul Ray's silky soul vocals on favorites like "Texas Clover." Add the rave-up reunion of Teddy & the Talltops, with Ted Roddy, Mike Buck, Caspar Rawls, Speedy Sparks, and smokin' Joe Dickens, and firetrucks will be screaming down South Congress when they cut loose with "Double Shot." Classic Texas R&B meets roadhouse rockabilly blues. Only at the Continental, natch. – *Margaret Moser*

The Hickoids/Sons of Hercules

ROOM 710/BEERLAND, FRIDAY 23

Before facing a long Christmas weekend of putting on airs for the family, perhaps a sanity-preserving dose of familiar noise is in order. Precision-tuned and Alamo City-bred, the Sons of Hercules always rip it up with their hip-shaking garage rock campaign. Openers the Negatives provide some not-so-good tidings of their own. On the other side of Red River, Room 710 brings the legendary Hickoids home for the hay-lidays with a cowpunk jamboree that also features self-proclaimed "Hickoid wannabes" Stickpony and San Antonio psych-pop outfit Snowbyrd. If you run into an angel named Clarence, it's probably just the Lone Star talking. – *Greg Beets*



The Hickoids

BILL LEISSNER

Jon Dee Graham

SAXON PUB, SUNDAY 25



It's been a long year for Jon Dee Graham, tirelessly gigging on behalf of his son's uninsurable bone disease. That so many local musicians have rallied to his support has been remarkable, but no more so than Graham himself. A songwriter of the first order, Graham's Waits-ian vocals and wry lyrics are a treat alone or in the company of longtime bandmates the Resentments. Stephen Bruton, Bruce Hughes, John Chipman, and Scrappy Jud Newcomb round out that end, combining talents as witty as they are wonderful. No wonder Sunday nights at the Saxon are so special. – *Margaret Moser*

Adult Rodeo, Awesome Cool Dudes, Science

ROOM 710, WEDNESDAY 28

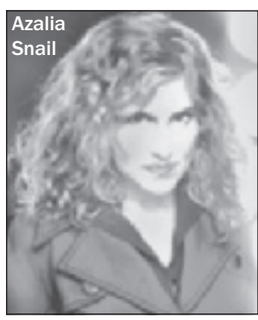


Awesome Cool Dudes

Listening to avant-rock outliers Adult Rodeo is sort of like reaching into a bucket of cold spaghetti at a Boy Scouts' Halloween carnival. You don't know quite what you're getting into, but it sure feels strange. Whether they're meditating on psych, punk, or twang, Adult Rodeo's fundamental opposition always shines through. The Awesome Cool Dudes' latest, *Maxin' and Relaxin'* (Furniture), is a fun-filled cultural deconstruction that incorporates synth-pop, indie rock, and even rap to grand, synapse-tweaking effect. Meanwhile, Sound Team spinoff Science marches on. – *Greg Beets*

Rachel Goldstar, Azalia Snail

BEERLAND, THURSDAY 29



Azalia Snail

Think Siouxsie Sioux running through sprinklers with Brian Eno or Kate Bush tap-dancing with Rimbaud, and you've got an idea of Azalia Snail's sound. The L.A.-based singer/guitarist has been making good on the lo-fi scene since the early Nineties, putting out a split with Sebadoh and playing with the likes of Beck, Low, and the Breeders. Her upcoming release, *Sylvan Echoes*, continues her tradition of druggy orchestrations over crystalline vocals. Experimental Aircraft frontlady Rachel Goldstar headlines solo with a dream-pop transmission, and Quien Es Boom! taps out a few in anticipation of their spring release, *Escaping the Strings*. – *Audra Schroeder*

IN-STORES

Thursday: **Azalia Snail**, End of an Ear, 7pm

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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SPOETZL

SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS

WATERLOO

1) VARIOUS ARTISTS — KGSR Broadcasts V13
2) JAMES McMURTRY — Childish Things
3) ELIZA GILKYSON — Paradise Hotel
4) GREENCARDS — Weather & Water
5) DELBERT McCLINTON — Cost of Living
6) DANNY MALONE — While We're Still Here
7) SPOON — Gimme Fiction
8) JIMMIE DALE GILMORE — Come on Back
9) RODNEY CROWELL — Outsider
10) ROBERT EARL KEEN — What I Really Mean

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DEEPEDWARD — latin pop	EASTSIDE**KINGS** — texas blues legends
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
KACY**CROWLEY** — pop	ROGER**WALLACE** — country

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JAN 7 - Renee Woodward
JAN 8 - Floyd Domino

UPCOMING **WESTGATE** SHOWS:
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JAN 7 - W.C. Clark
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214-553-9293



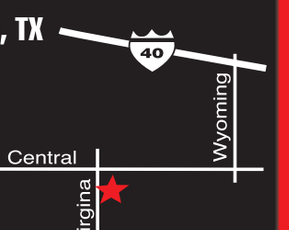
8519 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX
512-374-0180



701 E 5th@Sabine, Austin, TX
512-472-4774



6666 4TH NW, Albuquerque, NM
505-344-4330



8508 Central, Albuquerque, NM
505-268-8760

live music venues

1920S CLUB, 918 Congress, 479-7979
219 WEST, 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194
311 CLUB, 311 E. Sixth, 477-1630
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH, 3600 Presidential, 530-6508
AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892
ALICE'S RESTAURANT, 14100 Camino Real, Niederwald, 512/376-2782
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE, 21815 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-3777
ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL, 3001 N. I-35, 388-7353
ARARAT, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692
ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE, 314 W. 17th, 469-0380
ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR, 16410 Stewart, 266-0331
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829
AUSTIN MUSIC CO-OP, 5413 Guadalupe, 275-6404
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, 208 Nueces, 263-4146
AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 445-4455
B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research, 335-9504
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335
BACK ROOM, 2015 E. Riverside, 441-4677
BARCELONA, 209 E. Sixth, 236-0900
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop, 512/321-7907
BECK'S ON CONGRESS, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441
BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK
BLIND PIG PUB, 317 E. Sixth, 472-0809
BOAT HOUSE GRILL, 6812 RR 620 N., 249-5200
BOOMERZ, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189
BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330
CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473
CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634
CANARY HUT PUB, 11005 Burnet Rd., 837-7117
THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360
CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790
CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669
CHARLIE'S, 1301 Lavaca, 474-6481
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE, 119 Cheatham, San Marcos, 512/353-3777
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones, 454-2666
CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB, 9926 Circle, 301-4661
CLUB ONE 15, 115 San Jacinto, 472-4115
COFFEE CREATOR, 9402 Parkfield Dr., 719-4544
CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444
COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010
COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700
CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN, 1 Woodcreek Circle, Wimberley, 512/847-5950
DAN MCKLUSKY'S, 301 E. Sixth, 473-8924
DANDELION CAFE, 1115 E. 11th, 542-9542
DARWIN'S PUB, 223 E. Sixth, 474-7399
THE DETOUR, 1113 RR 620 N., Lakeway, 512/266-2279
DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336
THE DRISKILL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
EGO'S, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE, 1302 S. First, 447-7445
EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770
ELEMENT, 301 W. Fifth, 480-9888
ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979
EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS
END OF AN EAR, 2209 S. First, 462-6008
EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE, 605 Brazos, 478-3473
FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE, 1601 Barton Springs Rd., 322-9750
THE FOUNDATION, 307 W. Fifth, 472-4256
FOX & HOUND, 401 Guadalupe, 494-1200
FRIENDS, 208 E. Sixth, 320-8193
GALAXY CAFE, 9911 Brodie Ln. #750, 233-6000
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576
GIDDY UPS, 12010 Manchaca, 280-4732
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL, 730-A W. Stassney, 326-4466
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL, 2401 W. Howard, 255-8003
GREEN PASTURES, 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747
GRUENE HALL, 1601 Hunter, New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GÜERO'S TACO BAR, 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688
HABANA CALLE 6, 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473
HILLTOP TAVERN, 5996 Hwy. 21, Maxwell, 512/357-6731
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
IT'S ITALIAN, 14735 Bratton, 252-1444
JACK'S BACKYARD, 6901 N. I-35, 451-5008
JC'S STEAKHOUSE, 5804 N. I-35, 407-9393
JO'S HOT COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA CABANA GRILL, 21103 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0916
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAMBO KINGS CLUB, 611 E. Seventh, 845-3918
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MOMOS, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOONRIVER, 2002 N. Pace Bend Rd., Spicewood, 512/264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOTHER'S CAFE, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MR. NATURAL, 2414-A S. Lamar, 916-9223
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NAT'S PUB, Lakeway Plaza, Lakeway, 512/263-2855
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy., 467-6969
NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133
NUTTY BROWN CAFE, 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648
THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137
OILCAN HARRY'S, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823
OSLO, 301 W. Sixth, 480-9433
PAGGI HOUSE, 200 Lee Barton Dr., 499-8835
THE PALLADIUM, 13800 Dragline, 989-7450
PARDNERS, 1110 Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/244-1204
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
POODLE DOG LOUNGE, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468
THE PUB, 1826 Mays, Round Rock, 512/246-8007
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAGGEDY ANNE'S, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., 251-9647
RAIN, 217-B W. Fourth, 494-1150
RANDY'S ICE HOUSE, 1321 W. Second, Taylor, 512/352-7993
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
RED'S SCOOT INN, 1308 E. Fourth, 320-0004
REDRUM, 401 Sabine, 275-6575
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK, 2120 N. Mays #100, Round Rock, 512/246-9444
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, 218-0813
ROMEO'S, 1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROPER'S NIGHTCLUB, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., # 5000, 990-4991
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE, 208-D W. Fourth, 478-7222
SAENGERHALLE, 255 Saengerhalle, New Braunfels, 830/625-HALL
SAKÉ ON SIXTH, 621 E. Sixth, 478-8788
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-1200
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOAL CREEK SALOON, 909 N. Lamar, 474-0805
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 601-5 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060
SHOOTING STARS COFFEE, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334
SKY LOUNGE, 416 Congress, 477-3151
SOUTH FORTY, 629 W. Ben White Blvd., 444-9329
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca, 280-8590
SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET, Tony Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976
TAMBALEO, 302 Bowie, 472-3213
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE, 830 Gruene Rd., Gruene, 866/828-3761
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TRIUMPH CAFE, 3808 Spicewood Springs, 343-1875
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
TROUBADOUR SALOON, 503 E. Sixth, 659-4263
THE VELVET SPADE, 912 Red River, 482-8404
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174
VIVO, 2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300
VUE, 416 Congress, Upstairs, 477-3151
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 481-8599
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

603 RED RIVER
477-EMOS
ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME
Emo's
alternative lounging
OPEN FOR HAPPY HOUR FROM 8-10PM

Wednesday, Dec 21
MASONIC
AUX•SECRET WEAPONS

Thursday, Dec 22
1986
FACELESS WEREWOLVES•THE VAIN

Friday, Dec 23
EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE – HOLIDAY BASH MUSIC BY:
VISITORS
GABE HASKELL (FROM SLOWREADER)
MARS WARS•LAX•STREETCAR
PLUS DJS BETWEEN SETS 9PM
WITH ART BY:
CARLOS ROSALES-SILVA • BEN TIPTON • CASEY DUNN • KYLE TWEEDY • WES ROSE • JUSTIN COX • CHRISTA PALAZZOLO • CRISTINA MANN-GARC

Sat - Thu, Dec 24 - 29 closed

Friday, Dec 30
APPLICATORS•TIA CARRERA
BRICKS ATX•THE DICKINS

Saturday, Dec 31
SPEND NEW YEARS EVE WITH ...
FLAMETRICK SUBS WITH SATAN'S CHEERLEADERS
SLICK 57•BASIN STREET
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Sun & Mon, Jan 1 & 2 closed

FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK
↓ FREE WEEK ↓
($5 MINORS)

TUESDAY, 1/3
MASONIC
TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY
PAPER AIRPLANES•SHIM SHAMS

WEDNESDAY, 1/4
GORCH FOCK•BOXCAR SATAN
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND • ST37

THURSDAY, 1/5
OUTSIDE:
BLACK ANGELS
MY EDUCATION
ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE•THE NEW GLOW

FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK FREE WEEK

INSIDE:
THE ARM • CAMP XRAY
SINEWS • FOR THOSE WHO KNOW
ON THE PATIO!
THE ATTAK (IN)FORMATION

FRIDAY, 1/6
OUTSIDE:
AT ALL COST
AMERICA IS WAITING • CARDINALE
VISE VERSA•STEERS
INSIDE:
STEPBROTHERS
CRACK PIPES•THE UGLY BEATS•NERVOUS EXITS

SATURDAY, 1/7
OUTSIDE:
I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE CHOSEN DARKNESS
ZYKOS•THE LEMURS•LORD HENRY
INSIDE:
WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
GLASS FAMILY•THE FALL COLLECTION•CRASH GALLERY

SUNDAY, 1/8
THINGS THAT GO POP
LOXSLY•MAGIC SURPRISE
TACKS, THE BOY DISASTER

MONDAY, 1/9
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH
AM SYNDICATE•THE CHAPTERS•MIDGETMEN

TUESDAY, 1/10
GAMES & THEORY
BITTER TONGUES
TRIUMPH OF GNOMES

WEDNESDAY, 1/11
CHICKEN RANCH PRESENTS:
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
WILLIE HEATHER NEAL
JOHN SCHOOLEY AND HIS ONE MAN BAND

FREE SHOWS WITH TATTOO CONVENTION BADGE

TATTOO CONVENTION AFTERPARTY
↓ FREE W/ CONVENTION BADGE ↓

THURSDAY, 1/12 Z
OPENING NIGHT PARTY
FLAMETRICK SUBS
SHINOLA•TEXAS SAPPHIRES

FRIDAY, 1/13
DIXIE WITCH•LIONS
TIA CARRERA•FULL STRIDE

SATURDAY, 1/14
COMPLETE CONTROL
THE ENDS•TBA•SPARKLE MOTION

SUNDAY, 1/15
AMPLIFIED HEAT
PUDDING•TBA
RAY CASHMAN

COMING SOON

• 1/21 CENTRO-MATIC* • • 1/23 HIGH ON FIRE/THE BRONX/BIG BUSINESS* • 1/24 SOME GIRLS* • 1/25 AKRON/FAMILY* • 1/27 EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY/OCTOPUS PROJECT* • 1/28 GREYSKULL* • 1/29 CRITERIA* • 2/4 PEARLS AND BRASS • 2/11 THE SWORD / EARLY MAN* • 2/15 THE HOLD STEADY* • 2/18 NADA SURF* • 2/19 NO USE FOR A NAME* • 2/24 P.O.S. • 2/25 SMOKING POPES* • 2/28 THE WEDDING PRESENT* • 3/2 REGGIE AND THE FULL EFFECT* • 3/3 ARIEL PINK* • 3/4 ELECTRIC 6* • 3/7 MOTION CITY SOUNDTRAK* / THE BLED (IN)* • 3/10 DROPKICK MURPHYS* • 3/13 TAKE ACTION TOUR* • 3/29 ANTI-FLAG*

*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE THROUGH www.emosaustin.com OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT WATERLOO RECORDS







club listings

Thu 22

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine and Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Dominick Grillo (1:00), Barry Sell (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Chad Tracy (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Lorrie Singer & Bradley Kopp (12:30)

ALICE'S RESTAURANT Christmas Bazaar w/ Ky & Owl, Avenue Elle, Mandy Mercier, Flying $ Bunkhouse Band, Johnny Tequila, La Loona, Lonesome Heroes

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Five One Two

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Albert & Gage (8:00)

BACK ROOM Bricks ATX, Saturday Night Shockers, Cesspool, Livends, Dead by Day

BARCELONA DJ Tats

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Idgy Vaughn (8:00)

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAFE CAFFEINE Bonnie Whitmore, Abi Tapia (9:00)

CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle (5:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Archibalds, Mandible

CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Onion Creek Crawdaddies (6:30), Banana Blender Surprise Annual Holiday Reunion (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Out of Phase (9:00)

COTTON CLUB Anthony Eby

DANDELION CAFE Grito Poetry w/ Nelson Saga (7:00)

DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire

THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle w/ Tammy Sommerville (7:30)

EGO'S Sunny Sweeney, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Whit Smith's Jazz Caravan, Brannen Temple Quartet, Javier Vercher (6:00)

EMO'S The Vain, Faceless Werewolves, 1986

EVANGELINE CAFE Karen Abrahams

FADÓ DJ Gerry (10:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA The Cutoff, Ambush, Permakids

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Neal Kassanoff, Crawling With Kings (8:00)

THE FOUNDATION Coy West

FOX & HOUND Danny Britt (6:00)

FRIENDS Trent Turner

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Erik Hokkanen

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Jesse Dayton (7:30)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Johnny Gimble

HANOVER'S Karaoke

HEADHUNTERS Hyver, Juan Hitter, Slider, Auto-Erotics, Meatwood, Hit by a Car

HOLE IN THE WALL Elana Fremerman, Alice Spencer & Her Monkey Butlers (10:00)

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights (8:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Wideawake (10:00)

MAMBO KINGS CLUB Recon Thursday w/ Loki, Secret Agent, Durhdy, Jungle Jim, B-1, DJ Mattis

MOMOS Mercy Lords, Rachel Loy, All Hail, $5 Friend (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Cameron Road (6:30)

DUE TO OUR ABBREVIATED HOLIDAY SCHEDULE, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES:

FRIDAY, DEC. 30 ISSUE: DEADLINE: MONDAY, DEC. 26 (LISTINGS FOR DEC. 29-JAN. 5)

VENUES PLEASE SEND NEW YEAR'S EVE LISTINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AS WELL AS HOLIDAY CLOSINGS AND/OR INTERRUPTED RESIDENCY GIGS.

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.

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Blues Jam w/ Dewayne Davis (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Jamie

OSLO The Bumps (11:00)

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Christmas Party w/ Zack Huckabee, Wade Burnett

POODLE DOG LOUNGE The Moonhangers

THE PUB Karaoke

RANDY'S ICE HOUSE Karaoke (8:00)

RED FEZ Strangetribe w/ Jeff Strange, DJ Nu-Mark, DJ Manny

RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)

REDRUM Mass Matter Infrastructure, Ninja Death Accessory

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet (6:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 22

La Loona, Alice's Restaurant
Dead by Day, **Cesspool**, **Saturday Night Shockers**, Back Room
Banana Blender Surprise, Continental Club
Ambush, Flamingo Cantina
DJ Nu-Mark, Red Fez
Ninja Death Accessory, **Mass Matter Infrastructure**, Redrum

FRI 23

Trae, Back Room
Sons of Hercules, Beerland
Hot 8 Brass Band, Flamingo Cantina
Snowbyrd, Room 710

SAT 24

Derrick Edmundson, Elephant Room

THU 29

Azalia Snail, Beerland
Azalia Snail, End of an Ear
Half Knots, Flipnotics Coffeespace
Two Tons of Steel, Gruene Hall
Old 97's, **Shibboleth**, La Zona Rosa
DJ Nu-Mark, Red Fez
Church Bus, Room 710

See **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings.*

Story Of The Year
w/ Every Time I Die, First to Last, & He Is Legend

THE BACK ROOM
SAT JAN 14
DOORS 7PM
SHOW 8PM

Cowboy Junkies

ONE WORLD THEATRE
THU & FRI FEB 16 & 17
DOORS 6:30PM & 9PM
SHOWS 7PM & 9:30PM

RICKY SKAGGS
AND KENTUCKY THUNDER

ONE WORLD THEATRE
FRI FEB 10
DOORS 6:30PM & 9PM
SHOWS 7PM & 9:30PM

The Chieftans

RIVERBEND CENTRE
SUN JAN 22
SHOW 8PM

Stanley Jordan

ONE WORLD THEATRE
FRI JAN 27
DOORS 6:30PM & 9PM
SHOWS 7PM & 9:30PM

purchase tickets online at
startickets plus.com
in person at Albertsons & Waterloo Records
by phone at 469-SHOW or 800-585-3737
startickets plus
Albertsons

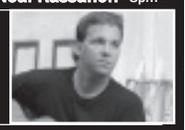
SHOAL CREEK SALOON
Catfish Color T.V.
909 N. Lamar 512.474.0805

We'll be open until 5 pm on Christmas Eve and we'll open up at 5 pm on Christmas Day. Swing by for some holiday cheer!

SUNDAY AND MONDAY NIGHTS
Chicken Fried Steak $5
All Pints $2.25 (Dos Equis $2.75)
TUESDAY NIGHTS
Chicken Fried Chicken $5
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Combo Plate Special!
Choose 2: Catfish, Crawfish, Oysters, Shrimp just $6
THURSDAY NIGHTS
Big Ol' Bowl of Etouffé $5

Now Serving Whiskey!
LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR 8:30PM TO 11PM
Smoking Room 18 and Up
Indoor Smoking
OUTDOOR PATIO
16 Televisions
Shuffle Board
Wireless Internet
POOL TABLE
www.shoalcreeksaloon.com

Happy Holidays Austin!!!
Flipnotics COFFEESPACE CAFÉ

Thu 22 Crawling w/ Kings ~ Neal Kassanoff 8pm
Fri 23
Will T. Massey
Stefanie Fix 9pm


Sat 24
Closing early tonight so our staff can celebrate with their families...
Merry Christmas Austin!

Sun 25 Merry Christmas ~ Closed
Mon 26 Esther Sparks ~ David Newbould 8pm
Tues' Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory 8:30pm
Wed 28 Ralph White ~ Chris Brecht 8pm
thur 29 The Half Knots ~ David Hamburger
fri 30 Plum'Tucker ~ Philip Gibbs
sat 31 New Year's Eve Bash ~ Bands TBA

1601 Barton Springs
www.flipnotics.com
Free hi-speed Wireless Internet
480-TO-GO

Triple Crown
San Marcos, TX (512) 396-2236
www.triplecrownlive.com

Th 22	Fender & the Skirtchasers 6pm Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings, Raditude, Knocked Out Stiffs 9pm
Fr 23	Wasted Youth 6pm Mark Jungers 9pm
Sa 24	Ed Cooper & the Thrillbillys 10pm
Su 25	Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly or Nate
Mo 26	Gerry's Kids 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
Tu 27	RC Banks 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
We 28	Shotgun Hopkins 6pm Free Juke Box & Pool 8pm
Th 29	Molly Hayes 6pm King Slim Blues 9pm
Fr 30	Eric Hisaw 6pm Rabb Rodriguez y los Killa' Hogs 9pm
Sa 31	NEW YEARS EVE!!! - Rebecca Creek, The Hatchets, Subtle Creeps 9pm

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in Austin
Advance Tickets now Available
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I-35 North turn right go one block

80's Formal
NEW YEARS CELEBRATION
Tambaleo

With DJ's Starsign & John Angle
$20 Admission
Includes champagne toast and party favors.
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Limited space available so please come early.
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2006
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TEXAS UNLIMITED BAND
$20 IN ADVANCE
$25 AT THE DOOR
** LIMITED TICKET AVAILABILITY **

DECEMBER		Happy Hour 6-8 *	Headliners 9:30
thur	22	Gaila Kenneally	Sauce
fri	23	Shawn & Phil	Metal Shop
sat	24	CLOSED	
sun	25	CLOSED	
mon	26	Kevin Ahart	Jukebox Heroes feat. Robert Wagner
tue	27	Seela & Friends	Trent & Dave
wed	28	Trent & Dave	Spazmatics

CEDAR STREET COURTYARD
Private Party Reservations: 236.8776
208 W. 4th * 495.9669 * cedarstreetaustin.com

club listings ◂◂ FROM THURSDAY

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)
RUTA MAYA Basin Street, the Noise Revival, Boone (8:30)
SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy D
SHOAL CREEK SALOON The Hi-Flyers (8:00)
SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M
TAMBALEO DJ Starsign, John Angle (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft
TRIPLE CROWN Fender & the Skirt Chasers, Raditude, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings
TROUBADOUR SALOON Cracker Mojo, Soic Falls, Element
THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE The Walking Contradictions
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)
WHISKY BAR DJ Ian Orth, Ben Craven

Fri 23

219 WEST DJ Trace
311 CLUB The Burners, Joe Valentine and Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR The Hudsons (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Boomer Norman (3:30)
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Christmas Bazaar w/ Claude Butch Morgan, Whitey Ray Huitt, Al Sato, Slaves of Utopia, Carley Wolf, Jelly Jar
ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE Gunhands
ANTONE'S Monte Montgomery CD Release (9:00)
ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE gfire (7:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grassy Knoll Boys
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR K'Cee (9:00)
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Shelley King, Ponty Bone & the Squeezetones (3:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Rick Hornyak
BACK ROOM Randy Pavlock & 24/7 (7:00), Basswood Line, Grit Boys, Trae (9:00)
BECK'S ON CONGRESS T. Jarrod Bonta (8:00)
BEERLAND The Negatives, Sons of Hercules
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Sam Shepherd
BOOMERZ 4:19
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson & His Lonestars
BROWN BAR DJ Gray, Late Night w/ mr.ripley (9:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Kentucky Shade
CEDAR STREET Sean Phillips (6:00), Metalshop (9:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Blend Fridays w/ DJ Inverse, DJ Casanova
CONTINENTAL CLUB The Blues Specialists (6:30), Teddy & the Talltops, Paul Ray & the Cobras (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Kent Mayhew, Texas Unlimited Band (6:45)
COTTON CLUB Lost Wolf
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Bobby Doyle (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
EGO'S Ray Cashman & Gabby Brown, Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes, Jesse Dayton (6:00)
ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith w/ Korey Simeone, the Brew
EMO'S Everyone Knows Everyone Holiday Bash w/ DJ Shane, Visitors, Streetcar, Gabe Hascall, Mars Wars, LAX
EVANGELINE CAFE Joe "King" Carrasco
FLAMINGO CANTINA Hot 8 Brass Band
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Stefanie Fix, Will T. Massey (9:00)
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Loy Bones Band
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Stepsiders (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL John Ward & Slow Burn
GRUENE HALL Beau Sample, Luke Hill, Elana Fremerman & the Hazard Boys (8:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Jon Blondell Quartet
HEADHUNTERS Mills "the Shithouse Poet," More Fire, Bent Gents, Elvis on Speed, Pillcrusher, Oklahomos
HOLE IN THE WALL Lucas Hudgins & the 1st Cousins
JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer
JOVITA'S Harry Bodine, Clay Jeffrey & Kevin Smith, Redd Volkaert (5:30)
LA CABANA GRILL Blues Jam w/ Li'l Steph (8:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
LUCKY LOUNGE Sounds Under Radio (8:00)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MOMOS The Drawing Board, Ryan Desiato, Adrian & the Sickness (8:00)
MOONRIVER DavidJohn & the WildCards
MR. NATURAL Will Dunlap (7:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Too Blue (6:30)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Li'l Steph, Rhythm Rats (8:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Wes Hayden
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Dawn Maracle
OSLO DJ Kunal M (10:00)
PAGGI HOUSE DJ Skot Kees (9:00)
THE PALLADIUM Vibe
PLUSH Micasa Tu Casa w/ Tarek, MC Flint (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Steve South Band
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Fat Dog (9:30)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke

SULLIVAN'S steakhouse
300 COLORADO ST.
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NEW YEAR'S EVE now taking reservations
Les & the Funk Mob 10pm-2am

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Thurs. Dec. 22



Carolyn Wonderland 8pm

GEORGE DEVORE 11pm



James Hand

Happy Hr. 6:00 - 7:30pm No Cover

Fri. Dec. 23



11pm **Stephen Bruton**

John Deery 9:30pm

Lorrie Singer 8pm

HHr. The Regulars 6pm

Sat. Dec. 24 A very special Christmas Eve $10

W.C. Clark 11pm

Ray Benson 9pm

Two Austin Originals

Sun. Dec. 25

8pm **The Resentments**

w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman



Jon Dee Graham 11pm

Mon. Dec. 26

BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND 8:30pm

7pm Matt The Electrician

Ryan DeSiato 11pm

Tues. Dec. 27



Will Sexton 11:30pm

HHr. Denim 6pm

Monte Montgomery 8:30pm & Orange Kitty

Wed. Dec. 28 2 shows!!



8pm 11pm **Asylum Street Spankers**

Thurs. Dec. 29



Carolyn Wonderland 8pm

Papa Mali 11pm



James Hand

Happy Hr. 6:00 - 7:30pm No Cover

Fri. Dec. 30



11:30pm **VALLEJO**

The Beatles Holiday Show w/ 7pm

#9 Orchestra

Sat. Dec. 31



11pm

Tickets on sale now!

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Happy Holidays!



from all your friends at the Saxon

COMING TO THE SAXON:

1/2 - Sara Hickman
1/3 - Arthur Brown
1/6 - Malford Milligan
1/6 - Trish Murphy
1/13 - Stephen Bruton
1/20 - Charlie Sexton

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1/14 - THE EL MICHAELS AFFAIR
1/19 - BETTYE LAVETTE
1/20 - THE BLASTERS

The Continental Club

THUR. DEC. 22
HAPPY HOUR
ONION CREEK CRAWDADDIES

MON. DEC. 26
LAST CHANCE TO DANCE
8PM DOORS SHOW AT 9PM
DALE WATSON AND HIS LONE STARS



TUES. DEC. 27
HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE
DALE'S LAST MONDAY NIGHT SHOW
+ DOAK SHORT

BANANA BLENDER SURPRISE



10:30PM

TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD

WED. DEC. 28
HAPPY HOUR
GARY CLARK JR.





12AM

Mc LIVE DVD SHOOT

JAMES MURTRY



10PM

FRIDAY DEC. 23
HAPPY HOUR
BLUES SPECIALISTS
Paul Ray AND THE Cobras
Annual Holiday Reunion





JON DEE GRAHAM

THURS. DEC. 29
H. H. ONION CREEK CRAWDADDIES
DIAMOND SMUGGLERS
BIG BALLS

PLUS THE ORIGINAL **TEDDY AND THE TALLTOPS** WITH **JOE DICKENS!**

FRIDAY DEC. 30
H. H. BLUES SPECIALISTS
DALE WATSON'S Farewell Bash



12AM

JON DEE GRAHAM

10PM

SATURDAY DEC. 24
....CLOSED....

SUNDAY DEC. 25
DOORS AT 9PM SHOW AT 10PM
DALE WATSON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW AND DANCE

SATURDAY DEC. 31
CONTINENTAL CLUB 18TH ANNIVERSARY! NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION ADVANCE TIX ON SALE
12:30AM **LEROI BROS.**
10:30PM **TONI PRICE**
9PM **Eve and the Exiles**

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LA ZONA ROSA

TONIGHT! DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
7TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE
FEATURING: ROGER CREAGER, RANDY ROGERS • BILLY JOE SHAVER, CORY MORROW W/ WADE BOWEN, FRED ANDREWS (OF HONEYBROWNE)

THU DEC 29 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
OLD 97'S WITH SHIBBOLETH

SAT DEC 31 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9 NEW YEARS EVE!
JOE ELY'S ELECTRIC BAND
FEATURING: JIMMIE PETTIT, DAVID GRISSON • DAVIS MCCLARTY, RECKLESS KELLY • PATRICIA VONNE

THU JAN 19 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
ACOUSTIC SHOW
LOS LOBOS

SAT JAN 21 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS

MON JAN 23 DOORS 7 • SHOW 7:30
AVENGED SEVENFOLD
CKY • DAY OF CONTEMPT

2 NIGHTS DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
SPOON
LIVE W/SPECIAL GUESTS
2/2 I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE CHOSEN DARKNESS
2/3 SONS OF HERCULES

SAT FEB 4 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
WONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND
CABIN FEVER TOUR 2006

SAT FEB 11
BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
JACKIE GREENE
DOORS 8 SHOW 9

TUE FEB 14 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
B-R-5-4-9 AND THE AVETT BROS.
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TICKETS ON SALE SATURDAY!

FRI MAR 24 DOORS 8 • SHOW 9
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NEXT TO LA ZONA ROSA — FOURTH & RIO GRANDE

club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

RED FEZ Thrill Night w/ Chicken George
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB All U Need (8:30)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)
ROADHOUSE Heroes
ROOM 710 Snowbyrd, Stickpony, Hickoids
RUTA MAYA Acorn Hip Hop Benefit w/ Hilly Lyman, Diasporic, Flaming Arrows (9:00)
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE DJ Rhythmic (10:00)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:30), Lorrie Singer, John Deery, Stephen Bruton (8:00)
SHENANIGANS KneeDeep (9:00)
STARDUST CLUB Country Gold
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Digital
TRIPLE CROWN Wasted Youth, Mark Jungers
TRIUMPH CAFE Beth Lee & Woode Wood (7:00)
TROUBADOUR SALOON Dean Strickland, Texcentrics (8:00)
VUE Mumbojumbo w/ DJ Supafly, Nathan Castle, Mike C.
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons
WHISKY BAR DJ P.O.W., DJ Hannibal
Z'TEJAS Dave Ducharme-Jones Group (7:00)

Sat 24

219 WEST DJ Trace
311 CLUB Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine and Lynn (8:30)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Armadillo Christmas Bazaar w/ Django's Mustache, Carolyn Wonderland, Texana Dames (12:30)
BARCELONA DJ Berlin
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BROWN BAR mr.ripley (10:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CLUB ONE 15 Uptown Saturday w/ Cut Creator (9:30)
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
THE DRISKILL Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Derrick Edmundson (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather
FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)
GALAXY CAFE Paul White Quartet (7:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON The Heymakers (9:00)
HEADHUNTERS Christmas Eve Open Mic
HOLE IN THE WALL Mike Dubose, Luv Buckit (10:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE 5th Annual Mazel Ball (9:00)
MOONRIVER Christmas Eve w/ the Wildcards
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Domestic Refugees, Kim & Her Blues Boys (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mr. K
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Billy D.
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)
RUTA MAYA C.J. Boyd (4:00)
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE DJ Sugar (10:00)
SAXON PUB Ray Benson, W.C. Clark (9:00)
SHOOTING STARS COFFEE Obatallah (1:00)
SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET The Gospel Project (7:00 am)
TRIPLE CROWN Ed Cooper & the Thrillbillies
VIVO DJ Tomas (7:00)
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.

Sun 25

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CONTINENTAL CLUB Dale Watson's Christmas Show & Dance
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mac Bynum (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Brannen Temple Trio (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00 am)
HOLE IN THE WALL Karaoke Christmas w/ MC Debbie (10:00)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Dewayne Davis (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
RAIN Hedda Layne (10:00)
REDRUM [adult swim], Cap City Presents, Troy Dillinger (7:00)
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
RUTA MAYA DJ Supremo (11:00 am)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Jon Dee Graham (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Gospel Brunch (11:00 am)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Molly Hayes (9:00)

Mon 26

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Gypsy Moon (3:30)
ANTONE'S Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 (9:00), Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty (11:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Margaret Miller
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Kevin Ahart (6:00), Texas Eastside Kings (9:30)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Groove Attack w/ DJ Skorcha D. (9:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Dale Watson & His Lonestars (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage

GEORGE CARLIN LIVE
"OFF-BASE AND ON TARGET"
with special guest DENNIS BLAIR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
TWO SHOWS! 7:00PM & 9:45PM
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1/28/6 .....TIX ONSALE NOW...DOORS 8PM

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2/10/6 .....TIX ONSALE NOW...DOORS 8PM

SPLIT LIP RAYFIELD



TIX ONSALE

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM + WATERLOO RECORDS

2/15/6 .....DOORS 8PM

THE FRAY

CARY BROTHERS
MAT KEARNEY



TIX ONSALE 12/17 10AM
TIX 12/17 10AM @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM + WATERLOO

2/16/6 ....WWW.TINOCORP.COM..TIX ONSALE NOW

MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO

+TINO BREAKS in DUB



DALEK
DJ MIGGY
OF SUB OSLO

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2/19/06 ..... DOORS 7PM

SUPERGRASS



PILOTDRIFT
TIX ONSALE NOW

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2/25/6 ..... DOORS 8PM

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3/7/06 ..... DOORS 8PM

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BURDEN BROTHERS
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SAT DEC 31 — frontgate TICKETS

NEW YEAR'S EVE



SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
WITH PORTER DAVIS

TICKET INCLUDES FREE BBQ BUFFET AND MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST

SAT JAN 7 - FREE SHOW! DOORS 9PM

BLACK WATER GOSPEL
WITH O:A AND LALALAND

THU JAN 12

DAVID RYAN HARRIS
WITH ADAM RICHMAN



FRI JAN 13

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FEATURING
DAVID GARZA
WITH FIRE MARSHALS OF BETHLEHEM
DAYLIGHT TITANS AND RITE FLYERS

SAT JAN 14

ALPHA REV
FEATURING CASEY MCPERSON
CD RELEASE PARTY

THU JAN 19

KNIFE IN THE WATER
WITH THE BLACK AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS

FRI JAN 20 — frontgate TICKETS



GAELIC STORM

SAT JAN 21

GENE POOL
WITH ROCK BOTTOM CHOIR

SUN JAN 22 — frontgate TICKETS

MUTE MATH WITH VEDA

THU JAN 26 — frontgate TICKETS

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BUFFET FROM 10AM TIL 1PM
ADULT $9.95/CHILDREN $4.95
MUSIC FROM 11AM TIL 1PM
HOLIDAY MENU STARTS AT 11AM

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FREE THURS. DEC. 22 @ 7:30PM
TONY MASERATI

TUES. DEC. 27 @ 7:30PM
FREE
PAUL LEMOND BAND



FREE
WED. DEC. 28 @ 7:30PM
J. PRICE

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THURSDAYS — KARAOKE 8PM
WIN A TRIP TO VEGAS!

FRIDAY 12/23 — ELECTRIC CRUSH 10PM
VALLEJO 11PM

SUNDAY 12/25 — FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

DAILY HAPPY HOUR TIL 7
POOL • DARTS
HORSESHOES
DANNY'S BBQ
THURSDAY • FRIDAY
SUNDAYS FOOTBALL
FREE POKER
MONDAYS FOOTBALL
15 FOOT SCREEN

TUESDAY — PETE BENZ AND FRIENDS 7:30PM

WEDNESDAY 12/28 — MARTINIS & MANICURES 5-8PM
BIG BONUS TRIO 7PM

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LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

THURSDAY DEC 22 • 7PM
KAREN ABRAHAMS

FRIDAY DEC 23 • 10PM
JOE KING CARRASCO $5 Cover

TUESDAY DEC 27
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
GENE TAYLOR 8PM

WEDNESDAY DEC 28
COWBOY JOHNSON 6PM

mother EGAN'S irish pub

OPEN FOR LUNCH
11AM EVERY DAY!

fr 12/23 — FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIAL TURKEY POT PIE $5.75
HAPPY HOUR PRICES 4-7PM
THE DETENTIONS 6-8PM

sa 12/24 — MOTHER EGAN'S WILL BE CLOSED TODAY!
BUT CHECK OUT THE ARTIST'S MARKET CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
EVERY WEEKEND AT 713 W. 6TH ST.

su 12/25 — OPEN AT 6PM
MINNESOTA AT BALTIMORE 8:30PM
9PM-1AM KARAOKE W/ EDIE

mo 12/26 — MONDAY LUNCH SPECIAL FISH AND CHIPS $5.75
7:30PM MOTHER EGAN'S TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT! WIN A PLACE ON THE FINALS FOR A CHANCE AT TWO ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO VEGAS.
NO COVER, NO MINIMUM PURCHASE, NO REASON NOT TO PLAY.
9PM ON ALL SCREENS
NEW ENGLAND AT N.Y. JETS

tu 12/27 — TUESDAY LUNCH SPECIAL CHEESEBURGER $5.75
WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SOUP, SALAD, OR FRIES
7:30-10:30PM MOTHER EGAN'S TRIVIA QUIZ TESTING AUSTIN'S IQ ONE PINT AT A TIME. EVERYONE WELCOME, NO COVER

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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8–10PM WWW.CORNELLHURDBAND.COM NO COVER!
FRIDAY 12/23
9PM–11PM NO COVER!
REDD VOLKAERT
KEVIN SMITH & CLAY JEFFREY
HARRY BODINE 5:30–6:30PM
7PM–8:30PM
WE WILL BE CLOSED
SATURDAY. DECEMBER 24
SUNDAY. DECEMBER 25
AND MONDAY. DECEMBER 26
TUESDAY 12/27
NO COVER! NO COVER EVERY TUSEDAY IN DEC.
GRASSY KNOLL BOYS
8–10PM JODI ADAIR 6–7:30PM
WEDNESDAY 12/28
8–10PM
JELLY JAR
NO COVER! JODI ADAIR 6–7:30PM
HELP US BRING IN THE NEW YEAR!
THE GOURDS
NEW YEARS EVE BASH! 12/31
TICKETS $25
ON SALE NOW!
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 22 / $5
RACHEL LOY 9:30
ALL HAIL 11
THE MERCY LORDS 8
FIVE DOLLAR FRIEND 12:30
FRIDAY DECEMBER 23
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS 12
BRIAN KEANE 10
THE DRAWING BOARD 8
SAT & SUN DECEMBER 24 & 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS (CLOSED)
MONDAY DECEMBER 26 / STARTS @ 8
WELCOME TO ODDVILLE
A NIGHT OF MUSIC & COMEDY
FEATURING COMEDIANS
FRED JONES & GUESTS
JOHNNY GOUDIE 11
JOHN POINTER 10
LOMITA 12
NO COVER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 / $5
THE COFFEE SARGENTS 8
ELIOT WAYNE 10
CHRISTINA BELL 12
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 / $5
THE HEATHENS 9:30
W/ BRIAN KEANE, COLIN BOOOKS, ELDRIDGE GOINS, GORDY QUIST, ED JURDI & MORE
KACY CROWLEY 8
THE BOURBON SOLDIERS 12:30
LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR EVERY WEDNESDAY
UPCOMING SHOWS
TWO NIGHTS! DECEMBER 30TH & 31ST
BREEDLOVE
W/ PATRICE PIKE 12 31
TICKETS ON SALE @ FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

club listings ◂◂ FROM MONDAY

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mac Bynum & Joe Morales (7:15)
EGO'S Jason Weems (9:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Esther Sparks (8:00)
FRIENDS David K, Eric Tessmer (7:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)
JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)
LONGBRANCH INN Singer-Songwriter Night
MOMOS Welcome to Oddville, Johnny Goudie (10:00)
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce
NASTY'S Blow Pop w/ DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators, Li'l Steph (9:00)
PARDNERS Karaoke
POODLE DOG LOUNGE The Stepsiders (9:30)
RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Inverse
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
RUTA MAYA Carolyn Wonderland & Matt Hubbard (8:30)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider's Lonelyland, Ryan Desiato (8:30)
SPEAKEASY James Gossett (9:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Gerry's Klds (6:00)
TROPHY'S The Meshbanes
THE WATER TANK Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant

Tue 27

1920S CLUB Mac Bynum (7:00)
219 WEST Crucial Prophet
311 CLUB 3 Piece Special (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Chopper (3:30)
ARARAT The Righteous Tidings (7:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Olde Time Fiddlers Jam
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Gina Dvorak (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup
BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)
CHARLIE'S Margaret Wright
CLUB ONE 15 Reggae Night (9:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), Barfield (11:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Redd Volkaert, Mother Truckers (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), Jazzaholics (9:30)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah & DJ Doja
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor (6:00)
FADÓ Tea Merchants (8:00)
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sex Machines, DJ Robbie Sparxxx, DJ Soviet Sex Experiment (8:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Alan Haynes (7:30)
GIDDY UPS Knaak Attack
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Billy Dee (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Stop the Truck
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Felix the Kid
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Friends (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Hot! Carl Show, Krushaks
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Josh (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Darin Murphy, Billy Harvey (9:00)

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 8PM
ELANA FREMERMAN
ALICE SPENCER
& HER MONKEY BUTLERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 10PM
LUV BUCKIT
MIKE DUBOSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 10PM
KARAOKE X-MAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 9PM
BILLY HARVEY • DARIN MURPHY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 8PM
RICKY STEIN
ALICE SPENCER • DAN MONTGOMERY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 10PM
NEW YEAR'S EVE CHAMPAGNE CHICKEN ROAST
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LATER:
WIDEAWAKE

FRIDAY DEC 23 8PM

SOUNDS UNDER RADIO

SATURDAY DEC 24 9PM

5TH ANNUAL MAZEL BALL

SUNDAY DEC 25

CLOSED!!! MERRY X-MAS!!!

TUESDAY DEC 27 11PM

BOOM BOX

WEDNESDAY DEC 28 9PM

ALPHA REV
FEATURING
CASEY MCPHERSON

THURSDAY DEC 29 9PM

8 MILLION STORIES

SATURDAY DEC 31 8PM TIL ????

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12/30
9pm

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(BUZIOS ROOM)
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club listings ◂◂ FROM TUESDAY

IT'S ITALIAN "Frankly Singing" w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)

JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, Grassy Knoll Boys (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)

MOMOS The Coffee Sergeants, Steven Pile, Christina Bell (8:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Kim & Her Blues Boys, Randy Pavlock & 24/7 (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D

OSLO Lucy's Wild w/ DJ Shane

PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)

PLUSH Mentalnote

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin

RANDY'S ICE HOUSE Karaoke (8:00)

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:15)

RED'S SCOOT INN Li'l Steph & the Chromatics

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine (6:30)

RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Karaoke w/ Mr. K.

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Dragon

ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)

ROPER'S NIGHTCLUB Open Mic w/ Cory Michael (9:00)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE T.R. Sterzing

RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (9:00)

SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Denim (6:00), Monte Montgomery & Orange Kitty, Blondless, Will Sexton (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae

SPEAKEASY KKQ (9:30)

TAMBALEO Rock & Roll Bingo (10:00)

TAVERN ON THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Raquel

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks (6:00)

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis

THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Brian Kremer

WHISKY BAR D-Madness, DJ Aquaman

Wed 28

1920S CLUB Liz Morphis (8:30)

219 WEST The SG Project (7:00)

311 CLUB Devren (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR McKay Brothers (3:30)

New Year's Eve?
Contact the manager at 658.9508 for reservations



thurs Nuthin' New All Stars 10:00-2:00
fri DJ Chicken George 10:30-2:00
sat Buddy Quaid Band 8:30-10:30
DJ Kurv 10:30-2:00
sun DJ Kurupt 10:00-2:00
mon DJ In/Verse
motown and funk 10:00-2:00
tues TWIST UP DJ Manny 10:00-2:00
wed SATISFACTION
DJ Shane 10:00-2:00

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THUR., DEC. 22



FROM L.A.

THE LIVENDS CESSPOOL
SATURDAY NIGHT SHOCKERS
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$2 ICEHOUSE, $5.50 LONE STAR PITCHERS

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

STREETS OF TEXAS TOUR featuring

TRAE & S.L.A.B.

G.R.I.T. BOYS POINT BLANK
V.I.P. DOK HOLIDAY
BASSWOOD LANE GERALD G
MC FATAL... hosted by WILL HU$TLE

7-9p, FREE BEER GARDEN SHOW:
THE ALTAR BOYZ

Dec. 24 & 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Open day and night

December 29

GREY HAVEN
THE BLOODHORSE
DEMONIO

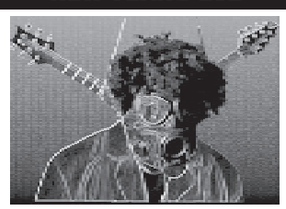
75c Well drinks 8-10:30 pm

December 30

CD RELEASE PARTY!

RUINS OF HONOR
VEX ABYTHOS
NUMERIC PLAGUE PEYTON GIN

NEW YEAR'S EVE

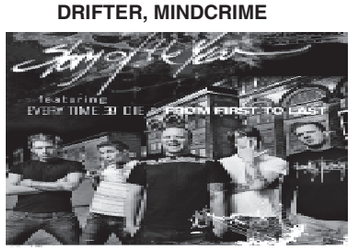


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DEVOLA

1/7KILLZONE RECORDS CD RELEASE: INQUISITION, TERATISM, BAHMIRON, CHURCH OV MELKARTH
1/12: "BURN DOWN TEXAS 2006": TRIFECTA, CLOSED HAND PROMISE, NEVERSET, STILL FRAME WITNESS (formerly COLDFUSE), SEEK IRONY (ISRAEL)

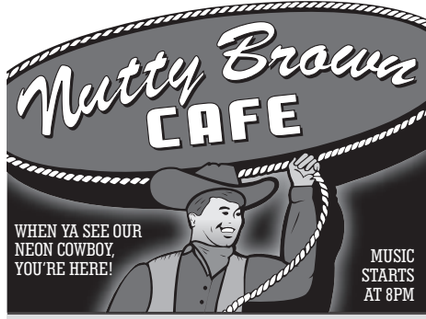
1/13: JUDAS RISING,
DRIFTER, MINDCRIME

1/14: 101X PRESENTS



1/20/06: IDAG PRESENTS
BEAUTIFUL CREATURES
BROKEN TEETH, BACKLIT
2/6/06: DAG PRESENTS
IN FLAMES
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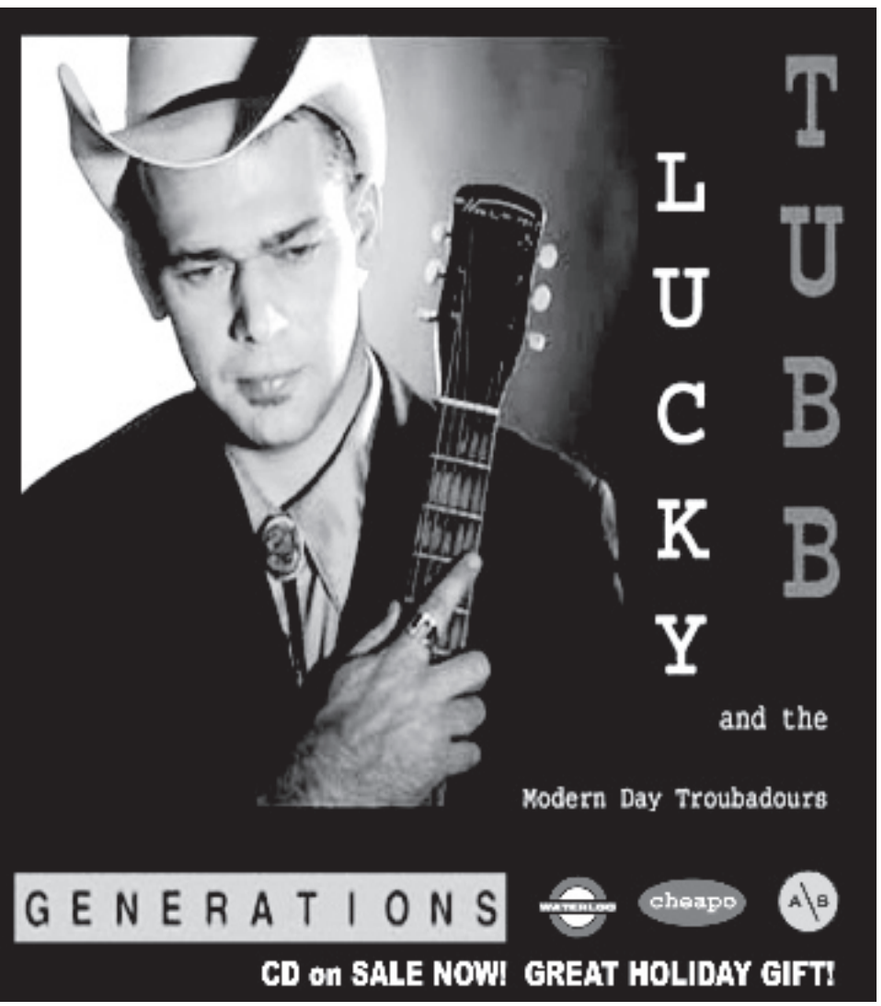
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Eddie Warren 9 pm
Jane Bond 10:30 pm
PITCHFORK 12 mid

FRIDAY Dec 23
Rick Hornyak 10:30pm

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THURS 12/22 - ROCK ——— DOORS 830, SHOW 930
THE PERMAKIDS
AMBUSH
THE CUTOFF

FRI 12/23-KWALONS JAZZ & MORE-830 DOORS, 9 SHOW
THE HOT 8 BRASS BAND
(FROM NEW ORLEANS, LA)
PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT 12/24 ——— 830 DOORS, 9 SHOW
CLOSED – HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TUES 12/27 DANCEPARTY ——— 830 DOORS, 9 SHOW
SEX MACHINES WITH
DJ ROBBIE SPANXXX
& DJ SOVIET SEX EXPERIMENT
HAPPY HOUR TIL TEN, NO COVER!

WEDS 12/28 - ROCK ——— 830 DOORS, 9 SHOW
ECONOMY
BATYA DARELL
THE NAUTICAL MILE
THE RIDE HOME
THE DAYLIGHT TITANS

12/30 - Promonte and more
12/31 - reggae/dub new years w/ grimy styles, tribal notion, mau mous chaplains
01/05 - business deal reds showcase
01/06 - los sternales, navels thermos cd release
01/07 - Fullservice tour kickoff show
01/11 - nearmiss, strike.fire.fall, the undersoore
01/12 - red team go, goodside
01/13 - misprint mag party
01/14 - grimy styles
01/18 - el frigadero w/ funk brasil, annabelle plus spoken word, visual art
01/19 - jade day
01/20 - catch a fire! dancehall soundsystem
01/21 - sonido boombox (me+tv) show w/ maneja beto, bletzung, illego eleniz, edo
01/26 - Furniture recs showcase
01/28 - crash gallery (ex-golden rule)

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REDRUM CLUB
KITCHEN OPENS AT 5 P.M. $5 PITCH NIGHT AFTER 1 A.M.

12/22, 7pm
Meet the new booking agent, Tammy Moore!
$1 Lone Star Tall Boys from 7 to 9.
12/23, 8pm
Two Guy Trio, Transparency, Soulblood Divide, Thirteen Seconds
12/24, 7pm, No Cover!
Krismas Karaoke with Pelie
12/25, 7pm
[austin swim]
$1 Lone Star Tall Boys from 7 to 9.
12/29, 8pm
The War Against Sleep, Vitalis, Carbon Omega, Prime Element, House of Id
12/30, 8pm
Hatchetwork, Course of Ruin, Exit the Sun, Wax Hart, Ohma, King Vulture
12/31, 8pm, $5/$9
New Year's Eve Show
Slider, Stafka, Firekills,
Consider the Source, The Artillery
1/1/2006
[austin swim]
1/3
August Burns Red, Armed with Courage
1/6
Return of Trash Rock Kings, Empathy's Gone
1/7
Luann (Junkyard Mary) Benefit Show
Broken Teeth, Closedhandpromise, Shrapnel, 4 Second Load, Stage of Existence, Saturday Night Shockers

club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Sumner Erickson (1:00)
AGAVE Eric Tessmer (9:00)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARARAT Oliver Rajamani
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN MUSIC CO-OP Laydeez Open Mic
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
BECK'S ON CONGRESS Chad Tracy (8:00)
BEERLAND Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave (6:00), 80's Party w/ the Spazmatics (9:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB Karaoke (8:00)
CLUB ONE 15 Way Back w/ Cut Creator (9:00)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
DONN'S DEPOT Cameron Road
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam, Shane Bartell's Loveseat (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FADÓ Patrick Fleming (9:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Daylight Titans, the Ride Home, the Nautical Mile, Bayta Darell, Economy
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE C.C. Phipps, Ralph White (8:00)
FRIENDS John McVey (10:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Justin Trevino (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
HEADHUNTERS Demonio, Suns of Sultan, Rend
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Woode Wood & Beth Lee (noon)
HILLTOP TAVERN Open Mic
JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, Jelly Jar (6:00)
LA PALAPA Bobby Fuente & the Flames (8:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Alpha Rev. w/ Casey McPherson (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MOMOS Kacy Crowley, the Dishonorables, Nicholas Ginbey (8:00)
MOONRIVER Karaoke
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH The Alter Boys (8:00), the Burners (10:30)
OILCAN HARRY'S Allan T.
PARDNERS Kara
PLUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones the Singing Bartender
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank
RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED FEZ Glam Rock w/ DJ Shane, DJ Linda
RED'S SCOOT INN The Moonhangers
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN J.T. Coldfire
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROOM 710 Science, Awesome Cool Dudes, Adult Rodeo
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic

BROKEN SPOKE
3201 S. LAMAR PRESENTS 442-6189
WED., DEC. 21 KENNETH BRIAN
THU., DEC. 22 CHAPARRAL W/ JEFF HUGHES
FRI., DEC. 23 DALE WATSON
SAT., DEC. 24 CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
TUE., DEC. 27 DEBRA PETERS & THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP
NO COVER
WED., DEC.28 DANE STERLING
PHOTO BY M. DAPRA

Mro
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CLUB DE VILLE
New Year's Eve
Nic Armstrong and The Thieves, Moonlight Towers, and dj Peleus
Admission $5 - Champagne toast at midnight
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CLUB DE VILLE

music & cartoons for big kids
[adult swim]
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[every sunday @ 7pm]
7-9pm $1 LoneStar Tallboys -- $4 Jaeger & Tallboy ALL NITE
Get FREE STUFF!!!
7pm -- Renegade Video
8pm -- Troy Dillinger & Special Guests
10pm - 2am -- [adult swim] live broadcast
wear pajamas win prizes
401 Sabine RedRum Club (4th St - 1 block W of IH35)
The Kitchen is OPEN!!!!
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 LC UNPLUGGED 9:30PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 KELLY DOZE 9:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 MERRY CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 JAZZ NIGHT KKQ 9:30PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 BARNYE BAR & RESTAURANT PRE NEW YEAR'S BASH WITH KJV. CHAMPAGNE TOAST, BALLOON DROP. FREE ADMISSION, ALL WELCOME.

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$10 PRE SALE TICKETS • $15 AT THE DOOR • DJ HUGGY BEAR AT 9PM • CHAMPAGNE BAR

2 CHAMPAGNE TOASTS: IRISH NEW YEAR AT 6PM • USA AT MIDNIGHT

PIMP OF THE YEAR CONTEST AT 1AM • HOE OF THE YEAR AT 1:30AM

PRIZE FOR BEST PIMP: FREE DRINK EACH DAY FOR A YEAR & A FREE PARTY AT THE PUB!



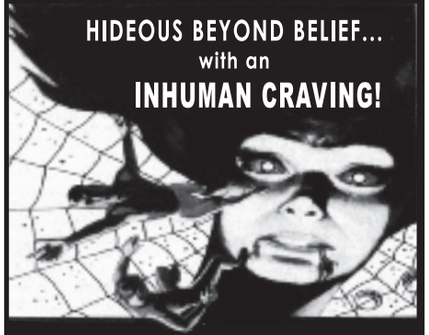
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club listings ◂◂ FROM WEDNESDAY

RUTA MAYA Songwriters Round w/ Christina Martin, Niki Duncan, Will Courtney, David Matsler; Evan Kolvoord (8:00)

SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown

SAM'S TOWN POINT Ramsay Midwood & the Scientists (10:00)

SAXON PUB Pauline Reese (6:00), Asylum Street Spankers (10:00)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Shooting Star Karaoke (8:00)

SOUTH FORTY Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)

SPEAKEASY The Brew

TAMBALEO Krunkaoke w/ DJ Mel (10:00)

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Bob Schneider's Bluegrass Massacre (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Shotgun Hopkins (6:00)

TROUBADOUR SALOON Starcastic Pheromones (11:00)

VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists (5:30), L'il Steph & The Chromatics (6:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan

WHISKY BAR Service Industry Holiday Party w/ DJ Hobo D, DJ Aquaman

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Singwriter Night w/ Jenni Lord

Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Friends (6:00)

Thu 29

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine and Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Sam Davis (1:00), Texas Renegade (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Sarah Glynn (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Carley Wolf (12:30)

ANTONE'S Eve Monsees & the Exiles, Gary Clark Jr.

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Boomer Norman

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BARCELONA DJ Tats

BECK'S ON CONGRESS Brennen Leigh (8:00)

BEERLAND Quien 'es Boom!, Azalia Snail, Rachel Goldstar

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAFE CAFFEINE Frank Meyer

CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle (5:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Onion Creek Crawdaddies (6:30), Big Balls, the Diamond Smugglers (10:00)

DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire

THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle w/ Tammy Sommerville (7:30)

EGO'S Li'l Bit & the Customatics, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Steve Geraci Quartet (9:30)

END OF AN EAR Azalia Snail (7:00)

FADÓ DJ Gerry (10:00)

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Hamburger, Half Knots (8:00)

THE FOUNDATION Coy West

FOX & HOUND Danny Britt (6:00)

FRIENDS Pride & Joy

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Will Sexton

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Toby Anderson

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)

GRUENE HALL Two Tons of Steel (8:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke

HOLE IN THE WALL Dan Montgomery, Ricky Stein (10:00)

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Larry Lange & the Lonely Knights (8:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Shibboleth, Old 97's (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE 8 Million Stories (9:00)

MAMBO KINGS CLUB Recon Thursday w/ Loki, Secret Agent, Durhdy, Jungle Jim, B-1, DJ Mattis

MOMOS S.T. James, Rachel Loy, Ryan Desiato (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Blues Jam w/ Dewayne Davis (8:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Jamie

OSLO The Bumps (11:00)

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL K'Cee

THE PUB Karaoke

RANDY'S ICE HOUSE Karaoke (8:00)

RED FEZ Strangetribe w/ Jeff Strange, DJ Nu-Mark, DJ Manny

RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)

REDRUM Carbon Omega, Vitalis, War Against Sleep

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet (6:00), Brannen Temple Quartet (9:00)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Rich Demarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)

ROOM 710 Church Bus, Ron Titter Band, Attic Ted

RUTA MAYA Everything Delicious & Suspicious (9:00)

SAENGERHALLE Django Walker

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SHOAL CREEK SALOON The Hi-Flyers (8:00)

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

TAMBALEO DJ Starsign, John Angle (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Rick Glascock (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Molly Hayes, King Slim Blues

TROPHY'S The Lower 4th, Transmography, Rescue Mission

THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE The Walking Contradictions

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Z'TEJAS Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

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1-7 HOOVER, THE ADDICTIONS, SHELLEY KNIGHT & THE LIVIN DEAD
31 DOWN, STUNGUN
1-13 BROKEN TEETH, BORN TO LOSE, NEW DISASTER, ROAD PHASE
1-14 QUESUST, LEAVING JULY, SCREAMING AT THE SKY, THE ARTILLERY
1-19 BIG CHIEF
1-20 HONKY, SCOTT H. BIRUM

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retro 80's
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TUE lesbian night DEC 27
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WED NO COVER DEC 28
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Thu Dec 29 * *Blitzkrieg! Industrial Audio Warfare w/ DJs Raleigh & Sensoria*
Fri Dec 30 * *VIRUS Magazine Official Release Party (www.virus-mag.com)*
Thu Dec 31 * *New Year's Eve Haven!*
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su 25 — closed for private party
mo 26 — Rock & Roll Karaoke 1000+ songs--no cover! Twin Peaks/Carnivale Happy Hour@ 7pm
tu 27 — closed for private party
we 28 — Larry Lange and the Lonely Knights, John Schooley's One Man Band *Cpunin At Ya* @ 7pm
th 29 — rachel goldstar, azalia snail.com and more
fr 30 — Kissinger, Peter Elliot and the Sellouts, Poor Posture and more Box Spring Hogs @ 7pm
sa 31 — The Arm, Strange Boys, Starving Pennies

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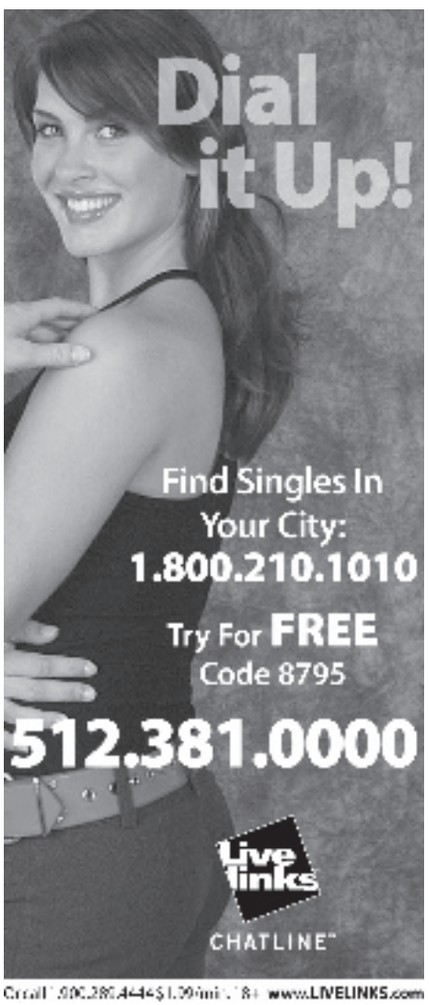
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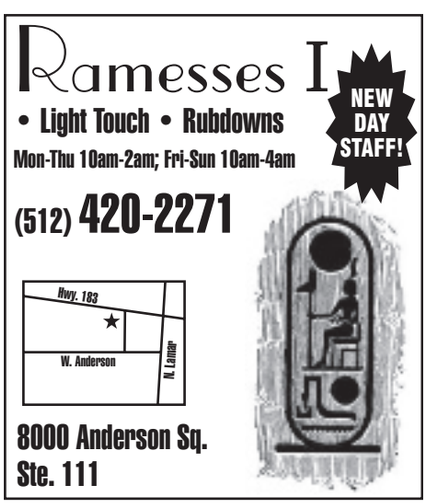
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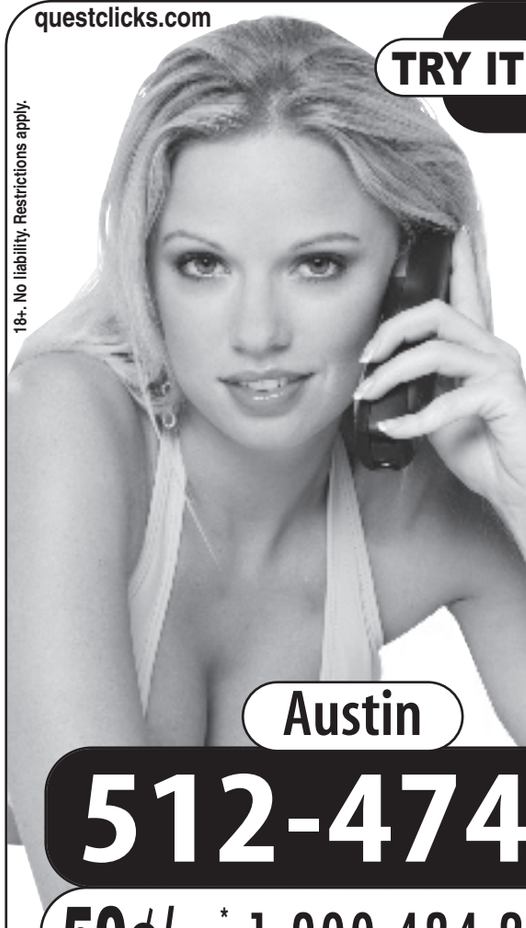
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at Oltorf
440-8626

Evil ANGEL VIDEO

XXX SUPERSTORE
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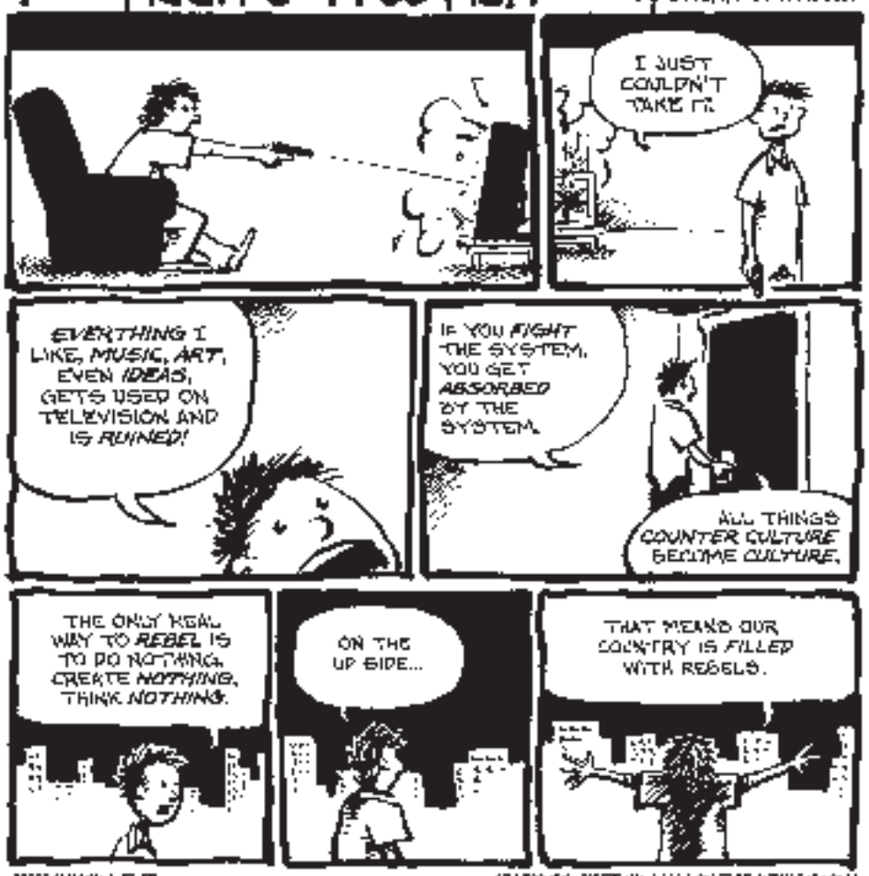
Wicked

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N of Wm. Cannon
445-6116

COMICS

Too Much Coffee Man

by Shannon Wheeler

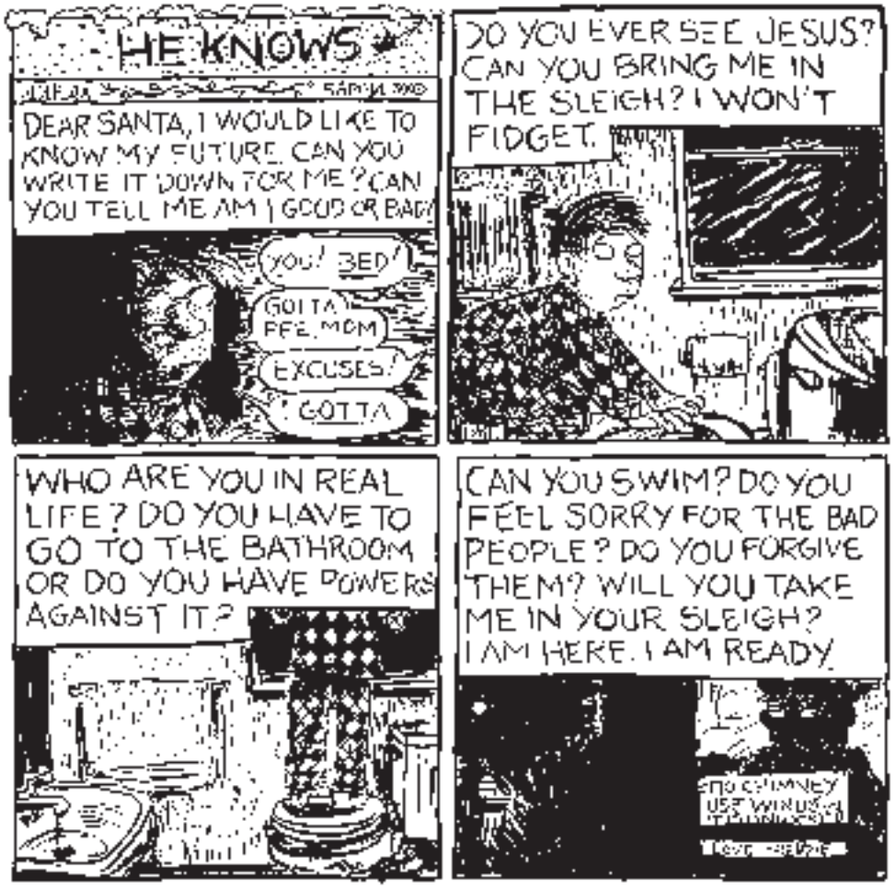


TROUBLETOWN

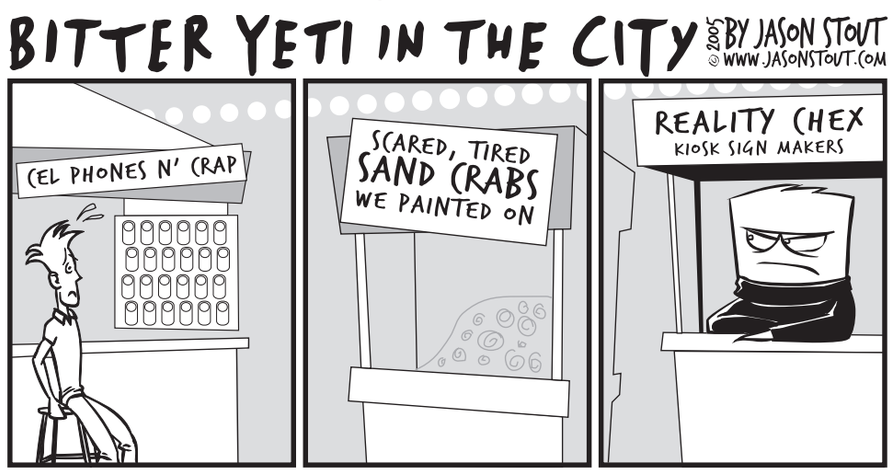
BY LLOYD DANGLE



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BITTER YETI IN THE CITY



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



In California, it's illegal to sleep in your kitchen but it's OK to cook in your bedroom.

Joe Jamail's law professor once suggested that he follow his parents into the grocery business. Among many legal victories, Jamail was named lawyer of the century and received the largest jury verdict in the history of law: $11,120,000,000 in Pennzoil v. Texaco.

Blossom Rock, "Grandma" on the *Addams Family* TV series, was born Edith Marie Blossom MacDonald Rock and was the sister of Jeanette McDonald (*Rose Marie, Indian Love Call*).

There are places in Southeast Asia where the fireflies light on and off in unison.

Denmark has the world's highest candy consumption rate per capita: 29.5 pounds per year.

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.**

CLASSIFIEDS

454-5767
austinchronicle.com/class

100 JOBS
110 Art/Design
115 Beauty/Salon/Spa
120 Entertainment/ Casting
125 General
130 Healthcare
135 Hospitality
140 Legal
145 Office/Clerical
150 Non-Profit
155 Professional
160 Research Study
165 Retail
170 Sales/Marketing
175 School/Training
180 Technical

200 HOUSING
210 Reader Notice
215 Apartment/ Condo/Townhome
220 Duplex/Houses
225 Vacation
230 Commercial
235 Roommates
240 Real Estate For Sale

300 BUY/SELL/ TRADE
310 Antiques/ Collectibles
315 Appliances
320 Baby/Kids Stuff
325 Clothing
330 Computers
335 Electronics
340 Free Stuff
345 Furniture
350 Garage/ Estate Sales
355 General
360 Jewelry/ Accessories
365 Pets/Pet Supplies
370 Recreational
375 Tickets/ Entertainment
380 Tools
385 Trades
390 Wanted to Buy

400 SERVICES
410 Business
415 Computers
420 Counseling
425 Health/Wellness
430 Home
435 Financial
440 Fitness/Training
445 Legal
450 Licensed Massage
455 Psychic/Astrology
460 Travel
465 Miscellaneous

500 NOTICES
510 Activites
515 Classes/Workshops
520 Discussion Groups
525 Events
530 General
535 Lost & Found
540 Volunteers
545 Legal Notices

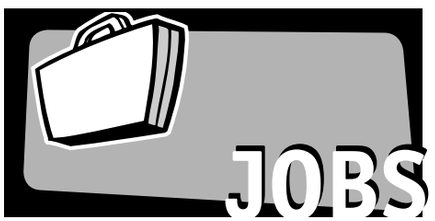
600 MOTOR
610 Cars
615 Trucks
620 SUV's
625 Motorcycles
630 Recreational
635 Parts
640 Repairs

700 MUSIC
710 Equipment for Sale
715 Music Instruction
720 Musicians Available
725 Musicians Wanted
730 Recording Studios
735 Rentals/Services
740 Shameless Promotion

PERSONALS
Lovers Lane
Easy Street
Shot in the Dark
Messages

Please check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs. *The Austin Chronicle* is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. *The Austin Chronicle*'s liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm
Phone: 512-454-5767
Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com



110 ART/DESIGN

ART
AUSTIN ROCKS
$300-$800/wk. TO START
Expanding Art Co. seeks 10 enthusiastic people who like to work w/ other fun guys & gals. Must like $, music & travel. No exp. nec. Mgmt. training avail. For immediate interview,
Call 512-926-7300 ext. 3

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FITNESS OPPORTUNITY! Own your own business, create a BODY that will take you through life with health, style, grace, & INCOME to match 800-648-6799

115 BEAUTY SALON/SPA

ALL looking for massage therapists, acupuncturists, and bodywork professionals for employment or space rental. Contact 512.391.1569, fax 512.391.0760, or online bodymechanicmassage.com

BARBER/STYLIST wanted,commission,p/f, any info: Cindy4425300w,4161065h

HAIRSTYLIST Start your dream now in old S. Austin. Hairstylist needed full or part time. Chair Lease. 1704 Evergreen Ave. 576-4683

HAIR STYLISTS Beauty Escape, a 4500 sf salon, upscale hair-nail-tan-massage salon, pre-hire 8 exp hair stylists. Georgetown Downtown. Pd vacation; High comm. For immediate consideration please fax or email resume ASAP to 512-260-2723 or "beaustin@hotmail.com"

HAIRSTYLIST 2 weeks Free Rent! Urban Betty Beautique, located in the upscale 26 Doors Shopping Ctr. Close to UT & Dwtn. Chair rental is $225/wk with 15% commission on retail. PureOlogy, Wella, Loma, & Matrix. Call 371-7663 or email chelle@urbanbetty.com

HAIRSTYLIST- Upscale salon in NW (across from Northcross Mall). Chair lease $100/wk, or comm. 1st week free. Call Lee 791-6186

HAIRSTYLISTS / NAIL TECHS Lease $130/wk. Downtown location. Lots of walk-ins. 320-5907.

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT Unlimited Income Potential as a Business Builder with Arbonne International. Incredible Swiss Skin Care and Wellness Products. Free Training, NO MEETINGS. Ashley Ammons, 996-9304

LICENSED BARBER, NAIL TECH, BRAIDER, WEAVER, COLOR TECH We have taken over Joel's for hair located at 2030 E. Oltorf and currently going through renovations. In 2 weeks we will be looking to hire licensed hair and nail technicians to fill 8 stations. Looking for braiders, weavers, coloring tech, and barbers. We plan to do mass marketing to bring in customers and expect a fast turn-around. Your chice of station rental or comm. please call the new "Val's Hair and Nail's at 707-7766 for more information

STYLIST Take 5 is hiring full time stylist for our 2nd location opening in January and our 3rd location opening in March. Take 5 is an Austin original hair salon with Big Screen TV's, x-box and play station. We cater to men but have many women customers. We offer a fun, exciting environment with management potential for stylist. We are looking for stylists who are enthusiastic and responsible. We offer a guaranteed hourly rate plus commissions. No Clientele is needed. All of our stylists are currently making good money. Please call Chrys at 554-3044 or at 506-9055 to schedule an interview.

120 ENTERTAINMENT CASTING

ACTORS Dancers and Models needed for theatrical events. Males & Females, all types. Call today 440-7171.

CASTING CALL
Do you have what it takes.... The Coyote Ugly Saloon Search for the Ultimate
COYOTE
CMT
Reality Show Casting Call Seeking Women 21 years + in Austin. For info & to pre-register:
coyotesearch2006.com

PHOTOGRAPHER available for photoshoots. portfolio available.call sean 577-3220

125 GENERAL

ALL 30 individuals needed in campus area copyshop for various positions including copy clerk, binding, computer help, and cashier. Pay based on experience. Call 478-0871

APARTMENT LOCATORS Needed for expanding Downtown groovy office. Real estate license required. Call 472-9100, or fax resume to 472-1723

COPY OPERATORS High speed copier operators wanted. Must have experience. 3 shifts available. Call 472-5353

CUSTOMER SERVICE Got job? We do. need 25 CS Reps for new outlet in North Austin area. Mus be good with people and energetic. Call 989-1551 for interview. Ask for Mr. Disney.

DEALERS
Opportunity to work at the Gentleman's club without taking your clothes off.
DEALING CARDS
&
FREE TRAINING.
Call 512-762-3831

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$1,000 Student Sign-On Bonus
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NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
Earn up to $37,000
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DRIVERS Start a new career. Get your commercial drivers licence. 4 weeks training. Jobs available upon completion! 1-800-343-9115

HOME BUSINESS PAID IN ADVANCE!! $1000+/WK stuffing envelopes from home. Earn $4./envelope. Guaranteed! 100% legit. www.stuffingformoney.com

HOME BUSINESS PAID IN ADVANCE! $1000+/WK stuffing envelopes from home. Earn $4./envelope. Guaranteed! 100% legit. envelopesformoney.com

INSTRUCTORS
HIP-HOP, STEP, or JAZZ, DANCE, CHEER, or SELF-DEFENSE/KARATE, TUMBLING OR GYMNASTICS COACH
If you have experience in any one of these areas, we are looking for you to teach children ages 4-16 in the Austin & Taylor area 3-4 afternoons a week 2:30-6 pm, some nights available.
Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Please call for more information:
(210) 310-0216

PART TIME
Extend-A-Care for Kids
Do you enjoy art & cooking projects, reading, and fun activities with children?
Apply today to be a role model working with elementary age children in the afternoons. Starting pay $8.75-$9.35/hr. EOE. Sites at 61 elementary schools. Apply at Extend-A-Care for Kids,
55 North IH 35, www.eackids.org,
or call 472-9929 x408.

PETITION COLLECTION Save Our Springs Alliance, 75 cents each Austin voter signing. Two petitions. Call Glen 656-6337 or drop in at 512 E Riverside Ste. 203

SITTER livein sitter,over 18,$945 per month plus car,and educational assitance, non-smoker, full/partime 214 432 6151

130 HEALTHCARE

HEALTH ATTENDANT Attention Nursing & Pre-Med majors, seeking energetic & cheerful Home Health attendants. $10/hr. Will train, all shifts avail. Call Cindy Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm for appt. No LATE Calls to Clinic Please. 512-371-3036

135 HOSPITALITY

ALL
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOME RESTAURANT COMPANIONSHIP?
Me: Single friendly restaurant, local hang-out for sports junkies and beer enthusiasts, filled with cool managers and entertaining employees.

You: Looking for good conversation, like meeting new people, enjoy making lots of money, need a place where your personality is embraced.

Pluckers is hiring Servers, Cashiers, Bartenders, Cooks & Delivery Drivers

No 'FLAIR' required

2222 Rio Grande or 9070 Research Blvd
Apply in person

ALL Common Interest now hiring BARTENDERS, WAITRESSES, & DJ's, full and part-time. 589-8103.

ALL Tired of the same restaurant? Try Japanese. Potential for big money. Hiring chef trainees, superstar servers and more. Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.

FREE ADS Got a car you need to sell? Looking for a roommate? Want to unload that old refrigerator? Got a great idea for a band, but missing some musicians? All you need to do is go online to **www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds** and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

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Connects Chronicle Readers One Ad at a Time

Place FREE PRINT AND ONLINE ADS in 70+ CATEGORIES
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Go online and place your ad now. IT'S FAST, FREE, AND EASY!

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ALL

Jason's deli

Rake In The Cash At Jason's Deli Just In Time For The Holidays We Are Now Hiring Front Counter Help & Delivery Drivers!

Starting at $7/hour

AM/PM, PT/FT Shifts Available!!!

No Experience Needed!!!

We Offer A Cornucopia Of Opportunities With

Advancement Into Training, Mgmt & even Corporate Positions!

Makes A Great Second Job!!! Delivery Drivers Must Be 18yrs Or Older, Have a Valid D.L., Proof Of Insurance, Good Driving Record and Have A Reliable Vehicle. Tell A Friend & Apply In Person At: 3300 Bee Caves Road or Call: 512-328-0200

BAKER We are looking for an experienced pastry baker, PT, 2-4 shifts a week. Commercial bakery exp. only. Apply at Quack's Bakery, 411 East 43rd St.

BANQUET MANAGER Prestigious downtown private club seeks experienced banquet manager. FT with benefits. Apply in person only, 2-4pm, M-F, at the Austin Club, 110 E. 9th St.

BARTENDER

La Morada
Mexican Restaurant

What experience do you need? A great smile, like to meet all kinds of people. and able to have fun at work. If your that person, than apply at 12407 N. Mopac Expy (next to HEB) or call

836-6611

BARTENDER $300/day potential. No exp. nec. Training provided. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

CASHIER & OYSTER SCHUCKER Quality Seafood accepting applications for F/T positions. Apply in person, 5621 Airport Blvd. Mon-Sat. 2-6pm. Ref. required.

CASHIERS

Texadelphia

Texadelphia

CASHIERS Needed ASAP

$8-$11 + STARTING!!!

High energy, intergrity-driven, teamwork-minded

salespeople desired.

Pick up an application at any Austin area location and

fax it to 512-236-1234

Attn: Preston

COOK Exp., creative cook sought to build our salad, soup, sandwich & breakfast menus. FT, Days. Apply @ Quack's 411 E. 43rd. St. 453-3399.

CREW

FREEBIRDS WORLD BURRITO

FREEB!RDS MIRA VISTA

(2765 Bee Caves Rd., just west of Mopac) hiring crew. Apply online at www.freebirds.com, or come by 2pm-5pm. EOE.

WEBSITE Get the *Austin Chronicle* every day! Check out **austinchronicle.com**, fresh every Friday, and available 24 hours a day!

DANCERS & WAITRESSES

The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG $$$

FT/PT, flex. sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport.

385-2878.

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JOY

MAKE LOTS OF MONEY!

and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35. 218-8012.

TABC CERTIFICATION

www.sixthstreetcertification.com

Call for Class Schedule

576-7223

WAIT PERSON Dirty Martin's Hamburgers FULL or PT, Exp. required, Current TABC certificate needed & Exc.

references. Apply 3-5 M-F, 2808 Guadalupe

WAITSTAFF

La Morada
Mexican Restaurant

Have fun at work and bank some cash, flexible hours. No exp. necessary. Apply for our team at 12407 N. Mopac Expy (next to HEB) or call 836-6611

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145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR
- maintain Production & Standby database servers. Ensure the Standby database backs up the Production database daily. Transfer data weekly using PCAnywhere. Activate phone card accounts in database, track user charges using SQL Server 2000, delete used phone card accounts & call records periodically. Provide daily production, user charges & traffic reports. Fine tune databases, establishing physical database parameters. Use CMS 2000, SQL Server 2000, PC Anywhere, Windows XP, backup utilities, Delphi, PowerBuilder/Sybase. B.S. in Computer Info. Systems or Management Info. Systems + 1 yr. related DB exp. Send resume to: Prizm Communications, 5555 N. Lamar, Ste. C-121, Austin, TX 78751.

150 NON-PROFIT

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POLITICAL ORGANIZERS

Work with amazing people dedicated to concrete social and environment change.

- $375/wk + bonuses/benes
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- Paid Training/Travel Opportunities.
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$$$ CASH DAILY$$$ http://overflowingcash.blogspot.com/

155 PROFESSIONAL

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IRS IS HIRING OVER 200 FULL & PART TIME TEMPORARY CLERKS

IRS has made it easier to apply for jobs. No more standing in long lines.

REGISTER & APPLY ONLINE NOW!

https://careerconnector.jobs.irs.gov

Applicants must answer all questions to the online assessment in order to be considered.

ALL APPLICANTS:
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must have at least 1 year of full time clerical experience

OR

- 60 completed semester hours

OR

- A combination of education and experience

*** Weekend Shifts**
*** Part-time Day & Night Shifts**
*** Paid Training**
*** Free Parking**
*** GS-4 starting pay $11.81 per hour**

Need more help with the IRS application process? Contact the Austin Recruitment Office at Austin.Recruitment@irs.gov or call 512-477-5627.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE VIA EMAIL

The IRS is an equal employment opportunity employer

WORK WITH THE BEST
RECEIVE PAID BENEFITS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Austin's leading Comprehensive Child Development/ Early Education Program is accepting applications for the following postitions:

- **SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER** BS with some experience in direct services or some college with lots of direct service experience. Reliable transportation.
- **BILINGUAL VISITING TEACHER & TEACHER'S AIDE** High school or GED, some social services, and reliable transportation.
- **FOOD SERVICE WORKER** High school diploma or GED. Reliable transportation.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
Apply in person at **Child Inc.**:
818 E. 53rd St., Austin, TX 78751
EOE



Rake In The Cash At Jason's Deli Just In Time For The Holidays

Jason's deli

We Are Now Hiring Front Counter Help & Delivery Drivers! Starting at $7/hour AM/PM, PT/FT Shifts Available!!!

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

We Offer A Cornucopia Of Opportunities With Advancement Into Training, Mgmt & even Corporate Positions! Makes A Great Second Job!!! Delivery Drivers Must Be 18yrs Or Older, Have a Valid D.L., Proof Of Insurance, Good Driving Record and Have A Reliable Vehicle.

Tell A Friend & Apply In Person At : 3300 Bee Caves Rd. or call 512-328-0200

A sharp eye and a sharper mind. **It all adds up.**

IRS IS HIRING FULL & PART TIME TEMPORARY CLERKS

IRS has made it easier to apply for jobs. No more standing in long lines.

REGISTER & APPLY ONLINE NOW! https://careerconnector.jobs.irs.gov

APPLICANTS MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS TO THE ONLINE ASSESSMENT IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED.

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***Weekend Shifts**
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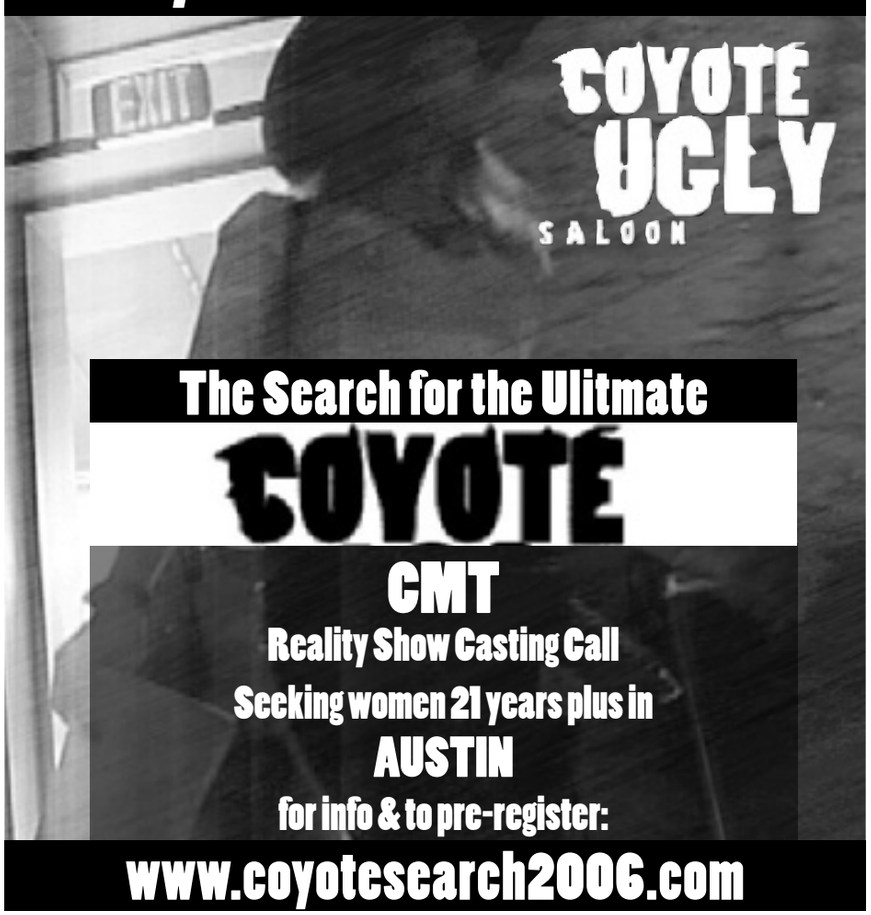
IRS

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov

The IRS is an equal employment opportunity employer

Do you have what it takes ...



CONTINUED

155 PROFESSIONAL

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Stable work history & the drive to make cold calls in order to establish an account base are required.

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Dallas, TX 75265-5326

FAX: 972-438-0725

EMPLOYMENT Tired of the daily grind? The rat race? Working for the man? Well, we can't help you with that ... but we can help you find a job where they have casual Fridays. *Austin Chronicle* Employment section. It's a start.

160 RESEARCH STUDY

DONOR PROGRAM

SEMEN DONORS NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. $150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at http://www.123donate.com.

MENTAL HEALTH

FutureSearch Trials is currently conducting INPATIENT and OUTPATIENT research studies for people with:

DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, BIPOLAR DISORDER

Participants should be at least 18 years of age. Be able to provide written informed consent. Financial compensation to those who qualify.

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170 SALES MARKETING

100 % COMMISSION RE AGENTS Call:e-Executive Realty (866)350-EXEC

CELL PHONE PT - FT cell phones sales, great potential, base + commision, Call for details 512-416-6729

ENTRY-LEVEL MNGMNT

Major sports/entertainment co. is under expansion. We need 10 manager trainees to run new office in Austin area. We will train. Positions available immediately. call Sandy Koller 512-407-8756. http://www.marlinmarketinginc.com

PROMOTIONS If you're upbeat, focused & well organized, come join our team! No experience necessary, no layoffs, company training provided. Local well-established company now expanding in N. Austin area. $2,250 guaranteed monthly. Call now! 512-203-0835. Mon-Fri, 3PM - 11PM & Sat, 8:30AM - 6PM

WEBSITE Vocals? Check. Guitar player? Check. Keyboards? Check. Still looking for that magic drummer to make your dreams come true? They might be online...check out **austinchronicle.com/classifieds.**

175 SCHOOL TRAINING

TEACHER Want to become a teacher? Teach math, science, Bilingual & Special education in Austin. Go to texasteachingfellows.org to apply.

TEACHERS

WORK WITH THE BEST RECEIVE PAID BENEFITS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Austin's leading Comprehensive Child Development/Early Education Program is accepting applications for the following positions:

- SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER BS with some experience in direct services or some college with lots of direct service experience. Reliable Transportation.
- **BILINGUAL VISITING TEACHER & TEACHER'S AIDE** high school or GED, some social services & reliable transportation.
- FOOD SERVICE WORKER high school diploma or GED & reliable transportation

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

Apply in person at Child Inc.: 818 E. 53rd St., Austin, TX 78751

EOE

WRITING PROGRAM Diversity in Journalism: The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern UniversityÂfs Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 18 - August 13, 2006) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in magazine-style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid $3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and a downloadable application visit the Web site at http://www.altjournalism.org. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2006. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

180 TECHNICAL

DEVELOPER ASP and ASP.NET, SQL, and great skills! 512-257-9348 gohara@retailup.com

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER (SDEV)

Job Description

Design and develop commercial software products using C, C++, C#, Java, and T-SQL. Will work with clients to define software requirements for new software products; provide customer support for existing software products; travel to client sites less than 25% of time in connection with support and development duties.=

Required Skills:

Must have BS in Computer Science or Physics +=3 yrs. exp. or a MS in Computer Science or Physics + 1 yr. exp.= Knowledge of database design, TCP/IP client/server architecture, and data-centric software development required.

This position is located in Austin, TX.

Please send resume and salary requirements for immediate consideration to:

employment@mm-games.com

Or fax to: 512-334-7697

For additional information and to see all available positions go to: www.multimediagames.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Austin Chronicle classifieds will be closed **Friday, Dec. 23rd** and **Monday, Dec. 26th**.

Deadlines will be **Tuesday, Dec. 27th** at 1pm.

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HOUSING

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Stained concrete floors, amazing ammenities. Call for prices. See narrated video tour and thousands of photos and floor plans @ http://www.Austinapartmentstore.com or call 828-4470 for current availability.

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Give us a call at 828-4470.

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 Zilker studio, small prop. priv. balcony $475,

CENTRAL $565 Lg 1/1 near Hyde Park on UT shuttle miked@atxrelo.com 769-6413

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 $800 Huge SoCo unique prop. all bills paid!

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 $555 pergo floors, lake austin blvd, gas & cable

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 $695 travis heights, gas cooking, charming find.

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Creekside Flats in wooded setting.
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Huge private decks!
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CENTRAL Travis Heights 1/1, $99 move-in, free cable call 413-7983

CENTRAL 2.1 $775 Walk to downtown. 656-8864 agt crystal@atxrelo.com

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From $399
2/1 $637.
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78704

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- Townhomes w/ backyards, secluded Apts. dogs ok, $700!
- Hip neighborhood, mins. from dwtn. small pool, long term residents, starting @ $475!
- Cool little Apt. bldg. close to dwtn/bus stops/neighborhood bar, long term residents. Starting @ $469!

Broker, *Call 512-293-0297*
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CENTRAL Lakeside condo w/new kitchen&whirlpool tub. Bike trails next door! 698.4888

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 $675, walk dwtn, creekside, balcony, most bills.

CENTRAL http://austincool.com 693-7231 $790 2 bdr Stone floors, remodeled kitchen

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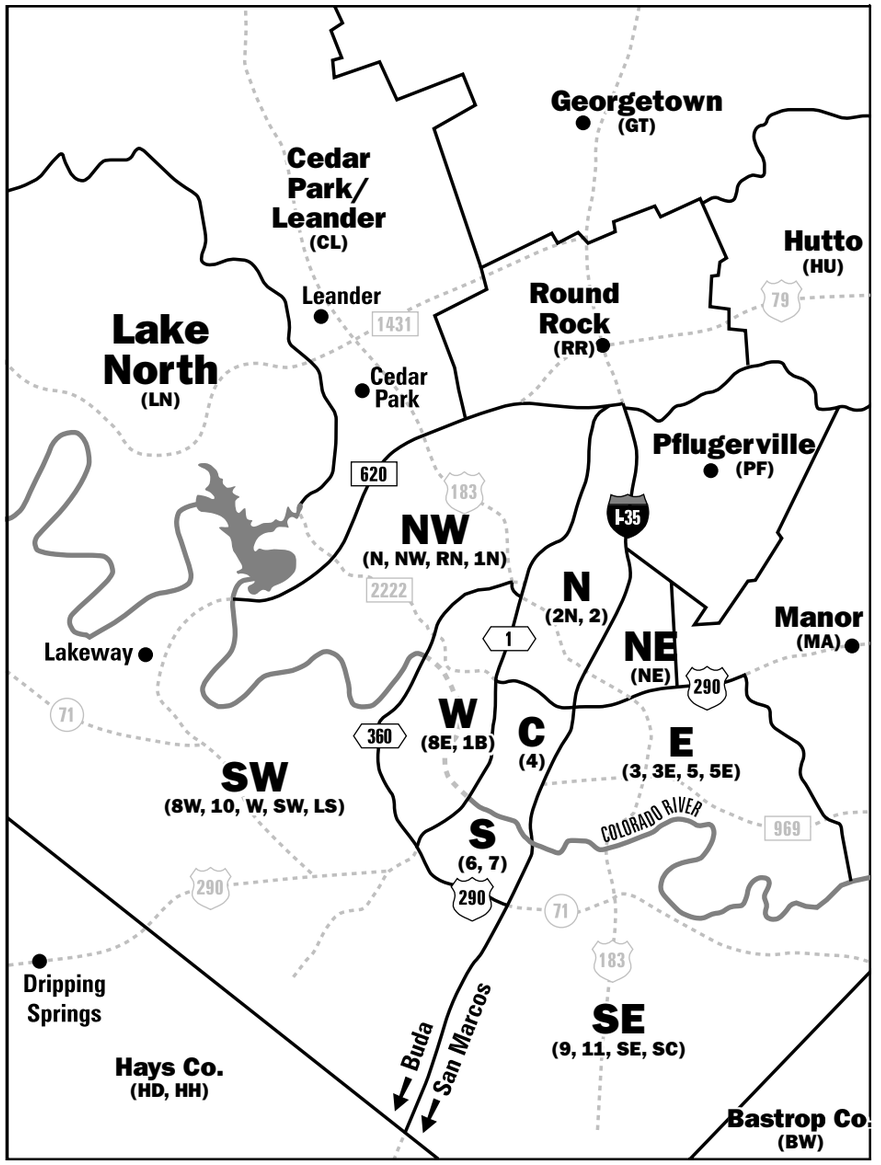
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2BDRM/2BA... $649
4BDRM... $999
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CENTRAL "UT shuttle, remodeled, looks great, 1-1 $479, cool 1 bedroom loft $535, spacious 2-2 $695, gated, pool, Jacuzzi, large patios, Big dogs welcome! Apartment Experts 339-4411

CENTRAL #1 downtown 3BDRM, pool on the lake, hike/bike trail! Modern European kitchen, large rooms, $945 (One month free!) 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

CENTRAL #1 Downtown elegance. City views, hardwoods, rooftop deck, W/D. Lofted ceilings. 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

CENTRAL #1 Greenbelt trail access. W/D in unit. Walk to shops/restaurants! Large balcony, $560 (+$200 off!) 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

CENTRAL #1 Zilker STUDIO, courtyard. Walk to Springs/trail. Cable paid! $525! 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

CENTRAL $1250. 3-2, garage, W/D/frig, CACH, fenced yard, pets ok, D/W. Cute! Cute! Avail 01/06. 926-2621

CENTRAL $450/mth in Hyde Park! Eff., on shuttle line in small complex. 4103 Speedway. Mgr. in #103. 454-3449

apartment specialists

78704 lofts/ townhomes. $565+

Townlake Living Hike & Bike $565

Travis Heights $99 TMI Wooded Retreat 1 br $500, 2br $680, 3br $1200

360 Views! Hardwoods, yards, big dogs, any breed! Pitts & Rotts OK

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78704 - 2 bdrm Townhome $699. 2/1 + Study $720.

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SOUTH CONGRESS - Loft $565, 1/1 $475, 2/1.5 condo with free cable $875. All have w/d incl.

Enfield - Excellent location. Small property. 2/1 $899. Water free!

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Vintage TRAVIS HEIGHTS Neighborhood. Cable paid. 1/1 $450, 2 bdrm. townhome $750.

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CONTINUED 215

APT/CONDO TOWNHOME

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CENTRAL 1 block to SoCo Restaurant/Shopping district. Rare find 2/2... $799, 3/2... $910! Plus one month free! Call TEAM LEASING (512)416-8333.

CENTRAL 1/1, 750 sq.ft. cement & ceramic tile flrs, beautiful landscaping, patios & small yards, built in bookshelves, great shopping & easy access to Mopac & 183. Near Justin Ln. $99 dep. Starting @ $550. 6710 Burnet. Tonia 467-9589 no app fee.

CENTRAL 360 VIEWS! hardwoods, yards, granite countertops. $811+ Call today! Apartment Specialists, 512-241-1111, 800-791-0019, lease@aptsaus.com, agent.

CENTRAL 6th Street Multi= level Lofts. Garage parking, Downtown views, Hardwood and concrete floors Now@ausapts.com 258-8224.

CENTRAL AWESOME LOCATION ON BARTON CREEK! King size bedroom and endless walk-in closets. 1/1 from $560, 2/2 $865 W/D INCL! APP 474-4900. http:// www.bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL Barton Skyway 78704. Huge T/H with w/d $725. atxrelo.com 444-0505

CENTRAL Best 78704 deal! 1br $535, 2br $635 featuring lots of natural light, W/D conn, private patios. Lush landscaping. superb mgmt. APP 474-4900 http:// www.bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL Brand New Luxury, 1-1, $440+, 2-2, $513+, 3-2, $653+, FREE AFTER-SCHOOL CARE! Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368) www.citywideapartmentlocators.com

CENTRAL Cheap, Cheap, Cheap!!! $325! http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525

CENTRAL Clarksville, Eff-$480, 1/1- $595. CACH, Free cable/HBO (a $50 value!). Small, quiet complex w/central plant filled courtyard. 1211 W. 8th. 472-8972

CENTRAL Desperate Hyde Park/Campus owners seek tenants. From $450. LSL 326-5757.

CENTRAL Completely remodeled apartment with tile upgrades. Modern appliances & free cable. South Central neighborhood. 1BDRM... $495, 2BDRM... $605. Lowest price in years! Team Leasing (512) 416-8333.

CENTRAL DOWNTOWN CONDOS from $925. Austin living for our most discerning clients. Dara 567-1681 ATX

CENTRAL Downtown Living. 1/1 700sft. $1075 atxrelo.com 444-0505

CENTRAL East 6th! New affordable! 1/1 $440, 2br $500, 3br $563. Call today! Apartment Specialists, 512-241-1111, 800-791-0019, lease@aptsaus.com, agent.

CENTRAL Eclectic downtown lofts. Big Dogs OK! 231-1400 Broker.

CENTRAL Eclectic old school Austin! Walk to auditorium shores and soco dining 1bd $650 ,2bd $850. NOW. 258-8224

CENTRAL eff. condo block from south congress $650 CALL Sweet Rachel 653.1523 Rachel_Carter@texasapt.com

CENTRAL ENFIELD - TARRYTOWN. Huge 2/2, 1,300 sqft. $925. LSL 326-5757.

CENTRAL FashionAire Apartments @ 1405 W. North Loop 1/1's starting at $525, & 2-1's at $650. Apartment homes beautifully situated around courtyard w/sparkling pool. Approx. 700 SF. 452-2245 for appt. (Beck & Co. R.E.S., Inc.)

CENTRAL FREE CABLE 1/1 $525 2/2 $700 atxrelo.com 444-0505

CENTRAL HARDWOODS in LR, gourmet remodeled kitchens, gas range, huge floorplans. 1br $575, 2 br $650. 231-1400, agent

CENTRAL Hidden South Central condo. W/D & cable included. Large private patios & fireplace. 1/1 $575, 1,050 sq ft 2/2 $775. APP 474-4900. http:// www.bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL Hidden Travis Heights community on Greenbelt! 1BDRM, $599. 2BD/2BA, perfect roommate plan, $799. $99 total move in! Nothing more to pay until February. Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

CENTRAL Hyde Park Village Bargain! 2/1 & 2/2 's from $700. Pool & covered parking, 451-2343

CENTRAL MARKET UP-TOWN. Nice small community ! 1-1, $599. 2BR, $799. Now@ausapts.com 258-8224.

CENTRAL Mopac & 45th, central courtyards, pool. 1br $550, 2 br $725, 2 br TH $825. 231-1400. agent

CENTRAL No Deposit/App. Creative floorplan featuring dry bar, private deck, W/D. Hidden and quiet! 1 BR from $470 2BR $700. APP 474-4900. http:// www.bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL On Town Lake Hike-and-Bike trail. Ceramic tile, modern appliances, free cable! Big 1BDRM $495. Huge 2/2, $605! Call TEAM LEASING. 416-8333.

CENTRAL On Town Lake, minutes to Auditorium Shores, Texas shaped pool, granite countertops. Eff's, 1's, 2's, 3's starting at $579. 231-1400. Agent

CENTRAL Park-Like Setting. 1/1 for $585, 2/2 for $980 atxrelo.com 444-0505

CENTRAL Quaint, wooded setting. Giant, private deck hidden by trees. Garden tubs, cathedral ceilings. Studios $405, 1/1 $465, 2/2 $625. APP 474-4900. http:// www.bestaustinproperties.com

CENTRAL Ridgetop Gardens Apt. Now Open. Located at 1202 E. 51st St. Leasing newly renovated 1 bdr/1ba apts. Starting at $425/mo. For info call Lisa or Toni at 469-0925

CENTRAL Shoal Creek area, on Capitol Metro bus, 1bd $625, 2bd $725. avignon-realty.com, 236-0002.

CENTRAL STAINED POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS! Unique artist's/musician's warehouse apartments. 1BDRM Flat... $539. Huge 2BDRM...$649, 4BDRM Flat $999. Call Team Leasing (512) 416-8333.

CENTRAL STUDENT SPECIAL - No move-in costs! Luxury apartments on shuttle route. Rooms rent from $299. Includes cable/hi spd internet, W/D, modern furniture, incredible amenities. Call for details. APP 474-4900

CENTRAL Studio Flat 78704, washer/dryer included, private deck... $450! Call Team Leasing 416-8333

CENTRAL UT 1 blk., 9ft ceiling, free cable, HS internet, 2/2, 1000+ sq ft, $1450. 3/2.5 penthouse, 2124 sq ft. $2400 Serious, quiet smokeless petless. 2901 Swisher. 477-3388 472-2097

CENTRAL Walk to Zilker Park/Aud. Shores. Tile/stone/wood floors floors, 1bd $675 2bd $950. NOW. 258-8224

CENTRAL Washer & Dryer Included. Eff, 1/1's, 2/2's from $427. atxrelo.com 444-0505

CENTRAL Zilker Park 1BDRM, huge deck... $659! 2BDRM FLAT... $739! Large pets welcome. Team Leasing, 416-8333.

CONGR/RIVERS. SoCo Gem.2 blks to Dwtn Lake Access and views.633-6860 agent

EAST Sublease until July 2006 for a 650 sq ft 1-1 at $495/month. Less than a mile from campus. Water, garbage and sewage included. 50 cent washers and dryers. 2704 French Place #304 call 461-5111

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ENFIELD Gorgeous layout with open kitchen, Pool and covered parking 512-633-6860

HYDE PARK 2-1 $650 Some bills paid 512-633-6860 or eric@atxrelo.com

HYDE PARK 2-1 $700 Wood Floors 512-633-6860 or eric@atxrelo.com

METRO Free apartment locating. Great move-in specials. 512-689-3840 or 512-663-6088. Nexphase Realty.

METRO http://austincool.com 693-7231 $565 lrge 1, cntrl mkt south, small prop, cable

METRO Lowest prices eff $370, 1-1 $420, 2 bedroom $550, 3 bedroom $680, fast friendly service Apartment Experts: 512-339-4411

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NORTH $199 Total move-in! W/D in unit. Jr.1/1 $395, 2/2 $595. Near Dell. http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH $99 total move-in! Stained concrete floors! Remodeled! 3-2 only $700, 2 bedroom $566, gas cooking, heating and hot water free! Apt Experts 339-4411

NORTH 0 DEP, $300 off. W/D incl. 1-1 from $499, 2BR from $699. LESA 567-4276. www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

NORTH 1/1 550sqft $470 Near IH-35. 24hr LNL gets ´ mo. Free on a 12mo. lease john@atxrelo.com 659-5339

NORTH 3/2 1250sqft, $865 $500 off 1st mo. Close to Dell, Samsung, IBM. ATX RELO call Richard 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

NORTH Close to Dell! Very spacious 1 bedroom $535, large 2-2 $710 both with washer/dryer inc. Apartment Experts 512-339-4411

NORTH Credit Solution! 2 Large pets OK! Jr. 1/1 $375, 1/1 $415, 2bed $580. http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525

NORTH Express Yourself! Sweet 2-2 only $656! RR Schools. W/D connections. http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH Huge 1-1 loft, 1063 s.f. Only $619, W/D Conns. $100 Off 1st mth 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

NORTH Live Like a Rock Star! Huge Bathrooms! $0 deposit. 1/1 $578, 2/2 $785 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH Low rates include 1-1's from $470. 2-2's from $650, WD conns in all units! ATX call 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

NORTH Lowest prices eff $370, 1-1 $420, 2 bedroom $550, 3 bedroom $680, fast friendly service. Apartment Experts. 512-339-4411

NORTH Shoal Creek 2/2 $585 $99 1st month rent! Walk in closets. 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525

NORTH Short-term RELO! 1month Free & $50dep. 1-1 $435, 2/2 $640. http:// www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTH Spacious Loft! Urban Living. $450 plus 2 weeks free! http://www.apartmentlocating.com 692-4525

NORTH Wooded property, gas paid, eff $410, 1bd $470, 2bd $650. avignonrealty.com, 236-0002.

NORTHEAST Up to $300 off, w/d, patios, eff $479, 1bd $529, 2bd $729, 2bd TH $749. 236-0002.

NORTHWEST Stunning Hilltop condo, pool,cabana, garages,$885+. 413-7983

PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK!

CENTRAL

- **Big and cheap apartment, with free cable! Efficiency $415, 1 bedroom $475, 2 bedroom $515.**
- **Close to Central Market, small community with gas cooking. 1 bedroom $529, 2 BDRM $699**
- **78704 District, Studio $490, 2 bedroom $700, W/D in all units!**
- **Heavily wooded hilltop 1 bedroom, huge 16 ft. private porch, oversized garden tub, $485, utilities paid!**
- **Walk to SoCo restaurant, shopping district, and Town Lake. Studio flat $495, 1 bedroom $700. 2 bedroom $799. Huge 3 bedroom $910.**
- **4th and Colorado, warehouse district flat, $910**

SOUTH CENTRAL

- **Warehouse-style apartments, concrete floor, 1 bedroom $539, 2 bedroom $649, 4 bedroom $999. Artist and musician friendly.**
- **Zilker Park on Hike & Bike Trail. Studio $475, 1 bedroom, $659. 2 bedroom, $740 (large deck). 50ft. from entrance to trail.**
- **On Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, 1 bedroom $495, 2 bedroom $595. Ceramic tile and free cable!**
- **Studio flat, Barton Springs/Lamar area, rare find ... $410!**
- **Historic Travis Heights, 1 bedroom $599, 2 bedroom $650, $99 Total Move In.**

TEAM LEASING CALL FOR SHOW! **416-8333**

AVIGNON REALTY **Rent Specials!**

North West	1Bd $419, 2Bd $672, pool, w/d con
North	Near Dell, gas paid, w/d con, 1Bd $447, 2Bd $564
Central	1Bd $550, 2Bd $650, wood floors ($25 extra),
South	Water, Gas, & Cable Paid! Eff $480, 1Bd $525, 2Bd $645
South West	1Bd $470, 2Bd $540, 3Bd $1085, pool, Mopac Access

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CENTRAL **SEXY SPLIT LEVEL LOFT ON 5TH/6TH ST. WOOD FLOORS STARTING @ $575 & UP**

SOUTH **ABP, 2 BDR $699**

SOUTH **NO RENT TIL 2006, 3BDR T/M, $99 TOTAL MOVE-IN**

SOUTH **ABP EXCEPT ELEC. EFF. $465, 1 BDR $495**

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EANES PROPERTIES

North

•8139-A Ceberry Dr. Great NC location, duplex, 4 BDs, 2.5 Baths, 1 car garage. Fenced yard, $1150 mth.

Buda

•2004 Built Home. 3BDs, 2.5 Baths, wood blinds, large kitchen, great community. Close to I-35 and Ready Now. $1325 mth. 259 Clarence Ct.

South

•Brand new home. 2 story. 3BDs, 2.5 Baths. 2 Living Areas. Lots of windows. Fenced Yard. Neighborhood Pool. $1200 mth.

•Cirlce C Beauty. Single story, 3BD, 2 bath home. Wood and tile flooring. Comes with fridge, sprinlker system and W/D. $1500 on 18 month lease. $1550 on year lease. Roxbury

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Enjoy apartment living in a residential neighborhood. Close to eateries, grocery stores, sports/health centers. Walk/bike/bus to campus.

Some to All Bills Paid

EFFs $415-$485
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1/1 $575
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NORTHWEST $550 Far West loft! On UT shuttle. 2 weeks free rent. http://www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTHWEST $575 Lake Austin Condo! W/D and covered parking incl. Fab views! http://www.apartmentlocating.com 231-9888

NORTHWEST $75 total move-in! 1-1, $535+, W/D UNITS INC! Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368) www.citywideapartmentlocators.com

NORTHWEST $99 total move-in! 2 br. condo, $595 FREE CABLE. Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368) www.citywideapartmentlocators.com

NORTHWEST 1 BDRM $489, 2 BDRM $589, 3 BDRM $900. Pool, WD conn. Call Chris Bee, agent 512-293-7737 or visit www.apartmentsfirst.com

NORTHWEST 1-1, $480, w/d conn. 1st mo rent only $140. $75 deposit. 3% MAJOR EMP. DISC. 2-2, $660. Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368) www.citywideapartmentlocators.com

NORTHWEST 2-2, Luxury, Huge 1124 sq. ft. for $840! W/D included! ATX RELO

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SOUTH Most Bills Paid. Gated Community. $200 off 1st mth. Eff, 1, 2 BDs. $465-645. greg@atxrelo.com 587-5090

SOUTH Most bills paid. Hot water & water paid. 1BR $445, 2Br $585, 3BR $650. Pool, basketball, gated. Apt Experts 416-8100.

SOUTH R U looking? Free service! Locate an apt, townhome, condo, duplex or house. Greg 587-5090 ATX

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SOUTH Why pay rent? When you may be able to own a home instead? You can own a home - 3 bedroom, 2 baths, and 2 car garage worth $150,000 and pay about the same as a 2 bedroom apartment! Get more for your money act now while interest rates are still low!

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(*17ft. ceilings!)
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• 903 EAST OLTORF - Spacious 2 story condo. 3 large BDs, 2.5 BTHs, 2 living, 2 dining, private patio, Pool! Lots of windows! New Berber carpet, CACH, fridge, stove, DW. Available NOW! $1000 rent, $1000 dep.

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Realtor, 512-789-8064

CENTRAL 1131 Salina, close to downtown. 3/2, recently remodeled, new countertops and fixtures. Ceramic tile, $850. Call, MRG - 443-2526.

CENTRAL 11714 Natrona, 2 bed/1 bath, 2 story-$825/mo. Recently Renovated-new paint & carpet, Large Kitchen/appliances/W/D conn.

Call Debra 512-441-1593

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CENTRAL 1176 Ridgeway, $***$250 Move In Bonus. *House w/large lot. East Austin Charmer, backs to small greenbelt. Hrdwds throughout. 2Bd/1Ba, approx 700 SqFt. Awesome location, ACC, UT & dwtn. 1176 Ridgeway, $699/mo, $400 Dep, $35 App Fee, Terry, Realtor, 512-789-8064

CENTRAL HOLIDAY SPECIAL 4bdrm, 2.5 ba house, near campus, $1150,no pets, great 4 roomates, 636-2675

CENTRAL 1200 A Crestwood 2/2 duplex, CACH, fenced shady yard, recent carpet/paint,close to UT/DWNTWN $850/mo. 497-5592

CENTRAL 1211 E. 52nd St. 2/1, hrdwds. $750/mo. Most util pd. Avail Jan. 1st. Lease/deposit. Call 472-1077

CENTRAL 608 B Kawnee 2-1-1 CACH, W/D connect, fenced and maintained yard $650. www.cbimanagement.com 658-9493.

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CENTRAL Brand new 3/2, gated community, game room, 1850 sqft. $1150/mo. 9003 Magna Carta Lp. Carolyn, Realty World 771-8267

CENTRAL Great 2/1 house, like new! 3 min. UT. Pet OK $900/mo. & SD. 929-3333

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451-0414

CENTRAL Pemberton 3 or 4 BR 1 bath home 2321 Newfield Move-in NOW!!!All pets WELCOME Large fenced yard with nice deck. $1250 Call PMT Broker 476-2673.

CENTRAL Quiet complex in old Austin residential neighborhood. 650 sf 1/1. CACH, Walk-in Closet. Paid Water. On-site Pool & Laundry. $625. 451-0414.

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CENTRAL SOCO Unique 2-1 duplex hardwood floors 409B E. Annie Available January 1st $850 Call PMT Realtors 476-2673

CENTRAL TERRYTOWN - Large 2/1, 989 sf. Faux wood floors, Built-in bookshelf & brick accent walls in living room, Lots of Closet Space. Paid Gas & Cable. On-site Laundry & Pool. $895. 451-0414

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EAST Manor/51st. 4 Bedroom 2 Baths. 5413 Darlington $900/$450 dep 894-0619

LAKE SOUTH Apache Shores Home, Lake Austin Access, 2-2, Decks, 1 acre, Pets OK, Avail 1/1/06, $990 565-1608

MANOR Beautiful new 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home for rent. W/ backyard, pool membership, 2 car garage, stainless steel fridge, laundry room with new Maytag washer/dryer. 652-8796, or adc@austin.rr.com

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NORTH 2000 sq, deck, 4 bdr/2 bth, close to pool/park/i-35/mopac, $1395 ph 512-796-2388

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NORTH 3/2, in great area, lease or purchase, move in today, like new. $1195 www.yourark.com 917-0061

NORTH 8516 Shenandoah, 3/2, 1 story house, 2 car garage, covered patio, new carpet & paint, $1050, 474-1470 Beck & Co.

NORTH 9223 Singing Quail 3/2 with 2 car garage, end unit, 1,500sqft., cathedral ceilings, master down,$895. Call MRG (512) 443-2526.

NORTH GEORGEOUS 3-2 3048 Sqft New Construction Fenced Pets 4800 Delores Ave. $1150 call PMT 476-2673.

NORTH HUGE 3-2 duplex near Highland Mall 7204 Carver Vacant and ready to move in TODAY!!! $1250 Call PMT 476-2673

NORTHEAST Furnished 4 BR House w/ 2 car garage & lg yard. Be the first to live in this 2342 sq ft house near Parmer & Dessau.

NORTHWEST Mopac/2222 1200 Sqft 2-2.5 Townhome Open patio Carport Wet bar SECLUDED 3609 Las Colinas $1100 Call PMT Broker 476-2673.

NORTHWEST 1 bedroom/study/covered parking, close to Arboretum, $650. 1 BR w/garage duplex $625! Agent 512-422-0007

NORTHWEST 2/1/1 dplx near Arboretum, shady fenced yard, pet friendly. $735/mo. Rita, Homestead Realty, 468-2867

NORTHWEST Duplex for rent - $900 a month, 2 bed/2 bath Great Location close to 183, Parmer and Lakeline Mall. Tile Throughout, Upgraded Fixtures , Designer Colors, Ceiling Fans, Garage and Large Trees on a corner lot. Call Kyle 512-663-2925 or go to www.787homes.com for pictures and more details.

NORTHWEST 2/2 with loft, garden home, 8330 Fathom Circle #401. Master bedroom up & down, fireplace, $895. Call today MRG (512) 443-2526.

ROUND ROCK 3/2 dplx, fenced yard, 1 car garage, fireplace, ceiling fans, & much more. $750/mo. $700 dep. Scowden Properties, Realtor. Call 255-6181

SOUTH 6801 SHIRE COVE, 3/2, near William Cannon/Manchaca, $725 474-1470Beck & Co.

SOUTH Great central locale near St. Eds, SoCo, & Downtown. Unique 2-plex (no common walls!) Big, bright 2/1, almost 1,000sqft. Enjoy fireplace, gorgeous tile, vaulted ceilings, CACH, ceiling fans, private patio, plus shuttle/Metro at door! $795mo. Water paid, Parker Lane. Owner, (512) 441-0941.

SOUTH CENTRAL WASHER DRYER Included! GREENBELT ACCESS!! $525. ATX RELO 657-2314 yorkapartmentlocators.com

SOUTH CENTRAL 4414 Dudley 3-2-2, CACH, W/D connect., fenced yard. Avail. 1-1 $1100. 658-9493 www.cbimanagement.com

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230 COMMERCIAL

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HOME GALLERY

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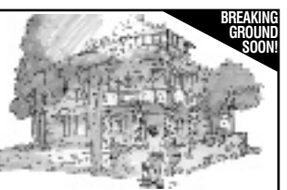


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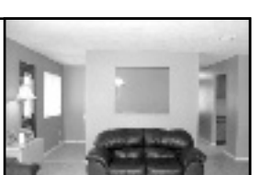


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NORTH Parmer & Metric area, $400.00 a month, Pet friendly,no smoking,Dnorcross@Ausin.rr.com Debra 507-8909 Alice 796-8874

NORTH Female wanted to share 2 bed/1 bath. Near Mopac/ Parmer. Good area close to stores. Utilities included. 497-6870

NORTH: E Parmer, near Dell, Samsung.Need N/S, G-friendly, mature male to share 2/2 luxury apt. Covered & garage, wshr&dryer. Prefer eve/nght shft wkr. ref.rqrd.$410+1/2 util/intrnt. No dep rqrd. Just don't want to move! Renew in 02/06. 415-7599.

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to YOUR HEALTH

by **James Heffley, Ph.D.**

Q. My father is beginning to show signs of mental deterioration, along with other problems that come with being 82 years old. I want him to try a coenzyme Q-10 supplement, but there seems to be a lot of controversy surrounding it, for instance what form to take and what we should expect. What is the latest thinking on coenzyme Q-10 supplements?

A. Coenzyme Q-10 (CoQ) supplements have always been controversial, in part because we are able to make our own CoQ and some people believe that we should be able to produce enough to make a supplement unnecessary. The more we learn about all the jobs CoQ performs in our bodies the more we realize how central it is to our bodies' functions. Most importantly, every cell of the body uses CoQ during the process of converting our food into energy that is usable by our bodies with the tiny structures in each cell known as mitochondria.

Of all our body organs, the brain is the heaviest consumer of energy. Although CoQ was first used to improve heart function, we are now learning about the benefit of CoQ to brain function. CoQ deficiency has been associated with the development of "neurodegenerative diseases" such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. CoQ supplements were part of a successful treatment program that improved cognition in such patients over a two-year period. The program also included a multivitamin, vitamin E, alpha-lipoic acid, and omega-3 fatty acid supplements in combination with diet modification, physical exercise, and prescription medications. The health care of the future is likely to take a similar tack, using a combination of several intervention techniques, rather than relying on a single "magic bullet" to solve our health problems.

The rising popularity of "statin" drugs may also promote neurodegenerative disease. There is substantial evidence that damage to mitochondria may play a key role in both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and that CoQ supplements can reduce this damage. Statin drugs are very effective for lowering blood cholesterol level, but because CoQ and cholesterol share a common pathway as the body produces them, the statin drugs also reduce the production of CoQ. Mental problems that were previously mild enough to be unnoticeable may emerge after beginning treatment with statin drugs (see "Statin-associated neuromyotoxicity" in *Drugs Today* (Barc), April 2005). So if your father, like many other elderly persons, is taking a statin drug to reduce blood cholesterol, a CoQ supplement is a prudent addition to his supplement program as a preventive measure even if we are not sure about its ability to help mental problems.

CoQ is poorly absorbed under the best of circumstances, and since it can be rather expensive it is well worthwhile to maximize absorption. The most sensible way to improve absorption it to take CoQ at whatever meal of the day provides the highest fat intake. CoQ is a fat soluble substance and is absorbed the same way dietary fat is absorbed. Some brands of CoQ claim better absorption, and may in fact boost absorption slightly, but the research is clear that the biggest improvement in absorption is achieved by simply taking CoQ with food.

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.

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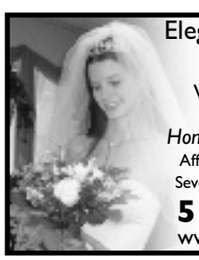
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CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Happy Holy Daze, Capricorn! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What items might inspire you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? And the answer is: anything that makes you laugh harder, deeper, faster, and more often. For me that would be something like DVDs by comedians Margaret Cho, Chris Rock, Dave Chappelle, and Sarah Silverman, but you might need different stimuli. The point is, you've got to significantly raise your Laugh Quotient in the coming months. The astrological omens say it's the only strategy that's guaranteed to make you an expert problem-solver, increase your intelligence, and keep you in peak health.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Happy Holy Daze, Aquarius! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gift for you. What symbolic item might inspire you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? I've decided it would be a fortune cookie inside of which was an oracle based on an old Sufi saying: "I was a hidden treasure and I longed to be known." This would serve as your motto and mantra in the coming months, a reminder that it's high time for you to come out of every closet, throw off all your disguises, and reveal the curious, beautiful truths about yourself. Even if you don't do that, I bet you'll still become better known in 2006; not necessarily famous, but certainly more accurately perceived and more deeply understood.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Happy Holy Daze, Pisces! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gift for you. What would best get you ready for 2006? What symbolic offering might motivate you to take maximum advantage of the astrological opportunities ahead? And the answer is: a roundtrip plane ticket to the mysterious frontier or thrilling sanctuary or provocative paradise you've been fantasizing about off and on for a long time. Why? Because this is the year you really need to escape the insidious comforts that have been sapping your ability to be the brave dreamer you were born to be.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Happy Holy Daze, Aries! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gift for you. What symbolic item might inspire you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? And the answer is: "The Daughter of Jacob Meyer," one of Vincent van Gogh's first drawings. He did it when he was 27 years old. That's right: The celebrated painter didn't even begin his life's work until then, having failed in his careers as an art dealer and preacher. In recommending this as a present for you, I hope you'll be inspired to realize that no matter what you've done up until this point, the coming year will give you a chance to start fresh on a new quest – maybe even a calling that will sustain you for decades.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Happy Holy Daze, Taurus! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What symbolic items might inspire you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? And the answer is: several full-length mirrors that you can arrange in such a way so as to study what you look like from behind and from the side as well as from the front. What's my reasoning? I believe you should get to know yourself much, much better in the coming months. You should gaze into your own mysteries far more frequently than you ever have before, and try to see yourself with as much compassionate objectivity as possible.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Happy Holy Daze, Gemini! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What symbolic items might stimulate you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? The answer is: a lot of beautiful, comfortable shoes suitable for a variety of moods, from hiking to working to traveling to dancing. I recommend this dramatic upgrade in footwear because I think it would help drive home the single most important task you have ahead of you, which is to come all the way down to earth. This is the year you've got to become as well-grounded as you've ever dared to be.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Happy Holy Daze, Cancerian! I've decided that the best possible gift you could give yourself this holiday season is this: a promise that you will love yourself with more wild abandon, reverent devotion, and unpredictable ingenuity in 2006. If you agree with my idea, then I suggest you make a formal pledge to do just that, preferably written out on a piece of paper and placed in a prominent place in your home. To carry out your vow, you might want to commit to a regular schedule of thoughtful gestures, like buying yourself a dozen roses or getting a massage twice a month – or handing yourself a compliment and putting yourself in the presence of awesome beauty once a day.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Happy Holy Daze, Leo! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What symbolic items might stimulate you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? Here's my answer: a skateboard or snowboard or bongo board. If you developed your proficiency on one of these, you'd be cultivating the same capacity you should build in your psyche: really good balance. In the coming months, I hope you will become a master of maintaining your equilibrium, seeing all sides of every story, and taking the middle path between two extremes.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Happy Holy Daze, Virgo! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What symbolic offerings might inspire you to be in closest alignment with the cosmic currents in 2006? I've decided on a pair of binoculars, a microscope, and sunglasses with mirrors in the corner of each lens that allow you to gaze on the reflections of things behind you. These, I hope, would give you the message that you should try hard to see further, deeper, and more clearly; you should become more greedily eager to notice details you've been blind to in the past.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Happy Holy Daze, Libra! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gifts for you. What symbolic items might stimulate you to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents in 2006? The first thing that comes to mind is a bar of gold bullion or a stack of gold coins. It might stir up your financial imagination and motivate you to take aggressive steps to increase your income, which would be right in line with the scenario that the astrological omens suggest is possible. What might be even more effective, though, is a photo or image or drawing that captures the invigorating experiences you'll be able to buy yourself when you have more money.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Happy Holy Daze, Scorpio! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gift for you. What symbolic offering might inspire you to be in closest alignment with the cosmic currents in 2006? I've decided on a magnesium fire-starter, a metal tool with a striking rod that's guaranteed to kindle a flame even when conditions are wet. This would, I hope, send you the message that your job in the coming months is to be constantly ablaze – to ignite passions, burn down obstacles, and be a source of intense light and warmth and energy wherever you go.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Happy Holy Daze, Sagittarius! I've been meditating on the perfect holiday gift for you. What would best get you ready for 2006? What symbolic offering might motivate you to take maximum advantage of the astrological opportunities? And the answer is: the biggest, baddest vacuum cleaner ever made – a sleek, chic cleaning machine with turbocharged suction power, a hundred different attachments, and a very long reach. Such a gift would, I think, be an inspiring metaphor as you dive into the coming year's most important project: to purge every last bit of messiness and chaos and karmic dirt that have accumulated in your life during the last 10 years.

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535 LOST & FOUND

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REWARD Beloved Asian Parrot w/ green band tag on leg. Bearded w/ black band color eyes, lavender, blue, green & turquiose. Orange & red beak. Talks a few sentences. Lost 12/5, South Austin, behind Arts Rib House, off Blue Bonnet & Lamar. 424-5497 or 416-7699 Chuck.

545 LEGAL NOTICES

366842

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 299th District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 366842, wherein Travis County, State Tax, Lago Vista Independent School District, City of Lago Vista, County Education District, Lago Vista MUD and FM Road are plaintiffs, and Barbara Fields, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Barbara Fields, Clarence W. Fields, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Clarence W. Fields and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$14,937.98** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 299th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 10, 1999.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 9083, Highland Lake Estates, Sec. 9, Plat No. 51/78 as described in Volume 6709, Page 1203 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$14,937.98** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

404233

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 299th District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 404233, wherein Travis County, City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista MUD, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, FM Road and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Sandra S. Dunn, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Sandra S. Dunn, Charles Dunn and Lago Vista Property Owners Association (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$15,147.48** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 299th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 25, 1996.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 9100, Highland Lake Estates, Sec. 9, Plat No. 51/78 as described in Volume 6919, Page 565 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$15,147.48** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

404234

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 331st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 404234, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District NO.1, City of Lago Vista, County Education District, FM Road and Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District are plaintiffs, and Nancy E. Woods (In Rem Only), Lago Vista Property Owners Association (In Rem Only) and Hilton A. Ryder, Trustee for Consolidated Garage Door Co. of Fresno, a partnership (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$11,666.43** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 331st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 12, 1998.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 9104, Highland Lake Estates, Sec. 9, Plat No. 51/78 as described in Volume 7588, Page 248 and Volume 7617, Page 678 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$11,666.43** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

421512

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 421512, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Specialty Underwriters, Inc. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,716.57** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 21, 2001.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5148, Highland Lake Estates, Sec. 5, Plat No. 51/75 as described in Volume 5482, Page 2203 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,716.57** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

421516

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 18th day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 421516, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and FM Road are plaintiffs, and Donald K. Kitchen and Marjorie O. Kitchen are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,053.93** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on March 6, 1992.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 32043, Highland Lake Estates, Section 32, Plat No. 68/9 as described in Volume 5521, Page 770 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,053.93** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

424355

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 167th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of August, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 424355, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District, City of Lago Vista, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Doug Paddock are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,937.60** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 167th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 14, 2001.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 2027, Bar-K Ranches Plat 2, Plat No. 57/14 as described in Volume 7616, Page 783 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,937.60** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

425240

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 425240, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, City of Lago Vista, Travis County Emergency Services District NO. 1, Water Control Improvement District No. 15, FM Road and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Mary Louise Bassham aka Mary Y. Bassham, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Mary Louise Bassham aka Mary Y. Bassham are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,045.46** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 3, 2001.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 33, Block C, Lago Vista, Section 2, Plat No. 11/45 as described in Volume 4912, Page 2015 and Volume 6362, Page 1596 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,045.46** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /a/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

429839

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 167th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 429839, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Lago Vista Municipal Utilities District, Travis County Emergency Services District NO. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Edwin M. King, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Edwin M. King, Robert D. Dentino, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Robert D. Dentino, Lester D. Rathjen (In Rem Only) and Cynthia A. Rathjen (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,451.59** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 167th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on March 19, 1997.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 21175, Highland Lake Estates Sec. 21, Plat No. 55/59 as described in Volume 8787, Page 872 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,451.59** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

431695

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 431695, wherein Travis County, Lake Travis Independent School District, Water Control Improvement District No. 17, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Chula Vista Development Co., if active and if inactive, the unknown officers, directors, shareholders and owners of Chula Vista Development Co. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,897.14** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of

judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 8, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 26, Block 9, Mountain View, Plat No. 4/243 as described in Volume 1955, Page 61 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,897.14** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

445992

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

LEGAL NOTICES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 445992, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista, FM Road, Water Control Improvement District No. 15 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Gay Nell Campise, Individually and as Administratrix of the Estate of Joseph Campise are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,029.24** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 6, 2000.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 2069, Lago Vista Estates, Section 9, Plat No. 52/98 as described in Volume 9248, Page 674 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,029.24** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

485662

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 331ST District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 485662, wherein Travis County, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Austin Community College and County Education District are plaintiffs, and J.W. Howeth, United States of America, Internal Revenue Service (In Rem Only), Travis County, Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and County Education District (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only), W.J. Howeth and Helen Howeth are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums:

Tract Number One: Billing Number 77828 = $5,153.30

Tract Number Two: Billing Number 88282 = $57,869.72

Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 331ST District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 25, 2003.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT ONE: BILLING NO. 077828

.477 of an acre out of the J. C. Tannehill Survey #29, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 4686, Page 2339 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

Parcel No. 02-0724-03-4-0000

Location: Hudson Street

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 088282

Lot 16, Block 2, University Park (Olt. 29, Division C), Plat No. 3/125A, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 4290, Page 946 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

Parcel No. 02-1509-0230-0000

Location: 3500 Robinson Avenue

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums:

Tract Number One: Billing Number 77828 = $5,153.30

Tract Number Two: Billing Number 88282 = $57,869.72

Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

91-10389

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53rd District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 91-10389, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista, County Education District are plaintiffs, and Robert R. Browning (In Rem Only), and H. Alice Browning (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,821.77** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 1, 2001.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock,

A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5, Block E, Lago Vista, Section 3, Phase 3, Plat No. 30/40 as described in Volume 5391, Page 297 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,821.77** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

91-10405

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 91-10405, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista are plaintiffs, and Richard C. Dinsmore and Thelma Dinsmore are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,349.94** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 25, 1999.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 2537, Country Club Estates, Section 9, Plat No. 48/30 as described in Volume 8766, Page 754 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,349.94** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

93-00437

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 93-00437, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Eddie Walker (In Rem Only 1996-1998 & Individually 1999-Present), Carrie Walker (In Rem Only 1996-1998 and Individually 1999 - Present) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,087.70** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 31, 2000.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 3146, Bar-K Ranches, Plat 3, Plat No. 57/15 as described in Volume 13337, Page 490 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,087.70** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

94-05906

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 147TH District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered 94-05906, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, City of Lago Vista and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Jeffrey B. Koinm and Sandra L. Koinm are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$11,315.86** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 147TH District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 16, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 15143, Highland Lake Estates, Section 15, Plat No. 55/55 as described in Volume 11260, Page 1118 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$11,315.86** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF WALTER LOUIS FAGAN, Deceased, No. 83986 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

TRAVIS FAGAN alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 5th day of DECEMBER, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said WALTER LOUIS FAGAN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 9th day of December, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ Alan Serrano

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF CHARLES LYNDON FRIZZELL, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHARLES LYNDON FRIZZELL, Deceased, were issued on December 7, 2005, under Docket No. 83,916, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to SCOTT KEVIN FRIZZELL.

Claims may be presented to the independent executor in care of the attorney at the following address:

Representative, Estate of
Charles Lyndon Frizzell
Attn: Sarah Zottarelli
405 W. 14th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated December 23, 2005.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RICHARD V. LeCLERCQ, Deceased, No. 83655 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

DESIREE LeCLERCQ alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 23rd day of SEPTEMBER, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship and For Appointment of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RICHARD V LeCLERCQ, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 23rd day of September, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ M. C. Arzola

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RANDALL STUART LINDHART, Deceased, No. 84016 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

KIRBY DOYLE LINDHART alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 13th day of DECEMBER, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship and an Application for Independent Administration & Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RANDALL STUART LINDHART, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 13th day of December, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ M.C. Arzola

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. GN503296

To: FRANCISCO J. NAVA MENDEZ AND GLORIA DE NAVA Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock AM of Monday the 16th DAY OF JANUARY, 2006, and answer the FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OR TRESPASS TO TRY TITLE of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 98th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GN503296, in which ELBERT D. SMITH Plaintiff(s) and FRANCISCO J. NAVA MENDEZ AND GLORIA DE NAVA Defendant(s) and the nature of which suit is as follows:

BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON THE TITLE TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO WIT: Condominium Unit Number 101, as described in the Declaration as the same appears of record in Volume 9180, Page 290, as well as by amendment of record in Volume 9229, Page 496, of the Real Property Records of Travis County, Texas, locally known as 201 E. 31st Street, #101, Austin, Texas. Special pleadings include adverse possession and statute of limitations.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OR TRESPASS TO TRY TITLE ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, this the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2005.

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
District Clerk
Travis County, Texas
By /s/ John Levalley, Deputy
Requested by:
ROBIN CRAVEY
807 BRAZOS STREET,
SUITE 807
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
512 236-9655

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
Cause No. GN503950

To: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN HENDERSON, DECEASED Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock AM of Monday the 23rd day of January, 2006, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 345th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 1st day of November, 2005, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GN503950, in which DOROTHY BROWN Plaintiff(s) and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN HENDERSON, DECEASED Defendant(s) and the nature of which suit is as follows:

claim for trespass to try title and request that the court determine and declare that Plaintiff owns fee simple title to the following real property and that you have no title in and to such property: Lots Nos. Seven and Eight (7 & 8) in Block No. One (1) of M.E. Chernosky's Subdivision No. Ten (10), of a Part of Outlot No. 20, Division "B", in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas,

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the COMMON LAW
by **Luke Ellis**

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

WHAT IS 'ERISA'?

I've heard people at my job talk about "ERISA." What does ERISA mean?

ERISA is an acronym for the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, a federal statute enacted in 1974 to regulate employee benefit plans (e.g., group health plans, pension plans, etc.).

Essentially, where an employer chooses to offer a pension plan, ERISA protects an employee's rights with respect to that plan by imposing certain regulations on its operation and administration, including regulations governing how plans are funded. Pension plan administrators, for example, must provide summaries of the plan to participants and are under strict fiduciary duties with respect to plan participants. They may not engage in certain transactions, such as any transactions with the plan by a party whose interests are adverse to the plan's beneficiaries (i.e., the employees who have invested in the plan). There are also limits on how much of the employer's stock or securities may be held by the plan. (An employer may not, with certain exceptions, invest more than 10% of the pension plan's money in the employer's own stock.)

The failure of a plan administrator to comply with his or her duties to employees can have serious consequences. The administrator may, among other things, be held personally liable for making good all losses sustained by a pension plan as a result of the administrator's breach of his or her duties. In certain cases, an administrator may be criminally liable for violations of ERISA.

ERISA also provides for some federal oversight of pension plans and established the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, a branch of the Department of Labor responsible for insuring and regulating certain pension plans covered by ERISA. The PBGC may, among other things, initiate investigations of pension plans and order audits of certain plans.

ERISA generally applies to all employee benefit plans; there are exceptions, however. For example, ERISA does not cover plans provided by the federal government or certain plans provided by churches. Precisely what types of plans are "covered" by the statute and the exact requirements of the statute are exceedingly complicated and are governed by the terms of ERISA, federal regulations, and court decisions. If you have questions about ERISA, you may wish to contact an attorney. You may also contact the PBGC at 800/400-7242, or at **www.pbgc.gov**.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to **thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com**. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

according to the Map or plat of said subdivision of record in Volume 4, Page 200 of the Travis County Plat Records, locally known as 1709 and 1711 Deloney Street, Austin, Texas.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and Given under my hand and the seal of said Court at Austin, this the 6th day of December, 2005.

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza

District Clerk

Travis County, Texas

By /s/ Synthia Lee, Deputy

Requested By:

PETE MEEKER

1801 SOUTH MOPAC EXPWY, SUITE 300

AUSTIN, TX 78768

(512) 482-0614

GV-103402

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered GV-103402, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Beatrice Louise Anderson Dean Living Trust, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Beatrice Louise Anderson Dean Living Trust are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums:

Tract Number Three: Billing Number 50465 = $1,889.23 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on September 24, 2003.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT 3: Billing No. 50465

Lot 11, Block K, Emerald Bend, Section 1, Plat No. 36/2 as desc. In Vol. 11673, Pg. 918 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums: **Tract Number Three: Billing Number 50465 = $1,889.23** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-204251

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered GV-204251, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Leo James Hoecker and Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and City of Lago Vista (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$2,594.08** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 24, 2003.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 31177, Highland Lake Estates, Section 31, Plat No. 66/90, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 7904, Page 148 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$2,594.08** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300077

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered GV-300077, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Sammy Lee Owens (In Rem Only 1997 and Individually 1998-Present) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,039.48** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on February 10, 2004.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 2630, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 11, Plat NO. 48/42 as described in Volume 11167, Page 552 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,039.48** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300201

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered GV-300201, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Henry L. Gomez and City of Austin (In RemOnly) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,277.38** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 6, 2004.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 84, Block A, Village South, Phase 1, Plat No. 62/4, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2001188126 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,277.38** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NO: 05-1515AD

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF RYAN TYRONE WILLIAMS

DATE OF BITH 10-28-88

BY: WILLIE LEWIS TERRELL AND HELGA TORONTO TERRELL PETITIONERS, vs. RONALD SMITH, BIOLOGICAL FATHER RESPONDENT

To: RONALD SMITH

Order of Publication

It appearing from the bill in this cause, which is sworn to that the residence and current address of the Defendant, RONALD SMITH, is unknown and cannot be served with process, It is ordered that publication be made for four consecutive weeks in The AUSTIN CHRONICLE, a newspaper published at AUSTIN, Texas in Travis County, requiring the said defendants, Ronald Smith, to appear before the clerk of said Court on or before thirty days after the last publication hereof and make defense to the bill filed in the above cause, which seeks ADOPTION or otherwise said bill be taken for confessed and cause proceeded with exparte.

This the 23rd day of November, 2005.

John A. W. Bratcher, Clerk of said Court

By : Lori Finch

Deputy Clerk

LEGAL NOTICES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of $21 per column inch.

Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request.

Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

NOTICE CWT USA, LTD d/b/a Alpha Self Storage, hereby publishes notice as required by Texas Self Storage Facility Liens Sec 59.042 and 59.043 of Public sale of property listed below to satisfy a landlord's lien. All sales are for cash to the highest bidder and are considered final. The sale shall be held at 12342 FM Road 620, Austin, TX 78750 on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 2:00 PM. Melissa Cranahan 203; Robert Coleman 718; Debbie Davenport 247; Francis/Butch Ferony 311; Cisco Gonsales 614; Juanita Gonzales 602; Ramiro Gonzales 909; Daniel Klaes 610; Darren Nelson 903; Eddie Roy 833; Lance Shockley 324; Andrew Siek 805; Stephen Smith 635; Darby Webster 250, 251, 252, 605; Ronald Wright-Harris 354.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE Pursuant to the Texas abandoned motor vehicle act, the following vehicle will be sold at public auction unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

Make - Oldsmobile

LP# - none

VIN# - 1G3GR62C8S4146379

Garagekeeper: Westlake Towing, 9704 Middle Fiskville, Austin, TX 78753

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by the Travis County Sheriff's Office unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1. unknown owner

Isuzu Rodeo, blk

LP# J68SXP (FL)

2. unknown owner

1993 Saturn

LP# 2DGD79 (MI); VIN# 1G8ZH5594PZ319454

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATION Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMITS ON CHAPPELL LANE AND EASY STREET IN PRECINCT THREE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Transportation and Natural Resources Department, Travis County, Texas, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Top Hat Self Storage, pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives notice of a public sale.

On December 28, 2005, Top Hat Self Storage located at 4500 South Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78745, will conduct a sale. Delinquent rental spaces will be auctioned off to the highest bidder for cash at 10 a.m. on the premises. The public is invited to attend. The contents of 11 rental spaces containing misc. items, furniture, office furniture, antiques, estate boxes, bicycles, electronics, appliances, washers, dryers, tools, yard tools, musical instruments, and TV's will be sold to satisfy Landlord Liens. All items will be sold "as is" to the highest bidder. CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS. All items are subject to prior redemption. Tenants included in this sale are: Ashley Montgomery, Starlette Petrosky, Gary Wise, Matthew Tamayo, Eloy Davila, Kimberly Carlson, Ellen Fields, Samantha Fayson, Oscar Lucio, Melanie Moore, Ricardo Calzadilla.

NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF SALE DATED November 28, 2005, and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court of Travis County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date in the hereinafter numbered and styled causes, and to me directed and delivered as Constable, Pct. 5, of said Court, I have on November 28, 2005, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in January, 2006, the same being the 3rd day of said month at the Courthouse door of said County, in the City of Austin, between the hours of 10:00 o'clock A.M. and 4:00 o'clock P.M. on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Travis and the State of Texas, to-wit:

No. 99-13081, Leander Independent School District vs. Jimmy Cantwell, Jodi Cantwell, Marilyn Holder (In Rem Only) and Conseco Finance Servicing Corporation, (In Rem Only)

a 1994 28 ft. X 48 ft. Mobile Home located on Lots 69-71, Jonestown HIlls #7, (11626 Travis Street, Jonestown) Travis County, Texas, Serial CHVM059485207786A/B, Label TRA0204761/2

No. GV402418, Leander Independent School District vs. Johnnie L. Morgan, III. AKA Johnnie Lee Morgan AKA Johnnie Lee Morgan, III., Karen Morgan AKA Karen K. Morgan, Green Tree Servicing, L.L.C. (In Rem Only) and Conseco Financial Servicing Corp. (In Rem Only)

2.28 Acres, being Lot 3-5, Leander Hills, Phase V, (14202 Gillum Creek Drive, Leander) Travis County, Texas and a Mobile Home, Model: Broadmore, 1983, 14 Feet X 76 Feet, Label #TEX0283622, Serial #TXFL1AD511209016 being that property more particularly described in Volume 11767, Page 514 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas;

2.15 Acres, being Lot 4-5, Leander Hills Addition, Phase V, (Gillum Creek Drive, Leander) Travis County, Texas being that property more particularly

described in Volume 11767, Page 516 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

No. GV500820, Leander Independent School District vs. Peggy A. Hill

Lots 182 and 199, Block 57, Trails End Resub Addition, (17400 East Darlene Drive, Leander) Travis County, Texas and a Mobile Home, Serial #7165120405 being that property more particularly described in Volume 11329, Page 334 of the Deed Records, Travis County, Texas or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest and costs of suit and sale; subject, however, to the right of redemption, the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem the said property, or their interest therein, within the period of time and in the manner provided by law, and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment for delinquent property taxes and accrued penalties and interest rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest thereon and costs of suit and sale, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

DATED November 28, 2005, at Austin, Texas.

By /s/ Bruce Elfant

CONSTABLE, Pct. 5, Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

DEPUTY

You may contact the Plaintiff's attorney at 512-943-1645

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: 04201C26

By virtue of an Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the 26 DISTRICT Court of WILLIAMSON County, Texas, November 09, 2005, in cause numbered 04201C26, styled

GRANGER NATIONAL BANK versus C. HARDIN CAMP II, LAVERN CAMP & CAMP EXCAVATION & CONTRACTING INC. on a judgment rendered against C. HARDIN CAMP II, LAVERN CAMP & CAMP EXCAVATION & CONTRACTING INC.; I did on November 22, 2005, at 1:00 p.m., levy upon as the property of C. HARDIN CAMP II, LAVERN CAMP & CAMP EXCAVATION & CONTRACTING INC. the following described real property:

1.289 acres of land, out of the Peter Conrad Survey, number 71, abstract number 200, Travis County, Texas, meaning all that certain 5.21 acre tract described in deed recorded in volume 13074, page 1067, official public record of Travis County, Texas, save and except, that certain 3.825 acres described in document number 2003177212, official public record of Travis County, Texas, said 1.289 acres tract of land being more particularly described in document number 2004084998, official public records of Travis County, Texas, and being locally known as 19292 Wilke Lane Pflugerville, Texas.

Tract 2:9.999 acres, out of the Edward Flint survey, number 11, in Travis County, Texas, being described in deed recorded in volume 8193, page 315, deed records of Travis County, Texas and in document number 2004051767, official public records of Travis County, Texas and being locally known as 3715 Kelly Lane Pflugerville, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On January 03, 2006, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of C. HARDIN CAMP II, LAVERN CAMP & CAMP EXCAVATION & CONTRACTING INC. in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, December 02, 2005

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

Bidders shall present an unexpired written statement issued to the person in the manner prescribed by Section 34.015, Tax Code, showing that the Travis County Assessor-Collector has determined that there are no delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by the person. In addition, an individual may not bid or purchase property in the name of any other individual.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TRAVIS

By virtue of a WRIT OF EXECUTION issued by the clerk of the Justice of the Peace, Precinct #One in and for TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, October 25, 2005, in caused numbered 010261 styled DAVIS, COFFY SR. versus DEXTER, LEE. On a judgment rendered against Dexter, Lee at 15704 FM 969, Austin Texas 78724. I did on November 16, 2005 at 01:59 P.M. levy upon property of Dexter, Lee the following described real property TO WIT:

1. 5.Acres of the ABS-5-SUR-33 BURLESON J ACR 55.710 PROPERTY ON 15704 fm 969 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78724.

On January 3, 2006 being the first Tuesday of the month between the Hours 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM beginning at 10:00 AM. At the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas. I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, ownership and interest of in and to the above-described property.

Dated at Austin Travis County December 07, 2005

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

You are buying whatever interest, if any, the debtor has in the property. Purchase of the debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interest held by other persons. There are no warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for particular purpose.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRANCES M. RECH, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that the original letters testamentary for the estate of Frances M. Rech, deceased, were issued on December 13, 2005, in Cause No. 83929 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Michael A. Rech, as independent executor.

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims are to be presented to the independent executor through her attorney at the following address: Estate of Frances M. Rech, Deceased, Jay Wataha, Attorney at Law, 1201 Spyglass Drive, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78746.

Dated the 19th day of December, 2005.

/s/ Jay Wataha, Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF NANENE GILBERT HALL, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 83939, styled Estate of Nanene Gilbert Hall, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on December 9, 2005, to David G. Hall and Nanene Hall Schwetman.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representatives of the estate in care of their attorneys at the following address: c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody

A Professional Corporation

Attn: James A. Williams

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 16th day of December, 2005.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY

A Professional Corporation

P.O. Box 98

401 Congress, Suite 2200

Austin, Texas 78767-0098

(512) 480-5600 Telephone

(512) 478-1976 Telecopier

By: /s/ James A. Williams

State Bar ID No.: 21547000

ATTORNEY FOR INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of D. M. Ziegler, Deceased, were issued on December 14, 2005, in Cause No. 83,974, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis

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AV0105 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.
THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.
I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

JANUARY 5, 2006 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANEDO, AUSTIN, TX 78748

1.	053132098	1992	HOND	2DR	VKR46C	TX	1HGCB7271NA051732
2.	053400946	1985	CHEV	VN	296ELX	WI	1GCEG25H8E7111308
3.	055063206	1991	GEO	4DR	721CRH	TX	2C1MR6463M6797329
4.	055063210	1990	ACUR	4DR	D73GJX	TX	JH4KA4665LC021243
5.	055063498	1994	MAZD	4DR	K05JCW	TX	JM1BG2244R0788682
6.	055063501	1989	PLYM	LL	Y01KPD	TX	2P4FH45J2KR229182
7.	055063504	1992	ISUZ	LL	GFP82X	TX	4S2CY58Z4N4309514
8.	055063506	1985	MERZ	4DR	HYK41R	TX	WDB1260321A130002
9.	055063507	1993	FORD	2DR	250EJR	AR	1ZVCT20A8P5144575
10.	055063508	1990	GEO	4DR	740FXR	WI	1Y1SK5168LZ080811
11.	055063509	1990	DODG	4DR	V57ZRC	TX	1B3XP48D7LN126194
12.	055063510	1991	HOND	2DR	Y62PNB	TX	1HGCB716XMA054202
13.	055063511	1987	DODG	PK	WG9278	TX	1B7GN14M6HS495971
14.	055063512	1986	CHEV	VN	Z24TXW	TX	1G8DM15Z6GB105573
15.	055063519	1999	BOAT	BT	53WLWD	TX	5A7BB2327XT001589
16.	055063530	1993	NISS	4DR	R38YDH	TX	JN1EJ01F1PT405821
17.	055063531	1985	VOLK	4DR	LNX75L	TX	WVWGA016XFW740112
18.	055063538	1991	LINC	4DR	254BVV	TX	1LNCM81W5MY665286
19.	055063539	1990	CHEV	4DR	D76BFK	TX	1G1JC54G1J151405
20.	055063540	1991	FORD	2DR	G31DHS	TX	1ZVPT20C0M5103954
21.	055063542	1997	HYUN	4DR	257BKX	TX	KMHJF24M0VU436905
22.	055063548	1977	FORD	PK	8PRH26	TX	F15SRZ20789
23.	055063977	1990	MAZD	4DR	CB84S	TX	JM1BG2242L0156528
24.	055063979	1979	CHEV	PK	3JYD21	TX	CCS249Z134475
25.	055063982	1994	KAWK	MC	280V3K	TX	JKAZXDL12RA020914
26.	055064121	1992	TOYT	4DR	P95NDG	TX	4T1SK12E8NU099129
27.	055064132	1977	DODG	SW	D15GRR	TX	DH46N7D143629
28.	055064136	1988	MERC	4DR	983GWH	TX	1MEBM5342JA620531
29.	055064137	1992	CHEV	4DR	Z06VMD	TX	1G1BL53E7NR119325
30.	055064355	1989	CHEV	4DR	T71JPR	TX	1G1LT64W4KY273543
31.	055064420	1991	MITS	PK	SL9584	TX	JA7FL24W7MP000678
32.	055064423	1992	MAZD	2DR	V96PZK	TX	JM1EC4316N0108316
33.	055064665	1998	GDAN	TRAL	A652659	ME	1GRAA0626WB002140

Car TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

WILL RACK WHACK GAS MILEAGE?

Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm wondering if putting a roof rack on a car will decrease its gas mileage. Our science teacher gives weekly extra credit, and to be frank, I need the extra credit. She said that I should e-mail you to ask this. Please reply soon, and be aware that there may be others asking this week! Thanks, and I'm sure that my parents will thank you someday for helping me keep my grades up! – Phil

TOM: Well, to be fair to all of the kids in your class, Phil, we're printing our answer here in the newspaper instead of e-mailing it to you. That way, the advantage will go to those students who actually take the time to look at a newspaper occasionally (not a bad idea for those of you junior citizens who will end up running the country in four or five decades).

RAY: The answer is yes, a roof rack will decrease your mileage. There's a field of science called aerodynamics, which studies how air flows around stuff. In general, the smoother an object is, the more easily it moves through the air. This is why you see very few roof racks on airplanes.

TOM: Now, there are lots of strange things that air currents do. They swirl and create eddies and pockets of turbulence. So wind resistance is not entirely predictable by just looking at something's shape. But generally speaking, the smoother or sleeker a surface, the less wind resistance it creates. And the less resistance it creates, the less energy (i.e., gasoline) you need to push it through the air.

RAY: So, because the top of a car is generally flat and smooth, and a roof rack is not, the roof rack adds additional resistance to the car's shape and decreases your mileage.

TOM: Now, for extra credit, Phil, a two-part question: 1) Does removing the cross members of the roof rack (when it's not in use) help increase your mileage? And 2) Why does it or doesn't it?

* * *

Why do unmitigated cheapskates like Tom continue to buy nothing but old clunkers? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send $4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at **www.cartalk.com**.

Tune in to *Car Talk* each Saturday at 9am on

kut 90.5 AUSTIN TEXAS

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CONTINUED 545

LEGAL NOTICES

County, Texas, to Mary Alice Ziegler.

Claims may be addressed in care of the representative, as follows: Mary Alice Ziegler

Independent Executor

6704 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Austin, TX 78757

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2005.

/s/ John J. Migl

ATTORNEY FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Delores

Imogene Bowen, also known as Delores B. Bowen, Deceased, were issued on December 14, 2005, in Cause No. 83972, pending in the Probate Court No. One, Travis County, Texas, to: David L. Bowen.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Owen T. Kinney

Attorney at Law

1717 W. 6th Street, Ste 430

Austin, Texas 78703

DATED the 15th day of December, 2005.

/s/ Owen T. Kinney

Attorney for Estate

State Bar No.: 11487300

1717 W. 6th Street, Ste 430

Austin, Texas 78703

Telephone: (512) 320-0095

Facsimile: (512) 320-0157

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of

ENRICA ANGELA SHOTWELL were issued on December 14, 2005 in Docket Number 83959, pending in the Probate No. One, Travis County, Texas to JAMES D. SHOTWELL, Independent Executor. The address of record for JAMES D. SHOTWELL is 6005 Sierra Grande Drive, Austin, Texas 78759. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims to the foregoing address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

S/ James D. Shotwell, Independent Executor of the Estate of ENRICA ANGELA SHOTWELL

SALE NOTICE MIDWOOD PARKWAY STORAGE wishing to avail themselves of the provisions of CHAPTER 59 of the TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, as amended from time to time, hereby gives notice of said act to wit: On JANUARY 6, 2006 starting at 10:00 AM, at 9023 HWY 71 WEST, AUSTIN, TX 78735, the following tenant's property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only to satisfy a landlord lien:

Tenant: David Delano

Unit: 198

The contents consist of: 4 cyl auto engine, small 2 drawer chest, small 5 shelf knick-knack stand, office chair and many boxes of clothes and misc. items

Tenant: Robert O. Tamminga

Unit: 149

The contents consist of: 4 drawer file cabinet, 2 drawer file cabinet, round table, 2 side tables, 11 drawer (platt map size) cabinet, and many boxes and misc. items.

SECTION 00010

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work required for the construction of Steiner Ranch Phase One, Section 6F, Phase 2,-Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements will be received at the office of: Loomis Austin, Inc. "ENGINEER"; 3103 Bee Caves Road, Suite 225; Austin, Texas 78746 until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2006. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be plainly marked with name and address of the BIDDER and the following words:

PROPOSAL FOR STEINER RANCH PHASE ONE, SECTION 6F, PHASE 2,**-WATER, WASTEWATER AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

The **STEINER RANCH PHASE ONE, SECTION 6F, PHASE 2,** Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 2,425 LF right of way preparation; 1,325 LF of 18"-24" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 1,340 LF of 6"and 8" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; 2,162 LF of 8" gravity wastewater sewer lines with manholes and wastewater appurtenances; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drainage improvements.

All work must conform to State of Texas, City of Austin, Travis County Water Control and Improvement District #17 rules and criteria.

Copies of the Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents will be on file at the office of Loomis Austin, Inc. "ENGINEER"; 3103 Bee Caves Road, Suite 225; Austin, Texas 78746, where they may be examined without charge. Copies may be examined or obtained from the ENGINEER on or after December 16, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of $100 per set. Checks for Plans and Specifications, and Bidding Documents shall be made payable to TWC/Steiner Ranch, Ltd.

A Cashier's Check, Certified Check or acceptable BIDDER'S Bond, payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the BIDDER will enter into a contract and execute bonds within ten (10) days of award of the Contract. Performance and Payment Bonds shall also be executed on the forms furnished by the OWNER and shall specifically provide for "Performance" and for "Labor and Materials Payment". Each bond shall be issued in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of contract price by a solvent Surety company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to the OWNER.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all technicalities and formalities in bidding. The OWNER reserves the right to determine which bids are lowest and best, and to award the Contract on this basis. The BIDDER with the lowest bid and most aggressive construction schedule will be awarded the project. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after opening of the bids. If a submitted bid is withdrawn within said period, bid guaranty shall become the property of the OWNER, not as penalty, but as liquidated damages, or OWNER may pursue any other action allowed by law. A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Tuesday January 3, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Steiner Ranch Community Center located at 12550 Country Trails Lane, Austin, Texas 78732. Prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the project site.

STATE OF VERMONT

CHITTENDEN COUNTY, S.S.

IN RE: ADOPTION OF WYATT REBEL BLEAU

CHITTENDEN PROBATE COURT

DOCKET NO. 7496/13062

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: TIFFANI RAE BLONDIN PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Terminate your parental rights has been filed in the Chittenden Probate Court, County Courthouse, P.O. Box 511, Main Street, Burlington, Vermont 05402. The Court's telephone number is (802)651-1518. A hearing on this petition has been scheduled for January, 23, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

You have been named as one of the biological parents of the minor. If you wish to contest this petition you must file a written answer to the petition by mailing it to the Chittenden Probate Court at the above address, and by sending a copy of your answer to Jennifer L. Wagner, Esq., Marsh & Wagner, P.C., 62 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.

Pursuant to 15A V.S.A 3-503(b), you are hereby informed that:

(1) You have the right to be represented by an attorney, and you may be entitled to have an attorney appointed by the Court; and

(2) If you fail to respond within 20 days after service and, in the case of an alleged father, fail to file a claim of paternity within 20 days after service unless a claim of paternity is pending, you may not appear in or receive further notice of the proceeding for adoption or termination and your failure to respond will result in termination of the relationship of parent and child between you and the minor unless the proceeding for adoption is dismissed.

Pursuant to 15A V.S.A. 3-401 and 3-402, you are hereby notified that a Petition for Adoption of the minor has been filed. The petitioners therein request that they be permitted to adopt the minor. You must file a written appearance in the adoption proceeding with the Court within 20 days after service of this notice in order to participate in the proceeding and to receive further notice of the proceeding, including notice for the time and place of any hearing. Please note that you will not be permitted to appear in or receive further notice of the proceeding for adoption unless you also respond to the Petition to Terminate in the manner described above.

Dated at Burlington, Vermont this 8 day of December, 2005.

/s/ Debra J. Brunell, Register

X96-00216

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered X96-00216, wherein Travis County, City of Manor, County Education District, Manor Independent School District, Travis County Rural Fire District No. 9 are plaintiffs, and Benito Mendieta, Lucia Mendieta, Tammie L. Grider (In Rem Only), The Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas [Child Support Litigation Division] (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only) and Walter R. Schroeder (In Rem Only) if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Walter R. Schroeder are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,195.28** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 8, 1997.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

South 57 1/2 feet of Lots 1 and 2, Block 39, Town of Manor, Plat No. V/796 as described in Volume 10888, Page 195 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,195.28** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X96-00220

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered X96-00220, wherein City of Austin, Austin Community College, Travis County and Austin Independent School District are plaintiffs, and Rosie Perez Molina, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Rosie Perez Molina, Comptroller of Public Accounts (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,937.16** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on June 27, 1997.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16, Block 1, Chernosky Subdivision No. 16, Plat No. 5/97 as described in Volume 12036, Page 865 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,937.16** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X98-07996

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered X98-07996, wherein Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, Austin Community College, FM Road and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Thomas Perkins, Bailey Pink, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Bailey Pink, Florence E. Lorenz (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only), Texas Employment Commission nka Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only) and Orville A. Lorenz (In Rem Only) if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Orville Lorenz are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums:

TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 83328 = $8,598.00

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 83327 = $6,715.29

TRACT NUMBER THREE: BILLING NUMBER 83325 = $6,132.14 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 16, 2000.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT 1: Billing No 83328

Lot 6, Block 1, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 as desc. in Volume 7937, Page 387, Volume 9489, Page 420 and *Volume 10166, Page 849 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas,

TRACT 2: Billing No 83327

Lot 5, Block 1, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 (SAVE AND EXCEPT that portion as desc. in Volume 7774, Page 254) as desc. in Volume 7937, Page 387 and Volume 9489, Page 420 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

TRACT 3: Billing No 83325

Lot 3, Block 1, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 (SAVE AND EXCEPT that portion as desc. in Volume 7774, Page 254) as desc. in Volume 7937, Page 387 and Volume 9489, Page 420 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums:

TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 83328 = $8,598.00

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 83327 = $6,715.29

TRACT NUMBER THREE: BILLING NUMBER 83325 = $6,132.14 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

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X99-00668

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 23rd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered X99-00668, wherein Travis County, Pflugerville Independent School District, City of Pflugerville and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2 are plaintiffs, and Scott G. Hickman and Lorraine Youngquist (In Rem Only) if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Lorraine Youngquist are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$14,366.69** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 23, 2003.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1, Block 1, Lisso Subdivision, Plat No. 30/42 as described in Volume 11697, Page 723 and Volume 12284, Page 1719 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$14,366.69** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

X99-09346

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of November, 2005 in a certain cause numbered X99-09346, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, Travis County and City of Austin are plaintiffs, and Ramona Rivas, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Ramona Rivas and Standard Mortgage Co. Inc. (In Rem Only), if active and if inactive, the unknown officers, directors, shareholders and owners of Standard Mortgage Co., Inc. are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,482.45** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 31, 2002.

I, on the 28th day of November, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 3rd day of January, 2006, at 10:00 o' clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

North 40' of Lot 13 and the East 35' of the north 40' of Lot 14, Pope's Resubdivision (Olt. 48 & 59, Div. O), Plat No. 3/57 as described in Volume 5420, Page 817 and Volume 7666, Page 265 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,482.45** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

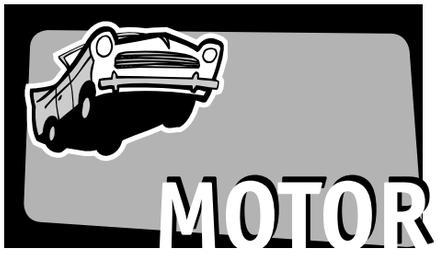
Witness my hand this 29th day of November, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY /s/ Alan Redd DEPUTY

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EXPERIENCED VOCALS LOOKING for musicians to play garage roc inf.kinks,mc5, flammin groovies experience please mike. @512.560-3916lv.mess

KEYBOARD PLAYER NEEDED for working, part-time, rock/variety,cover band. Weekly rehearsal-approx 2 gigs a month. Call Chuck at 484-7596 or chuck@swinsurance.com

VOCALISTS - SING WITH THE BEST! Check out our web site - JavaCatsLive.com to enter the "Java Cats(TM) Vocalists of the Year - Austin 2006" Competition.* ----- This is not karaoke or open mic - NO UPPER AGE LIMIT - NO ENTRY FEE - Early submissions have a better chance at preferred audition dates and times - "A Capella" AUDITIONS at the HOLIDAY INN ARBORETUM scheduled to begin January 6, 2006 - Finalists will rehearse, and appear in concerts at the UT DOBIE THEATER, with some of the most experienced musicians in AUSTIN - Two Winners (Best Female Vocalist & Best Male Vocalist) will be awarded a RECORDING SESSION at Austin's WONDERLAND STUDIOS for a CD SINGLE to be released & distributed by Austin's TEXAS TIME RECORDS.* ------ *All aspects of this Competition are subject to change without notice - see website for official Competition "Terms, Rules & Conditions".

VOCALIST WANTED FOR beatles tribute band. Must know the beatles songs and show up for practice. Serious people only. Don't waste our time. More info 243-1916.

VOCALIST Needed, Jazz singer that can sing the blues and R&B . 255-1786

WANTED BASS GUITAR for Beatles tribute band. Must know the beatles songs and show up for practice!!! Serious people only. Don't waste our time. More info call 243-1916.

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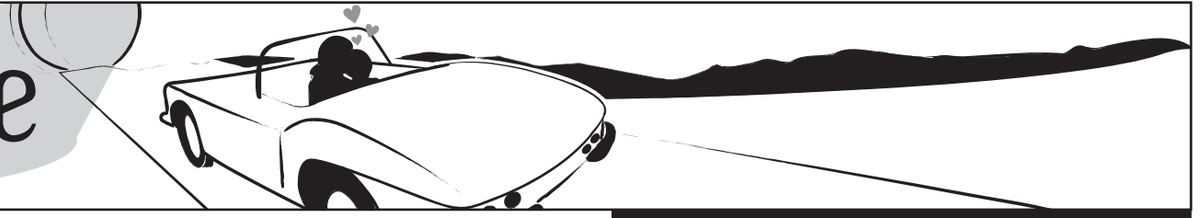
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women SEEKING men

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For mutualistic association. Enjoy outdoors. Evolve at a constant rate. Be Practical as well as Generous. Know the joy of Living is his who has the Heart to Demand it. **EllenOIR**, 24, **#115137**

INTRODUCING....
New to the area. New meaning I haven't had a chance to experience Austin. I want to meet a great guy that I can goof off w/and show me around. **doesntneedu**, 19, 📷, **#115133**

NO SNAPPY TITLE
Overweight girl, pretty, loves sex, movies, music, fishing, and drinking. Interests range widely. Looking for someone I connect with. It's hard to squeeze my personality into a tiny paragraph. **Andreamgirl3**, 21, **#115103**

LITTLE BIT CRAZY
Apparentely I tell a great story, and I am intelligent, alternately shy and vivacious, generally nice. So, tell me a fun story and I'll return another with a genuine laugh! **innerprincess**, 28, ☎, 📷, **#115050**

UNIQUE ATTRACTIVE WOMAN
I'm a young fun loving girl who is ready to be in a relationship with a guy who is truly genuine.I am a creative person who enjoys making art. **whosthatlady**, 18, 📷, **#115048**

BISCUTSNGRAVY
i'm a hopeless romantic, looking for someone to break the law with lets go rob a bank together hehe sound like fun? i also legal things as well. **lucyxinxthexsky**, 19, **#115045**

SMART. SEXY. FUN.
One outgoing, fun-loving, modern girl. I love learing,people, travel, the arts & variety.Routine will wittle away my smile. Learning is a charge. A smart man is a wicked turn on. **CurlySmart**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#114970**

HELLO TEXAS!
Looking for a man between 45-52 to help me learn my way about Austin! I am outgoing, low maintainence, love dancing, have all my own teeth, quirky sense of humor. **Cookie**, 47, 📷, **#114957**

THINGS I LOVE
God, mountains, water, open range, animals, thunderstorms, sunshine, good "herb", smiling eyes, music, road trips and you if you're the one. I'm young 49, pretty, natural blonde, tall, Christian, funny. **codyodyo**, 49, ☎, **#114955**

COUNTRY FRIED WHAT?
MOST SUPER CHICK you will EVER MEET!! New to Area Just looking for someone that loves trashy bars, loud music, beer, and good times. **dwn_n_cntry_hell**, 26, 📷, **#114918**

GENIILOCI SEEKS SOULMATE
Single, free-spirited, fun/music loving, young in heart and body gal seeking friend/partner who can make me laugh; not one-night stands. I like to hike, dine out, cook, converse & travel. **GENILOCI**, 44, **#114886**

EASY-GOING, FRIENDLY, ATTRACTIVE
I am out-going and laid back. I love movies, music, dining out, anything out-doors. I'm looking for a man who is kind, intelligent, out-going, active, and treats women with respect. **lively**, 54, **#114874**

RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATED, GEEKY
Healthy, active and adventurous. Novice foil fencer, dancer, camper. Like the finer things in life and to be spoiled, but like to keep things simple. Quality is better than quantity. **Tao_Belle**, 26, 📷, **#114872**

AIR INSPIRES FIRE
Honest, Active, Liberated, Peaceful, Knowledgable Native seeks kind, humorous, gentle, emotionally mature, physically toned, communicative, two-legged being for friendship based on compassion and committment to living with the violet flame. **MayanRose**, 40, **#114858**

THREE WORDS? IMPOSSIBLE
none of this matters. it is either there or it isn't. let's meet. **stacez**, 26, **#114850**

SEEKING MAN 4CONVERSATION
Looking for a man who knows the difference between living and surviving. Must meet stringent set of qualifications. **E_Bovary**, 29, 📷, **#101353**

men SEEKING women

DIAMOND IN RUFF!
I'm a widower of 6 months and it's time to get on with my life. Lover of life and hard work! Diehard romantic here. DDF and great health. Smoker. **Kitster**, 56, ☎, 📷, **#115149**

ABSURDIST!
Great sense of humour. Culturally learned. Life is best lived w/a smile. Looking for relationship/someone to relax with after work. **halo00to14**, 23, 📷, **#115117**

CREATIVELY UNCONVENTIONAL...
I do things for my own reasons instead of popular convention or blind tradition. I admire a woman to whom appearance is a tool for self-expression. **opius**, 59, 📷, **#115115**

NINJA ODDLY ENUFE
hey austin people. i'm 22, 6'1 159lbs. i like pool, beer, music, and adventure. lets have fun, Grimm. **grimmpenny**, 22, ☎, 📷, **#115108**

LOST IN 70'S
I'm tired of bars, need a change. Looking for SWF 45-55, hippie-chick, average build. Must love animals. SWM 6', 180# considered nice looking. Work North Central Austin, live North Austin. **nekdooba**, 55, 📷, **#115032**

STILL LOOKIN!
Very outgoing and spontaneous. Loving, caring, good listener and very loyal. Love most all sports, especially NASCAR. Carry no baggage. Enjoy travel, fishing, weekend trips and generally just having fun. **adc103051**, 54, 📷, **#115033**

THADRIFTER2000
honesty seeks faithful for hiking,live music, camping,4x4 in big grey monstertruck. no job?ok.just have ambition.im giving,faithful,love making people laugh,its good for the soul. **thadrifter2000**, 40, 📷, **#115011**

FUNNY, LISTENER, GOOD
hey there, i'm looking to meet someone that is self aware, confident, beautiful, and real. i'm a guy who works hard, dreams big, and wants the best for everyone. **goodguy**, 26, 📷, **#115009**

COMPASSIONATELY CONFIDENT CUDDLE-GUY
looking for a woman that deserves what I have to offer to receive great treatment from a good guy...i love to laugh have fun and be with family and friends. **norgate5655**, 28, 📷, **#114985**

women SEEKING women

A CENTERED TEXAN
A writer-singer in my spare time, I enjoy dancing, creating computer art and following womenís basketball. I like making salsa, hanging with friends, and am an avid reader. **clarion57**, 48, 📷, **#115163**

FEMALE FOR FEMALE
Im a all around cool person, interested in making new friends, or more.Im looking for a bi fem for friends possible relationship, 19-39 outgoing, someone who likes having fun! **afem4afem**, 26, **#115118**

SPONTANEOUS- FUN- CUTE
I am looking for womyn to date who are interested in being spoiled, pampered and satisfied. Prefer womyn 35-50 who are willing to let go and have a good time. **lvslacker**, 42, **#114988**

ATTRACTIVE FEM PROFESSIONAL
45 year old attractive fem professional seeks attractive fem, height/weight fairly proportionate, for fun and possible long-term relationship. No excessive drug, alcohol or mental health problems. **bambi1**, 46, ☎, **#114961**

men SEEKING men

PLAYS WITH CARS
Lookin' for a masculine guy from mid 20's to mid 40's to get to know and hang out with in Round Rock. See online loverslane ad for more on me. **freshsteeds**, 48, ☎, 📷, **#115162**

OPEN, WORTH IT
Looking for friendship or dating. I like travel, dogs, Book People, South Congress Cafe, running, weekends with friends. Music? Andrea Bocelli, Kenny Chesney, Cher, George Bush is a baffoon. **Runner**, 48, 📷, **#114896**

PLAYFUL? LIVING CONSCIOUSLY?
See the rosy side of life first. I want to have hot passionate times with a man who is okay with change, intelligence and expressions. Looking for benefits with friend. **nowliveit**, 44, ☎, 📷, **#101288**

NICE FUN GUY
Hi. I'm an outgoing fun guy who can also be happy as a home-body. I'm looking for a sincere, fun guy to be friends with. Let's give it a try! **Austinpax**, 49, 📷, **#101238**

NICE GUY
swm 42 5'10" 160 looking for big strong masculine muscular men for friendship casual dating & possible LTR Im a very laid easy going type person to get along with. **mgf2005**, 42, ☎, 📷, **#101030**

JUST friends

FRIENDS AGES 21-28
I am looking for friends to get to know each other and meet one day. **melanie24**, 24, ☎, 📷, **#115105**

THRILLSEEKING ROMANTIC
I am totally gorgeous, athletic and adventerous - but I'm also super smarty and brainy. It all makes for a very thrilling experience. Couch potatoes need not apply. **sweetandsexi**, 33, ☎, 📷, **#115039**

MUSICIAN SEEKS PARTNER
Passionate pennywhistler -- playing from earth-shakingly low to blissfully high ones -- seeks creative partner to perform, and record amazing, neo-neo-traditional Celtic music. Also have recording studio, guitar, harp, keyboards. **LisahnG**, 56, 📷, **#114843**

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messages

AMANDA! MEOW! I love ya!

ANGE, SHE'S SMILING down from heaven to you right now. ~Jen~

HELLO MY FRIEND Hello - I need to hear your voice, see your face. V

IN LOVING MEMORY of my brother Michael: Your life was taken too soon. Life will never be the same without you and your laughter. I love and miss you every day bro! Doug

IT'S NOT THE dangerous risk in the sugar that makes it harmful. It's the expectations.

KATIE, I ALREADY can't stop thinking about you.

MAIKON YOU RESPONDED No offense but if you don't know you're not Maikon.

U ASKED Y I LUV U SO MUCH.. u'r my DADDY & BABY GIRL misses DADDY'S KISSES the most..

WILL BE YOUR downfall with the stay with your own mentality.

a Shot in the Dark

PRINCESS @ COOP
Sept. '04: You w/friend Jackie(?), unique style and beautiful smile. Me: rugged yet sensitive guy w/motorcycle. We shared a kiss on your balcony. No one else is looking for you! **When: Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004. Where: Co-op Bar on 6th. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900154**

TALL DARK, HANDSOME...
Outward appearences only count for so much. You: Jerk? Me: Stupid?... Im pretending you can actually play Trivial pursuit but I know my dog can speak better spanish than you! **When: Sunday, Dec. 18. Where: His place. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900153**

SHARON FROM PHILLY
waiting for the 331 in an awesome jacket. It was an immense pleasure to meet you, & I would like to do so again. Call **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: busstop. You: Woman. Me: Man.** ☎ #900152

I HATE HAMBURGERS...
Joe: I abruptly quit my job; with that came the end of any future wednesday night encounters with you. Who's going to make sure there isn't cheese on your #17/#10? **When: Wednesday, Nov. 30. Where: Hamburger Hell. You: Man. Me: Woman.** ☎ #900151

FUEL BARBACK.
i worked and when i was leaving, you asked me to get the lights on the stairs on for you. you-brown hair & a smile that's to die for. reply? **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: Fuel Nightclub on Trinity. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900150**

SABINA IT'S KIT
YOU: Sabina @ Whole Woman's Health. ME: Kit from Quest. Can we meet fZoiooffee or something? Want to meet you. **When: Wednesday, Dec. 7. Where: Whole Woman's Health. You: Woman. Me: Man.** ☎ #900149

DON'S DEPOT BEAUTY...
table closest to the door. You: tall gorgeous brunette w/2 girlfriends. Me: sitting booth-side next to you in blue cowboy shirt w/2 friends. We looked, we smiled, you were gone... **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: Don's Depot. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900148**

AARON T-CLOUD CUSTOMER
you: aaron my long lost soccer boyfriend and all time favorite customerme: ex- manchaca/lamar thundercat, still enamoured and wanting more... still hungry??? **When: Saturday, Dec. 18, 2004. Where: thundercloud manchaca/lamar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900147**

MARGARET FROM N.O.
12/18/05 at 1 a.m. leaving the bar where i work. Couldn't talk then, but would like to have a proper meeting? This is corny, but i had to try. **When: Sunday, Dec. 18. Where: at the door. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900146**

ANOTHER UNION @UNION?
You: In the lounge wearing a "Fight the Man" t-shirt Me: Blond with dimples who misplaced your # You shared your couch and a cookie- Wanna share mine? **When: Monday, Dec. 12. Where: UT Union- 2nd floor. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900145**

ACC RIVERSIDE SATURDAYS
I see you every Saturday morning looking so tall dark and handsome. Now that it is over maybe we can have some fun. Love Art History? **When: Saturday, Dec. 17. Where: ACC Riverside. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900144**

GROOVIN' AT SPEAKEASY
Dancing at Speakeasy 12/2. You: aspiring comedian getting MBA. Me: tall redhead who loved to swing. You were a republican, I wasn't. How were the stand-up gigs in LA? **When: Friday, Dec. 2. Where: Speakeasy. You: Woman. Me: Man.** ☎ #900143

ALAMO VILLAGE
Me your waitress, you cute King Kong fan drinking a large Dr Pepper. I told you I loved you with my eyes, come back for "full" service. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Alamo Village 1050 showing. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900142**

2 CUTIES @GLASS
Hey-The pictures came back great! It was my birthday and my friend asked you two to be in a picture with me! We should have talked after the photo... another chance? **When: Saturday, Dec. 10. Where: Glass. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900141**

HOMESLICE HOSTESS MISSING
Where did you go Ashley? I thought I'd get to visit you on the block. Now I've lost my chance? let's catch back up. Your Former Zen Crush. **When: Thursday, Nov. 24. Where: Home Slice Pizza. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900140**

AT THE VET?
You-buying kitty food at Travis Country Vet on 12/16. Me-bringing my black/white kitten in for surgery. You let me cut in line. Really wish I had talked to you more! **When: Friday, Dec. 16. Where: At Travis Country Vet Hospital on 290S. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900139**

CLEOPATRA OF GINNY'S
Your beauty has captured me Cleopatra! At the Dale show Thursday at Ginny's you were wearing a "I'm a Pepper" shirt. I just would like to know. Are

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NEED SOMETIME MAN
Attached to love one who is sick. Needing love to sustain me, if the energy is right. I'm pretty, funny, intelligent. U are a sensual, demonstrative and independent artist. Weekdays. **lola**, 45, **#115093**

NAIVE LUST
Looking for an open-minded, intellectual, attractive, sensual, interesting, family-oriented guy with no children; who is a pervert in the bed. I want the best of both worlds; Open to new ideas. **Vana**, 35, **#115092**

SHY SOFT MAMA
Happy in relationship seeking seldom but hot and important encounters with intellectual sweet caring maybe misunderstood man who enjoys still attractive well-groomed heavier busty women with brains and heart. **Gen28**, 28, ☎, **#115038**

HORNY NEED MORE!
29 yr old married HF. seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet.26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships.speak spanish. **2noty2bniece**, 29, ☎, **#114844**

TREAT ME RIGHT
BBW,newly single,looking for d/d free male to win my affections, and travel with me. No, you're not dreaming. Meet me. **TreatUright**, 38, **#101247**

KRAZIELADIE
SWF Bi fun loving outgoing red head, adventurous risk taking, willing to try anything once. **krazieladie**, 29, 📷, **#101155**

HOT AND READY
About myself, black female with short brown hair, full figured professional attached. Looking for a very pretty full figured female also attached for discreet fun. **Hottie**, 34, ☎, **#115154**

SINGLE MOM SEXY SINGLE HORNEY
I am totally new at this and looking for someone to fufill my fantasies. **shyslut**, 22, **#115060**

LOOKING FOR FUN!
I'm looking to meet new friends and have some good clean fun! A good sense of humor and good personal hygiene go a long way. **cajunluvin**, 33, 📷, **#115129**

GREAT GUY
looking 4 a woman to hang out with and have some FUN!Im fun and good looking guy and some say im a pretty funny guy.I love to make women laugh. **cowboy05**, 19, 📷, **#115111**

LOKING FOR WOMEN
Hi my name Keko I look for the women who wants to have fun, play & go out to see a movie,to have a dinner & lot more. **TIO2376**, 29, **#115086**

SUGAR DADDY NEEDED
boytoy,cute,in shape, willing to please older secure,looks unimportant,small endowment a plus,discreet,young looking,looking for over 40,whatever you want you got it. **ertil**, 22, **#115121**

SCHIZOPHRENIC ARTIST
gwm 40 5'10" 200lbs darkhair darker eyes, seeking open minded, larger, hairy, tattooed teddy bear, slightly insane, to cuddle and wrestle with. horror films as forplay. **panic65**, 40, ☎, **#115083**

EXPLORER NEW JOURNEY
Looking to meet for some dicreet activity. Am new be gentle. Willing to try new things. **wildtiger**, 42, ☎, **#114936**

GREAT MASSAGE
35 latino bttm iso top Arab, Middle Eastern , Indian male who needs body rub down. Plus hairy chested, hairy bodys,big hands, mustache goatees. Str8,Bi married. discreet live North Austin. **tedrod24**, 37, ☎, **#101244**

TOMORROW'S MAN TODAY
Almodovar, New Wave, Bastard Pop, Strangers With Candy, kitsch, my dog, Goldfrapp...These are a few of my favorite things. GWM, 35, seeks partner with similar interests who's tall and handsome. **kirkconnect**, 35, **#101123**

YOUNG TX GUY
will like to find a lady or ladies to have fun with, this can be a short or long term relation. will like to find a lady between 18-45yrs. **youngTxGuy**, 28, **#114991**

ABUSE ME
I'm looking to have some discreet fun. Open to anything and everything. **spacemaster69**, 34, **#114986**

ATTENTION HUSBANDS
want to watch this sweet, handsome latino fellow touch & fondle your pretty wife while you watch or participate.I'll only do what you want me to. My place or yours. **Bond007**, 34, ☎, **#114968**

DIVER DOWN
New to Austin and looking to explore the diverse culture here. Ready for a night out on the town followed by an evening of passionate romance. **xtcany1**, 41, 📷, **#114890**

NAUGHTY BOY
available for very pretty,very feminine transexual,naughty female or hot & sexy couple. I am a handsome,generous SHM. **miko**, 44, ☎, **#101366**

TITILATING TONGUE DELIVERS
I love to use my tongue to give you pleasure. I am a healthy intelligent man looking for a woman or a couple. Discreet no strings attached fun experiences desired now. **pleasuredoctor**, 42, ☎, **#101309**

NYMPHO
I need a sexy woman for my first time. If you can help, contact me. Let's meet for drinks. My man will chaperone. **SaDiE**, 28, ☎, **#115157**

WE R NAKED
We are a fun loving open minded married couple. I am 39 she is 45. We are done making babies but like to practice..ALOT. Do you? get back intouch. **nascarnaked**, 39, **#115144**

MARRIED COUPLE DISCREET
would like to meet other couples in the same age range as us 30 & 33 OR slightly older for couples swinging sessions, must be fun and safe and attractive. **spun**, 33, **#115085**

COUPLE LOOKING
We are an easy-going emotionally mature couple with a stable home-life looking for a little adventure with a curvy woman. See us occasionally for a fantastic Friday or Saturday night. **CactusLove**, 31, ☎, **#115055**

THE OTHER SIDE
Safe to say we both like a variety of sexual play.Extreme but within limits. Body and mind will be bare, exposed and open to any and all sensation. **up4anything**, 28, **#115028**

SEXY TS
iím a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. iím 5í10î 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. iím very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. iím 28 years old. **nicole_anais**, 28, 📷, **#115140**

BLONDE SHEMALE HOTTIE
I am a sexy siren wherever I go. I like men who are in very good shape. I love naughty (no strings) fun! You will love to make me all excited. **BlondeHottie**, 29, ☎, 📷, **#101055**

T/G SEEKING BBW
Trangender Woman looking for a H or W BiBBW in her youthful mid to late 40's, nonsmoker/drinker, drugs/decease free. Must live in Austin. Long term Relationship in the future. **LadyCelt**, 37, ☎, 📷, **#101042**

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* Package does not include airfare. You must fill out a free profile and upload a picture to enter.

THE luv doc

Jerm Pollet's Merry F%@#ing Xmas

10pm, Christmas • Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

Last week the president of Iran called the Holocaust a myth. His statements were a huge shock to a world that expects slack-jawed idiocy of this sort to come primarily from American fundamentalists, the same thick-headed hayseeds who believe that evolution is a crock cooked up by Satan's minions. Sure, Ahmadinejad's comments were a bit over the top, especially since there are plenty of Jews in the Holy Land with numbers tattooed on their arms who would be more than willing to set him straight, but true, profound ignorance has never been bullied by empiricism, has it? What makes ignorance so scary is that you don't even have to work for it. Just trust somebody else to know shit for you. Certainly takes the pressure off the slow learners, but the problem with that model is that occasionally the person doing the thinking for you turns out to be Hitler. President Ahmadinejad is no Hitler, but his style of revisionist rhetoric is exactly the pile of crap from which issues the mushroom of atrocity. To his credit, President B swiftly denounced President A's comments, citing them as an example of Iran's unsuitability as a keeper of the nuclear flame. It was a bold statement coming from a C student with a God fetish responsible for knocking off close to 30,000 people on the basis of bogus intelligence. He probably missed the irony of Ahmadinejad's freshly created myth coming a week before the Western world celebrates its oldest and most cherished one – a myth responsible for more deaths and misery than Hitler could ever conceive. Myth busting is dangerous business. Fortunately there are a few brave souls who are on the side of truth and righteousness. One of those is Jerm Pollet, Mr. Sinus cast member, rock musician, and, as it turns out, cultural historian, who on Christmas Eve will be showing the final installment of *Merry F%@#ing Xmas*, his special Christmas porn show that exposes the pagan origins of Christmas. Go to this show and you'll never see Christmas the same way again … unless you go to next year's show.

you available? **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Ginny's Little Longhorn. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900138**

JO'S AND CRUTCHES...
Your crutches and DKNY sweatshirt were mighty sexy... just wanted to see if you honestly read these. If so, I figured I might get a smile for it. See ya. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Jo's Coffee. You: Woman. Me: Woman.** ☎ #900137

MOZARTS, YOU- REDBANDANA
you- cute guy at Mozarts, red bandana, sometimes with friends. her- cute short brunette, computer/reading, too shy to talk to you! Be a man, I'm giving you the green light! **When: Wednesday, Dec. 14. Where: Mozarts. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900136**

PEACHES
Have I told you lately that I love you? I do, madly. **When: Thursday, Dec. 15. Where: Every time I close my eyes. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900135**

FAINT LOVES LIT
You: Jackson Could be a dead ringer for Joshua Homme Me: Marlene Couldn't keep in my excitement for The Faint Should've asked you out but didn't Better late than never? **When: Wednesday, Dec. 7. Where: In my Literature class. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900133**

SCOTT THECUTEST MOTORCYCLECOP
I used to make your gingerbread latte with a smile and a wink. I think about you often...are you still tied down? If not, take me for a ride? **When: Saturday, March 15, 2003. Where: starbucks on brodie. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900132**

APPLIED MATERIALS GUY
Monday 12/12 lunchtime at Vespa. Me, blonde in boots and jeans. You,new to Austin,bought sweatshirt and asked where to buy jewelery like mine. Need a lunchtime tour guide? **When: Monday, Dec. 12. Where: Vespa Austin. You: Man. Me: Woman.** ☎ #900131

HEY KIM!
You sat on a couch holding a chihuahua I sat in a chair next to you, I meant to ask for your number. You, green eyes and cute toes. **When: Saturday, Dec. 10. Where: Christmas party last Saturday. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900130**

BRYAN AT RITZ
You Bryan with a Y. Me the girl @ Ritz then 710 and probably back again. You bought us all drinks. let me properly thank you. **When: Saturday, Nov. 19. Where: Ritz. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900129**

PIERCED EBONY PRINCESS
Bus #1, you said piercings were sexy. Lent you a lighter @ Buffalo Exchange then later a cigarette near UT. Me: pierced lip W/ mohawk, extremely shy. Please respond!! **When: Sunday, Nov. 6. Where: Southbound bus #1. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900128**

A MAGIC LIFE?
12/13/05 capmet #3 i asked about the book you were reading. interested in borrowing my portable darkness? **When: Tuesday, Dec. 13. Where: #3 bus. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900127**

HEB OFF JOLLYVILLE
You were chatting on your phone.. wearing a grey t-shirt..i think..i was in patagonia sweater..messy hair..jeans rolled up with boots.. we caught eyes a few dozen times.. leaving town! your name? **When: Tuesday, Nov. 29. Where: HEB off Jollyville. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900126**

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